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# 30

Anniversary of Independence of

# TURKMENISTAN



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## Editor's Note



The year 2021 has been unanimously declared by the UNGA through a resolution initiated by Turkmenistan as the International Year of Peace and Confidence. This was a visionary and a forward looking approach as the world is battling with the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan. For the projection of peace and prosperity in the region and beyond, Turkmenistan has played a greater role. Through its foreign and regional policy conduct, Turkmenistan promoting the UN Agenda of 2030 and taking substantial steps to implement Sustainable Development Goals embedded in the entire Socio Economic Development of Turkmenistan for the period of 2019-2025. This also reflects how meaningfully Turkmenistan is focusing on creating the atmosphere of peace and prosperity for all. It meant this to highlight the importance of preventive diplomacy, dialogue and through multilateral diplomacy, the world will be free from all kinds of conflict hence a prosperous world that everyone being on this planet is envisioning and dreaming for. Role of Turkmenistan will remain in the forefront in making this dream a reality. Turkmenistan's permanent neutrality policy is a stance of non-confrontational worldview that reflects the country's honest and strict adherence to the UN Charter and principles, including all international legal statutes.

Last year was celebrated as the "Turkmenistan-Home of Neutrality" with a primary aim was to strengthen global understanding about the policy of positive neutrality of Turkmenistan. The policy adopted by Turkmenistan is an international instrument to promote peace, stability and development. This policy is helping to promote international and regional peace and stability through the collaborative effort with UN and other important international organizations. This unique policy was declared by Turkmenistan in July 1992 as part of its foreign policy and later on 12 December 1995, the UN General Assembly adopted by the "Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan" unanimously by 185 member states. Each year has been named by Turkmenistan as a special year and a thematic importance is provided to highlight significance of the country's global standing at the national, regional and global level. Neutrality has remained at the heart-

bed of the country's national ethos. It is how the country has been defined by the very fact that it is preaching world peace and humanitarianism. The status of the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan has been recognized by the United Nations General Assembly after passing of resolution recognizing December 12 as the International Day of Neutrality. Over the past three decades, Turkmenistan has promoted the culture for dialogue and peace in the region and globe. Turkmenistan has remained the outstanding custodian to the UN charter of hope, peace, togetherness and values of international cooperation. This year's slogan is important to consider when the world is faced with multifaceted challenges including COVI-19. These are the times that require the world to come together, forget all the conflict and promote peace and prosperity. Turkmenistan has adopted this characteristic of its foreign policy of permanent neutrality as a logical extension of its domestic policy. Similar to other nation states across the globe, the foremost aim of Turkmenistan's foreign policy is to protect and strengthen the state's sovereignty and increase the role and importance in the global political system. While believing in the principles of the UN Charter and following the compliance of international law and treaties, Turkmenistan is constructively engaged with global partners based on equality and mutual respect.

Pakistan and Turkmenistan's time tested friendship is turning thirty years old with thousand splendid suns shining bright to reflect the sense of togetherness and support in rock solid way. Over the past three decades the robust relations continued to grow in diverse direction from policy levels to cultural cooperation, energy sector and trade, people to people ties, cooperation in education and research fields. With sharing of the similar insights on global and regional issues, Pakistan and Turkmenistan continuously supported each other in building global peace through dialogue and diplomacy. Pakistan stood by Turkmenistan on its important foreign policy stance of permanent neutrality. On the other hand Turkmenistan supported Pakistan on not only global and regional issues but offered huge energy and connectivity projects that can change the fate of the country. As a result of the visionary leadership of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Turkmenistan is one of the most widely respected nations at the global stage for promoting the values of peace, prosperity, and development.

*Pakistan-Turkmenistan Dosti Zindabad*



## PRESIDENT GURBANGULY BERDIMUHAMEDOV: THERE IS NO SUCH QUESTION, WHICH WE COULD NOT SOLVE JOINTLY

### A Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia Held in Turkmenistan

On August 6, the Third Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia, chaired by the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, was held on the Caspian coast, in the Avaza national tourism zone. The Avaza Congress Centre became the venue for the High-Level Forum, to participate in which the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and

the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev arrived in our country.

One of the priority directions of the constructive foreign-policy course of our independent neutral Motherland, initiated and consistently implemented by the national leader, is the strengthening and expansion of fruitful cooperation with neighbouring countries in the region, with whose peoples the Turkmen people are united by a community of cultural and spiritual values and historically established ties of friendship and

mutual support.

As the head of Turkmenistan notes, the states of Central Asia have a huge multifaceted potential, the realisation of which meets the interests of common wellbeing, prosperity and progress. Our country stands for a systematic, balanced and comprehensive approach to the development of regional interaction, which is gaining special topicality and relevance, taking into account the ever-growing role of the region not only in continental, but also in global processes.



It should be reminded that in November 2019, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov took part in the Second Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia held in Tashkent, where he proclaimed a number of specific initiatives on priority areas of cooperation. Held in one of the picturesque corners of our country, the Avaza national tourism zone, the next Summit in this format was intended to give a long-term partnership new incentives and content and to help strengthen the traditionally friendly and good-neighbourly relations among the countries and peoples of the region.

In the morning, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov went to the Avaza Congress Centre. There, in the foyer, the Turkmen leader cordially and fraternally greeted the heads of Central Asian states, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev and the President of the

Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, who arrived one after the other to participate in the Forum.

After the exchange of traditional friendly handshakes, the joint photographing of the President of Turkmenistan with each of the distinguished guests took place. Prior to the Summit, the leader of the nation held bilateral meetings with the Presidents of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan and also with the Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Central Asia, Head of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia Natalia Gherman.

The Forum was preceded by a ceremony of the joint photographing of the Presidents of Turkmenistan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan against the background of the official banner of the Consultative Meeting.

Then, in the conference hall of the Avaza Congress Centre, the Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia was held.

Cordially greeting the leaders of the friendly neighbouring countries, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov thanked the distinguished guests for their acceptance of the invitation to visit Turkmenistan for discussing and working out solutions to the most important issues of regional development.

As the Turkmen leader noted, previous meetings within the framework of the Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia had convincingly shown the consistency, usefulness and high efficiency of that format of political interaction. It makes it possible to learn and better understand each other's positions, contributes to the formation of a holistic view of the course and direction of regional cooperation, allows timely and flexible responding to the processes taking place in Central Asia and helps build national priorities, taking into account the interests of partners.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said they expected that meeting would be

aimed at further strengthening regional cooperation, would provide conditions for more active, targeted steps in that direction and would become a powerful mobilising factor for the effective and constructive participation of the Central Asian region in continental and global affairs.

During the years of independence, our peoples have managed to preserve and strengthen their statehood and to overcome the difficulties of the initial stages of its formation. Today, despite the objective difficulties against the background of the global crisis, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan are demonstrating stable indicators of economic growth and are implementing basic social programmes. The responsible, peaceful foreign policy of our countries has brought them a well-deserved prestige on the international arena.

In our relations, we relied on the historical bonds of good neighbourliness, mutual respect, fraternity and cultural and civilisational proximity of our peoples, the Turkmen leader emphasised. This solid foundation allows us to look confidently into the future and to build large-scale, long-term and viable plans for cooperation in a wide range of areas.

Expressing his conviction that the forthcoming discussions would be fruitful and would be held in a traditionally friendly and constructive manner, the President of Turkmenistan announced the



Third Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia open.

Then, speaking to the participants of the Forum, the national leader once again welcomed the heads of state and members of the delegations of the countries of the region to Turkmenistan and expressed gratitude for the accepted invitation to participate in that meeting.

That day, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov continued, they were holding a regular sitting of the Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia. This shows that this format is in demand and relevant and enjoys the support of the leaders of all five countries, making it possible in a confidential and business atmosphere to discuss pressing issues of the development of the Central Asian region.

As you know, several years ago, when discussing the idea of holding Consultative Meetings of

the Heads of State of Central Asia, we proceeded from the assumption that this new form of political communication at the highest state level would become a permanent platform for the formation of creative processes in Central Asia. It was about the development and adoption of joint mutually acceptable decisions on the most pressing issues in the life of our region, the head of Turkmenistan said.

This concerns the political, economic, social and other spheres of five-party interaction with the aim of ensuring the sustainable and progressive development of the region, the wellbeing and prosperity of the peoples living here.

In this context, the Turkmen leader noted the results of the Consultative Meetings held in Nur-Sultan in March 2018 and in Tashkent in November 2019 had become positive examples of



the coordinated and constructive activities of the states of the region. Their results today are reflected in the intensification of political and diplomatic contacts among the Central Asian countries, the implementation of joint economic projects and the expansion of humanitarian ties among our peoples.

Speaking about this, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov proposed to instruct the Governments of the five countries to conduct an in-depth analysis of the content of the documents adopted as a result of the above-mentioned meetings, to develop and submit for consideration to the heads of Central Asian states a Roadmap for the implementation of previously reached agreements, designed for a medium-term period. Preliminary work on the draft of this document has already begun. It is necessary to finalise it in the shortest possible time and to adopt a Roadmap, which will determine the priorities of joint activities.

As the head of Turkmenistan noted further, energy was a key component of the economy of the Central Asian states. We are all conceptually united in our views on the configuration and prospects of partnership in this area. This is confirmed by the repeated and unanimous support by the states of the region for the Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, initiated by our country, on the reliability and stability of energy supplies as an important factor in economic growth.

Based on UN documents, we are moving towards the formation

in Central Asia of favourable political, legal and economic conditions for a safe, sustainable energy partnership, focused both on meeting the intraregional demand for energy resources and on accessing world markets through international transit corridors. Taking into account the immense natural resources of the region and the advantages of its geographical location, we could say with firm confidence that we had all the possibilities for the effective implementation of the above task, the leader of the nation stressed.

Obviously, partnership in the energy sector must be carried out through the active and full-fledged participation of all Central Asian states without exception, and it should be aimed at creating a powerful energy infrastructure both within the region and along its external perimeter. Based on the above, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov stated Turkmenistan was ready to significantly increase the volume of supplies of its natural gas to the countries of Central Asia or through their territories to foreign markets on mutually beneficial terms.

Examples of effective cooperation in the gas industry are the supply of Turkmen natural gas to neighbouring Uzbekistan, the construction and operation of the Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan-China international gas pipeline. Currently, it is planned to intensify negotiations to discuss issues related to the design of a new gas pipeline Turkmenistan-China, which can

also be laid through the territories of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Similar examples can be cited in the electric power industry. The capacities in the Lebap and Mary velayats of Turkmenistan make it possible to significantly increase the supply of electricity to the states of Central Asia. Expressing confidence that the implementation of such projects could give a good impetus to the growth of the economies of our countries and create preconditions for the formation of a multivariate energy space in the region, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov proposed a systematic and practical approach to that area of cooperation.

The transport sphere has been and remains an important vector of partnerships among the Central Asian states. Speaking about that, the national leader expressed his firm belief in the need to combine efforts to create favourable conditions for freight and passenger traffic among our countries and also that of Central Asia with other regions of the Eurasian continent. This task is directly subordinated to the achievement of the strategic goal - the effective functioning of the existing transport and transit corridors along the North-South and East-West lines and the creation of new ones, in which Central Asia is called upon to become the most important connecting link.

In this regard, the head of Turkmenistan proposed to start drawing up concrete plans for the formation of an integrated transport system of the countries of Central Asia, using the accumulated joint experience in that field.



At the same time, new areas of partnerships should be identified, primarily through the construction of trans-regional facilities – highways and railways, bridges and other elements of transport infrastructure.

Turkmenistan confirms its readiness to provide its port facilities in the Caspian Sea for their use in the interests of all countries in the region. In this context, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov voiced a proposal to create a five-party working group at the government level to study the possibilities of forming new transport and communication routes in the directions of Central Asia–the Caspian Sea–the Black Sea region with access to Southern Europe and Central Asia–the Middle East.

Continuing his speech, the national leader noted the most important task was to restore full-fledged trade and economic relations among our countries,

to increase the volume of mutual trade, to expand and qualitatively renew it. Here it will be possible to discuss issues of harmonising norms and rules in the field of levying taxes and duties, determining uniform transit tariffs and simplifying customs and migration procedures. An objective analysis and realistic proposals for increasing the volume of trade and diversifying it are also needed.

Speaking about the expediency of creating a pentilateral working body that would systematically find ways to solve that problem, the head of Turkmenistan proposed to consider the issue of establishing a Business Council to promote economic and entrepreneurial activity in Central Asia. It is possible to attract foreign partners with work experience and established partnerships in the region to its activities.

The most important aspect of the economic growth of the Central Asian countries is access

to external relations, primarily to neighbouring states. We could offer them participation in joint projects in energy, transport and trade, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said. In this aspect, the parties should think about creating targeted channels of partnership dialogue on economic ties and infrastructure projects of the Central Asian countries with Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and other interested states of the Middle East and South Asia.

Addressing the participants of the Forum, the head of Turkmenistan noted the period that had passed since the last pentilateral summit had been difficult in terms of regional stability. The situation in neighbouring Afghanistan is ambiguous, there are conflict situations in a number of other regions situated not so far from the borders of the Central Asian countries. In these conditions, special responsibility and balance are required from us. As fraternal states and peoples, we must by all means strengthen peace, good-neighbourliness and mutual understanding for our common home – Central Asia – to be strong and stable, the Turkmen leader emphasised.

At all times, our peoples have demonstrated examples of mutual support and solidarity. The same occurred that time, when the world was faced with a global threat – a new type of coronavirus infection, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov continued. For one and a half years now, our countries, uniting their efforts, have jointly actively been

counteracting the spread of the pandemic. Along with the supply of medicines, medical equipment and personal protective means and other assistance, the Central Asian states in order to minimise the socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic in a short period have developed and implemented a set of measures aimed at maintaining trade relations at the proper level, creating opportunities for transporting goods and implementing economic projects launched.

However, combating the pandemic requires a systematic and professional approach to addressing issues that directly affect the degree of risk reduction caused by COVID-19. In this regard, the head of Turkmenistan proposed to intensify contacts among the medical communities of the countries of the region through scientific diplomacy and to begin a substantive study of the nature of the origin of coronaviruses, the forms of manifestation of the diseases caused by them and the development of new methods of treatment and prevention of infectious diseases. In this context, the Turkmen leader also spoke about the expediency of establishing a Central Asian Regional Centre for Epidemiology, Virology and Bacteriology.

Among the main issues of regional cooperation, we consider the coordination of efforts to improve the environmental situation in Central Asia. First of all, we are talking about saving the Aral Sea, combating land degradation and desertification,

preserving glaciers and rationally using water resources. We had good developments in those areas, and important decisions had been made at the regional and international levels, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said.

It is necessary to continue to move on and to more actively involve specialised international structures, UN agencies and financial institutions. In the regional environmental agenda, the formats of interaction of the Central Asian countries with other states and regions of the planet had proven themselves well, the leader of the nation stated. It is necessary to expand interaction with partners interested in establishing systematic cooperation with our countries in the indicated areas.

Summarising what was said, the head of Turkmenistan expressed the conviction that there was no such problem, such an issue that we could not solve jointly, openly and confidentially setting out our positions, taking into account the interests of each other and relying on the centuries-old experience of good-neighbourliness and respect, a great many humanitarian and human bonds, commonality of culture, spirituality and traditions.

“We are facing serious and ambitious tasks. I am sure that the Central Asian countries can cope with all of them,” President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said at the end of his speech, stressing that day’s meeting and the logic of all recent years of interstate interaction were aimed at that.

Then the Turkmen leader gave the floor to the heads of state of the region.

The first to speak was the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev, who expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the head of Turkmenistan for the hospitality and excellent organisation of the Forum and noted the symbolism of the meeting, which was taking place in the year of the 30th anniversary of the independence of the Central Asian states. During this period, the countries of the region have made great progress in state building, socioeconomic development and the revival of the spiritual and cultural heritage.

As the distinguished guest noted, from the first days of independence, our states, united by their centuries-old history, mental closeness, common customs and traditions, went hand in hand, sincerely rejoicing in each other’s achievements and providing mutual support in difficult moments.

A powerful impetus to regional cooperation is given by the format of the Consultative Meetings of the leaders of the countries of the region. As a result of the previous Summits, the processes of interstate rapprochement have acquired a stable, consistent and irreversible character. The key role in regional cooperation was undoubtedly played by an intensive confidential dialogue at the highest level, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev stressed.

The head of Kazakhstan highly appreciated the strengthening of economic ties among the countries

of Central Asia, speaking out in favour of taking joint steps to increase the volume of mutual trade, to ensure sustainable development of the region at a new stage, taking into account the current difficult situation in the world, expanding the export opportunities of the Central Asian countries and attracting investments in strategically important branches of the regional economy.

The leader of Kazakhstan also noted there were prospects for enhancing cooperation in the transport and transit sector, given that the Central Asian states acted as a connecting bridge between Asia and Europe. There is a huge reserve there for the implementation of joint projects. In this context, great opportunities are also provided by the operating Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway, which provides the shortest route to the countries of the Persian Gulf. The port capacities of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan and also the Turkmenbashi-Garabogaz-Kazakhstan border highway, have a significant potential.

Along with this, among the topical issues of interaction in Central Asia, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev outlined water management and the environmental sphere.

In the speech of the distinguished guest, it was also emphasised that in the conditions of the trial caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the peoples of the countries of the region showed unity and mutual assistance. In this regard, the Kazakh leader

expressed support for the proposal of the President of Turkmenistan to establish a Centre for Virology and Epidemiology and to strengthen scientific cooperation in that important area.

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev also noted the importance of the further consolidation of efforts in the spheres of ensuring peace, security and stability and combating the pressing challenges of our time.

Speaking about the importance of interstate cultural and humanitarian cooperation, the head of the Republic of Kazakhstan spoke in favour of filling its agenda with new content, including expanding cooperation in the area of education. At the same time, support was also expressed for the initiative of the President of Turkmenistan to create a Forum of Cultural Dialogue in Central Asia.

The distinguished guest expressed confidence that in the spirit of friendship, good neighbourliness and mutual trust, our countries would be able to achieve the main goal - to turn Central Asia into a stable, economically developed and prosperous region.

Thanking his Kazakh counterpart for the informative speech, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov gave the floor to the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov.

Highlighting the merit of the Turkmen leader in holding the meeting at such a high organisational level, the head of Kyrgyzstan noted Central Asia was an important strategic

region, where the development of comprehensive partnership and interaction met the long-term interests of all its states.

President Sadyr Japarov spoke in favour of joining efforts and strengthening regional cooperation, for which there were all the prerequisites in the trade, economic, transport and logistics, water and energy spheres and in the counteraction against the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The leader of the friendly country noted the year 2022 would be marked by the 30th anniversary of the membership of the Central Asian states in the UN. During this time, the Central Asian countries have made a feasible contribution to strengthening international peace and security, and have come up with a number of significant initiatives. In this context, a proposal was made to hold a Central Asia-UN Summit the following year.

The head of Kyrgyzstan also stressed the importance of developing humanitarian ties, the further promotion of which was facilitated by the common cultural space of all countries in the region, their linguistic identity and common history.

President Sadyr Japarov reaffirmed the readiness of the Kyrgyz Republic for the expansion and deepening of cooperation with the Central Asian states in both bilateral and multilateral formats and for a constructive dialogue to find solutions in a mutually beneficial way for the sake of stability and prosperity in the

region.

At the same time, the head of Kyrgyzstan stressed there were all the prerequisites for turning the region into one of the most important hubs of world trade. Significant transport corridors pass through the territory of the Central Asian countries today.

Here, the strategic task is to build up joint efforts to improve the efficiency of the existing and form new multimodal transport corridors, which make it possible for the Central Asian states to access seaports. The further expansion of the land transport infrastructure of international importance and the creation of logistics centres are also of priority importance for the region.

In his speech, the distinguished guest spoke in favour of strengthening cooperation among the countries of Central Asia in the fuel and energy sector and reaching agreements on the supply of natural and liquefied gas and electricity on mutually beneficial terms. In this context, Kyrgyzstan works closely with Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The need to find ways and means to ensure a more efficient functioning of markets of goods and services, to diversify mutual trade, which would make it possible to form a common economic interest and would serve to stimulate integration processes, was also noted.

In order to intensify interaction in the trade sphere, the Kyrgyz party proposed to consider the issue of creating a five-party intergovernmental commission at

the level of deputy heads of the Cabinet of Ministers in charge of those issues.

The head of Kyrgyzstan also voiced a number of proposals to improve the interaction of the Central Asian states in the fight against the coronavirus infection. It was emphasised that the Kyrgyz party stood for the development of scientific and practical cooperation among the systems of public health.

Expressing gratitude to the leader of Kyrgyzstan for his interesting speech, the Turkmen leader gave the floor to President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon.

Thanking President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for the warm welcome and excellent organisation of the meeting, the leader of Tajikistan noted the Central Asian countries were dynamically interacting in the political, trade, economic, cultural, humanitarian and other fields. Our states come out with similar or close positions within the multilateral organisations. At this stage, joint efforts to enhance these ties need to be taken.

President Emomali Rahmon emphasised Tajikistan was interested in further fostering the political dialogue among the states of the region and was ready for responsible cooperation in such areas as trade, industrial production, digital economy, innovations, advanced technologies, tourism and food, transport and energy security.

In this regard, the distinguished guest put forward the proposals of the Tajik party on cooperation in a

number of important areas.

The leader of the friendly state also confirmed Tajikistan's interest in further building up economic cooperation with Turkmenistan, noting the outcomes of the Tajik-Turkmen top-level talks held in Ashgabat had illustrated the existence of all the prerequisites for that. The parties came to a mutual agreement on all key aspects of partnerships. President Emomali Rahmon expressed belief that the implementation of the agreements reached during his state visit to Turkmenistan would bring the bilateral cooperation to a qualitatively new level of development.

The Tajik leader also highlighted the imperative need in the current conditions to adopt the necessary joint decisions in the region to revive trade and economic ties and to increase mutual trade. An important factor in fulfilling this task is the creation of a common regional market for goods and services.

Speaking about the importance of interaction in the energy sector, the distinguished guest noted Tajikistan welcomed the efforts of the Turkmen partners to implement the TAPI gas pipeline project.

Calling for enhancing cooperation in the transport and communication sectors, President Emomali Rahmon expressed belief that the full use of Central Asia's potential in those sectors would contribute to ensuring the competitiveness of the Central Asian economies and their access to seaports.

Taking into account a number

of negative factors caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the tasks of achieving food security and the high-quality development of the agroindustrial sector through effective water and land management and the introduction of advanced technologies were relevant for our region and also for the entire world community. In this context, the Tajik leader proposed to establish the Council of Agriculture Ministers as a regional body, coordinating joint efforts in that field, within the Roadmap proposed by Turkmenistan.

President Emomali Rahmon also underscored the need to further strengthen the cultural and humanitarian contacts including education, science and tourism as crucial components. Along with that, the distinguished guest called for strengthening cooperation in the healthcare sector.

Countering security challenges and threats is a key vector of the regional cooperation. The Afghan problem remains the most important issue.

The Tajik leader highlighted the importance of environmental cooperation, taking into account the climate change trend as well.

Tajikistan welcomes the efforts of Turkmenistan to saturate the substantive part of the Consultative Meeting and highly appreciates and takes an active part in the events initiated by the Turkmen party.

Emphasising that the Republic of Tajikistan had been and remained a firm supporter of broad regional cooperation, President Emomali Rahmon congratulated the Central Asian leaders on the

forthcoming significant event – the 30th anniversary of independence of the states of the region.

Thanking the Tajik leader for his deeply meaningful speech, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov gave the floor to President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Expressing gratitude to the President of Turkmenistan for the excellent working conditions and organisation of the Summit, the leader of the neighbouring state noted in his speech that our region was becoming a space of good neighbourliness, mutually beneficial cooperation and sustainable development through the political will and joint efforts.

It is difficult to overestimate the role of the Consultative Meetings of the Heads of State of Central Asia in building a new political atmosphere in the region. Regular top-level meetings in that format enabled to implement fully the unique potential of the region, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said.

The distinguished guest noted those days' realities required decisive steps to create a new model of long-term economic cooperation in Central Asia.

He also emphasised the need to build up intraregional trade and to optimise its mechanisms, to promote industrial cooperation, innovations and digital technologies, to encourage direct business contacts among the business communities and regions of the Central Asian states and to hold investment and economic forums on a regular basis. In this context, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev called for adopting an

Agreement on general directions of the regional trade and economic cooperation.

It was noted that the effective use of the transport and transit potential of the region was in the common strategic interests of the Central Asian countries. An extensive and integrated transport system can be a key transit hub on the Eurasian continent. The importance of resuming transport links in compliance with sanitary requirements was also underlined.

The leader of Uzbekistan emphasised that, taking into account the growth of the national economies and population, energy security issues in the region were becoming even more urgent, which necessitated continuing efforts in that direction.

Supporting the initiative to hold regular meetings of agriculture ministers of the Central Asian states, the Uzbek leader proposed to include the introduction of a regional food security monitoring system on the agenda of their first meeting.

In his speech, the distinguished guest touched upon the need for closely coordinating and mutual assisting in combating the pandemic, expanding the exchange of experience in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases, training health workers and establishing scientific cooperation in pharmacology and cooperating in the production of essential drugs.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev called for building up environmental cooperation and taking all possible measures to

reduce the destructive impact of the Aral Sea catastrophe.

Underlining the importance of strengthening the ties of our region with other large regions of the world, the head of Uzbekistan thanked the Central Asian leaders for the support and active participation of delegations in the International Conference entitled “Central and South Asia: Regional Interconnectedness”, which had been held recently in Tashkent.

Touching upon the aspects of youth policy, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev proposed to hold a Central Asian Youth Forum in Uzbekistan the following year, which would be an important step to create a platform for strengthening trust and friendship and an interactive dialogue among the governments and the younger generation of the Central Asian states.

The distinguished guest called for further developing a common regional cultural and civilisational space and the tourism sector as an effective factor contributing to bringing peoples closer together. In this regard, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev expressed support for the initiatives of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to hold the current events in Turkmenistan.

The leader of Uzbekistan noted that the Summit was of special significance, as it was taking place before the significant event – the 30th anniversary of independence of the Central Asian states. In this context, the emphasis was placed on the importance of imparting a stable and irreversible character

to the processes of regional cooperation and wider using all available resources for that purpose.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev also welcomed the progressive development of the Dialogue of Women of Central Asia and the expansion of contacts to achieve the global goals of gender equality.

In conclusion, noting the significant contribution of the leader of Turkmenistan to the regional cooperation, the Uzbek leader expressed belief that the outcomes of the current Consultative Meeting would become a worthy contribution to further enhancing multifaceted partnerships of the fraternal peoples of the region.

The President of Turkmenistan thanked the President of Uzbekistan for the informative speech and then gave the floor to Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Asia, Head of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, Ms Natalia Gherman.

Expressing gratitude to the Turkmen leader and the heads of the Central Asian states for the opportunity to take part in the Forum, the Head of the UNRCCA stressed the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who paid special attention to Central Asia, welcomed the meeting, which confirmed the irreversible positive trend of the regional cooperation, and wished successful and productive work to all participants.

It was noted that over the 30 years of progressive development,



the Central Asian states, due to the will of the peoples and their leaders, had made tremendous progress in strengthening statehood, boosting economic growth and raising the standards of living of the population. Central Asia also contributes to the efforts of the international community to combat the challenges facing the world today.

In recent years, several new trends of increasing concern have emerged. In this regard, Ms Natalia Gherman emphasised that, outlining the priorities for the near future, the UN Secretary-General had specified a number of issues of paramount importance requiring urgent solutions. At the top of this list is the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, where the Central Asian states are taking an active part in common efforts, actively supporting not only each other, but also neighbouring countries.

Another priority is cooperation

in ensuring a sustainable economic recovery in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and climate change issues. The Central Asian countries have done a great job to solve such problems as the Aral Sea desiccation, glaciers melting and others.

In this regard, the Head of the UNRCCA assured the United Nations was ready to support fully the efforts of the states of the region in those areas.

Touching upon cooperation of the Central Asian Governments with the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, Ms Natalia Gherman noted the Centre was welcoming with great satisfaction their decisive steps towards expanding regional partnerships. The current Consultative Meeting symbolises this trend.

It was noted that the priorities set forth in the Joint Statement adopted at the previous Consultative Meeting, which had been held in Tashkent in 2019, provided guidance for the UNRCCA's work on the issues related to the Centre's mandate. In this regard, Ms Natalia Gherman welcomed the political will to deepen regional cooperation, which was an essential direction for the Centre to continue joint activities, expressed at the Meeting.

In response to the call of the Central Asian leaders to implement regional youth policy, reflected in the aforementioned Joint Statement, the Centre launched a youth initiative – the Academy of Preventive Diplomacy. The future belongs to young people, who make up more than 50 per cent of the

region's population. In this context, the Head of the UNRCCA welcomed the proposals of the heads of state to build up the potential of youth in the region.

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Asia also expressed sincere gratitude to the President of Turkmenistan for his initiative to host the Dialogue of Women of Central Asia together with the current Consultative Meeting.

The Head of the UNRCCA once again underscored the importance attached by the United Nations to cooperation with Central Asia. The member states of the UN Security Council highlighted the role of the countries of the region in efforts to achieve lasting peace in Afghanistan. The UN Security Council sees the current Meeting as a decisive step towards further strengthening the trends of regional partnerships and solidarity. It is symbolic that it is taking place in a year that, on the initiative of Turkmenistan and with the support of all countries of the region and the UN General Assembly, has been declared the International Year of Peace and Trust.

Confirming the readiness of the United Nations and UNRCCA to support fully the strategic directions of the development of the region and the decisions that would be taken at the Forum, Ms Natalia Gherman also expressed gratitude for the initiatives to deepen and expand cooperation with the UN. In conclusion, the Head of UNRCCA expressed sincere congratulations and best wishes, on behalf of the Community of Nations to the heads and peoples of the Central

Asian countries on the forthcoming celebration of the 30th anniversary of independence of the states of the region.

Thanking the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Asia, the Head of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia for her informative speech, the President of Turkmenistan addressed the participants of the Consultative Meeting with a closing speech.

The leader of the nation noted that a lively, constructive and detailed exchange of views had taken place, and many very useful and substantive proposals had been made on that day. All of them will enter as an asset into future interaction, forming a single meaningful platform for further substantial steps.

The idea of the need to strengthen consistently and steadily friendship and cooperation of the five fraternal states and peoples and to maintain and preserve our unity, good neighbourliness, kinship and the inseparability of our historical destinies ran all through the Meeting. Such concepts were of particular value in the modern world, the leader of Turkmenistan said. Abiding by them helps gain significant achievements and victories together, overcome difficulties, support each other and better see and correctly determine our role and place in the system of global coordinates.

The given Meeting demonstrated convincingly the political will, aspiration and determination of our states and their leaders to go hand in hand





along that path and to achieve tangible results together. There was no doubt that met the genuine interests of the Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Turkmen and Uzbek peoples and strengthened their faith in achieving all the goals set, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasised.

The national leader also thanked the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Asia, Head of UNRCCA Ms Natalia Gherman for attending the Forum and wished her every success in her responsible work.

Concluding the meeting, the President of Turkmenistan expressed gratitude to the leaders of the countries and members of the delegations for their fruitful work.

A Joint Statement based on the outcomes of the Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia was adopted.

A solemn ceremony of awarding the Insignia of Honour of the Heads of State of Central Asia to the President of the Republic of

Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon took place in the Big Conference Hall of the Avaza Congress Centre.

Addressing the distinguished guests, members of delegations and all those present, the President of Turkmenistan once again thanked everyone for their participation in the event, their constructive and business-like attitude, which contributed to its success and high effectiveness.

The leaders of the five fraternal countries in a trusting and benevolent atmosphere discussed the crucial and urgent tasks of regional cooperation and exchanged views on pressing issues of international development during the Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia. The Turkmen leader emphasised that a high level of mutual understanding on all issues and readiness to move together to achieve the ambitious goals had been achieved.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov once again expressed sincere gratitude to

the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev for their acceptance of the invitation to gather in Turkmenistan for the momentous meeting and for the invaluable contribution of each of them to strengthening interstate cooperation.

Much attention was paid to further intensifying interaction in key areas and political and diplomatic agreements, aimed at maintaining and strengthening long-term regional stability and security, were reached. In this regard, the emphasis was placed on the need to launch regular five-party contacts among the ministries of foreign affairs in order to develop timely and effective joint steps.

The leader of Turkmenistan said our countries had confirmed their readiness to provide practical



assistance to Afghanistan in strengthening its statehood, recovering its socioeconomic sphere and engaging the Afghan party in modern world economic relations through its full participation in long-term infrastructure projects.

During the meeting, the special emphasis was placed on enhancing cooperation in the energy, transport, communications and trade sectors and industrial interaction. The meeting participants put forward specific proposals on natural gas and electricity supply to the countries of the region and the construction of additional pipeline routes and power transmission lines.

In the transport and communications sectors, we had agreed to optimise and jointly use in a more efficient way existing transcontinental routes and transport corridors and to construct new ones along the lines of Central Asia-the Caspian-Black Sea region and Central Asia-the Middle East, the Turkmen leader said. Agreements had been reached and specific decisions were made to increase and qualitatively diversify the mutual trade and industrial

cooperation.

Noting with satisfaction that the current Meeting had been very fruitful and effective, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov stressed that the agreements reached at it had marked a new significant stage in cooperation and effective partnership among the Central Asian states in the long term. It was thanks to all the leaders, members of the delegations and experts who had prepared the current meeting, the leader of Turkmenistan said, addressing them sincere gratitude in this regard.

They gathered in that hall to

participate in a very responsible and solemn ceremony, the leader of the nation noted. President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said the heads of state had made a unanimous decision to award the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Sharipovich Rahmon with the Insignia of Honour of the Heads of State of Central Asia. He received the Insignia for his outstanding services in promoting friendship, good neighbourliness, mutual understanding and cooperation among the Central Asian countries, strengthening peace and security in the region, promoting common interests and initiatives of the Central Asian states in the international community.

That was a truly well-deserved award, the head of Turkmenistan stressed. The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, possessing great political and life experience, has been leading the country for many years, doing everything necessary to ensure its progressive and stable development and to achieve a high standard of living for the Tajik people and their wellbeing.





At the same time, Emomali Sharipovich Rahmon is making a great contribution to the development of traditionally friendly, fraternal relations between all the states of Central Asia. On the international political arena, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan is known as a prominent statesman who actively participates in solving pressing issues of our time.

Expressing sincere congratulations to his Tajik counterpart on the award, the leader of Turkmenistan wished good health, long life and new achievements in his state and international activities to President Emomali Rahmon, and also happiness, peace and prosperity to the people of Tajikistan.

Then, to the applause of those gathered, in a solemn atmosphere, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov presented President Emomali Rahmon with the Insignia of Honour of the Heads of State of Central Asia.

Once again thanking the Turkmen leader for the excellent

organisation of the Consultative Meeting, which had contributed to its success and effectiveness, the leader of Tajikistan expressed profound gratitude to his esteemed counterparts for their high evaluation of his activities. Noting that he viewed the award as a sign of respect for the Tajik people, President Emomali Rahmon stressed that, for his part, he would continue to contribute fully to strengthening the friendly and good-neighbourly relations and fruitful cooperation among the states of the region.

After the completion of the ceremony, the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan R. Meredov and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Asia, Head of UNRCCA Ms Natalia Gherman gave a press conference, following the Consultative Meeting of Heads of State of Central Asia.

Upon concluding the Meeting, the Central Asian leaders left the Avaza Congress Centre.

In the afternoon, the leaders of Turkmenistan, the Republic of

Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan visited the International Exhibition of National Commodities and the International Festival of National Cuisines and watched the solemn concert of artists from the states of the region.

On the same day, the distinguished guests left Turkmenistan.

The Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia and the events within its framework once again vividly demonstrated the forward-looking and responsible approach of neutral Turkmenistan to promoting multifaceted regional and international partnerships.

This is vividly illustrated by the constructive initiatives put forward by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to further build up fruitful full-scale cooperation among the countries of the region on a strategic basis and to bring interstate relations, based on the historically established traditions of friendship and good neighbourliness, to a qualitatively new level.



## THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF TURKMENISTAN IN THE INDEPENDENCY YEARS IN THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**Hudayberenova OGULSHAT**

**Lecturer of the Turkmen State Pedagogical Institute named after Seyitnazar Seydi**

*Independence Day is our national holiday, which inspires us to reach new heights in the name of a prosperous and happy life.*

**President of Turkmenistan  
Gurbanguly  
BERDIMUHAMEDOV**

**T**urkmenistan is a country in Central Asia, bordered by Kazakhstan to the northwest, Uzbekistan to the north and east, Afghanistan to the southeast, Iran to the south and southwest, and the Caspian Sea to the west. For

the first time in its new history, Turkmenistan was declared as an Independent State on October 27, 1991 by the means of sovereignty. The emergence of an independent state in the ancient Turkmen country was a great event in the history of which is written in golden letters. This event has become a memorable moment for all the people of Turkmenistan. Thus, the Turkmen people gained their independence and created their own national state. This has created the political foundations for the state to adhere to

the basic principles of the nation, to human dignity, to pursue a humane foreign and domestic policy.

Our Motherland Turkmenistan has stepped towards the 30th anniversary of its independency. During the independency years, Turkmenistan has reached remarkable achievements in the branches and sectors of economy, agriculture, medicine, science, education, and as well as international relations. The innovative programs have been accomplished to develop our

country comprehensively and large-scale transformations have been carried out successively.

On 2nd March 1992, the biggest event happened in the history of Turkmenistan. That day our Independent country became direct member of the United Nations. As a result, Turkmenistan became a member of the United Nations as an independent state subject to international law.

As it is known, United Nations is an association of many countries that aims to help economic and social conditions improve or to solve political problems in the world in a peaceful way. Since then Turkmenistan takes active part in keeping stability with this international organization.

In the initial years of independence, the Turkmen state made great efforts to find its own unique place in the world community. After gaining independence, our country has proclaimed "Open Doors Policy" in its indoor and outdoor policy. Within the framework of "Open Doors" policy, large-scale projects have been carried out to promote the prestige of our county in the international arena. On the strength of national traditions and geopolitical specifics of Turkmenistan, the question of acquiring status of permanent neutrality arose in that time as objective and essential necessity.

Within that framework, the idea about the neutral state for Turkmenistan emerged in the first years of independence. Neutrality is a historical choice of the people of Turkmenistan and the will of the people is its guarantee. "On December 12, 1995, the UN

General Assembly adopted a special Resolution on "Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan" - an unprecedented document, which provided a unique international and legal status for our country as the first in the world practice" (Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, "Turkmenistan is on the way to achieving the sustainable development goals" 2018, p.20).

Confidently entering into the system of modern international relations, our country is in the movement of establishing wide diplomatic relations with the countries of the world and actively developing constructive cooperation with the UN, the European Union, Organization of Islamic Cooperation and other major international organizations. Meanwhile, peace loving foreign policy led by our national leader has been sincerely applauded by world community. Turkmenistan as a member of this reputable organization of the world, has established the regular relations with all structures of UN.

Turkmen delegations constantly attend to high level sessions annually held by UN General Assembly. The organization of international forums and conferences in Ashgabat, where the main issues of both global and regional importance are discussed, is a proof of our country's potential. Participation of our esteemed President in the high level sessions held by General Assembly of the UN gave an extensive impulse for the new levels in terms of quality of relations between Turkmenistan and this reputable organization. Having attended the 70th anniversary, the historical speech from the high tribune and international initiatives

aimed at universal peace made and put forward by our National Leader has created a great resonance in the world community.

Moreover, such international initiatives have contributed in the expanding of international reputation of Turkmenistan. In the future, it is certain that mutual relations will be continued with this organization and strengthening of partnership in such branches as universal peace and stable development. In order to keep close relations with the UN, it is important that several committees and organizations are operating in our country. The UN is now maintaining wider range of activities. Currently Turkmenistan participates in the various organizations of the UN such as UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNPF, WHO and some others. The Declaration of Neutrality of Turkmenistan by the UN has been an important factor to stabilize conditions in the region, to coordinate the interests and peace talks among states. It is important to mention that the chief part of the foreign affairs of Turkmenistan is connected with UN.

As our esteemed President has emphasized at a meeting with the deputies of the Turkmen Parliament: "In order to develop and popularize the culture of our country, contacts with international organizations are being systematically expanded Cooperation with UNESCO is one of the priorities of the state strategy in the international arena" (Speech delivered by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov at a meeting with the deputies of the Turkmen Parliament, Ashgabat, February 25, 2021).

Turkmenistan, as a developing country, is doing a lot to improve the quality of education to achieve the level of world standards. From this point of view, the UNESCO Chair, implementing the project "Methods of Environmental Education of Youth and Improvement of Their Environmental Culture", will create favourable conditions for improving the quality of environmental education and environmental culture in the Turkmen society.

Taking into account the role of education, science, culture and communication in the context of further globalization and, in consultation with the scientific team, Seyitnazar Seydi Turkmen State Pedagogical Institute considers it expedient to implement a national project on the basis of the UNITWIN / UNESCO chair on the topic: "The role of education, science, culture and communication in the formation of ecological culture in the Turkmen society".

The creation of UNESCO Chair on the basis of Turkmen State Pedagogical Institute contributes to the accessibility of UNESCO information to the general public and to the achievement of the world level of ecological culture of youth.

The UNESCO Chair, which will be opened at the Seyitnazar Seydi Turkmen State Pedagogical Institute in order to implement the UN Sustainable Development Program, based on the UNITWIN / UNESCO program and the Educational Standards of Turkmenistan, will develop a new program of disciplines in ecology.

Turkmenistan highly evaluates the cooperation with the UN in terms of maintaining peace and security. When observing the

address of our esteemed President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, we can see that his main attention falls upon the issues of modern humankind.

Election of Turkmenistan as the chairman of the 62nd and 64th sessions of the UN and establishment of the Peace-making Center of the UN for Central Asia, on December 10, 2007 active participation of our country in the positive resolution of regional issues are clear evidence that the foreign policy of Turkmen leader is beneficial to all humankind.

During his historic address in the 65th session of the General Assembly of the UN on September 20, 2010, our esteemed President widely mentioned about the importance of the hormonal, close relationships of Turkmenistan with other states and international organizations, the place of the UN in current international relations.

Furthermore, National Leader has underlined the importance of consolidating security in the modern world, energy security, to restore the natural resources of Caspian Sea and to save Aral, to make use of the water resources the suggestions put forward to gain the general security of Turkmenistan.

The suggestions, which concern maintaining stable development, security and peace in the world revealing the main strategy of foreign policy of Turkmenistan, were put forward by the esteemed president of Turkmenistan in the honored podium of the UN and received great deal of approval by the states of the world and other international organizations.

Election of our esteemed Leader to the chair of this supreme

organization twice in the short recent period makes all the citizens of our country happy and proud. It has been clear evidence that our country's international reputation rose high when our esteemed president attended and chaired the 64th session of the UN.

As our Honorable President has emphasized that September 27, the historic date of the establishment of our independent state, we will celebrate the new glorious successes and victories that will increase our achievements, which testify to the country's confident progress on the path of peace, creation and progress. (Speech delivered by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov at the meeting with the deputies of the Turkmen Parliament, Ashgabat, February 25, 2021).

Our country is going forward with the speed of stallion under the leadership of our honorable president. Nowadays, Turkmenistan decisively takes position among the developed countries of the world.

It has been approaching big and political event to the 30th anniversary of Turkmen independence, which is going to be celebrated with great enthusiasm of Turkmen people.

We are very grateful to our esteemed President for the creation of opportunities to develop and achieve success in every aspects of life for the Turkmen nation. We wish our esteemed President long life, sound health and great achievements in his endeavors.



## MY NEUTRAL COUNTRY, MY TURKMENISTAN!

**Gulrukh MAMEDOVA**

**Lecturer of the Turkmen Agricultural University named after S.A. Niyazov**

The neutrality of the revived independence of the Turkmen became his national pride, a mountain fortress around him. Our people love and defend our sacred Independence, our benevolent neutrality as the spiritual teaching of our ancestors.

Because these two values are inextricably linked with the spiritual and moral roots of the nation. Permanent neutrality means eternal peace, and eternal peace means the transfer of the eternal heritage to the descendants of a peaceful sky, a peaceful earth, a free

life. On the 12th of December of 1995 by approval of 185 member states of the United Nations Organization Turkmenistan gained the status of Neutrality.

For any state after declaration of its independence, it is important to be recognized by the world community. The matter of establishment of mutually beneficial relations with other states and nations of the world and definition of the place of the Turkmen state in the system of the world community became one of the important issues of development of independent

Turkmenistan. Recognition of the independence of Turkmenistan by the world community became one of the first achievements on this way.

The fact that Turkmenistan has a permanent status of neutrality is written in gold letters as an unforgettable event in the history of our country. Neutrality of Turkmenistan is a living project, developing with each passing year.

We vividly remember its very first steps, its journey through which Turkmenistan announced its determination to build its



foreign policy upon a bold and fresh approach to its partners in conferences in Helsinki, in Islamabad, in Cartagena, in New York City. From the very first days of its independence, Turkmenistan sought to design a coherent foreign policy that could safeguard its sovereignty and facilitate its economic development. For us neutrality has multiple dimensions.

As is known, Turkmenistan attaches a special importance to implementation of Sustainable Development Goals adopted at the United Nations World Summit in 2015 for prosperous and bright future of humanity. Our country is among the first United Nations member states that officially adopted all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, the goal 7 includes «Ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy sources for all».

As is known, this year our country widely celebrates the 26th Anniversary of its permanent

neutrality, which was recognized by the UN General Assembly.

In his speech at the International Conference «Turkmenistan and International Organizations: Co-operation for Peace and Development» our highly esteemed President said, «It was a wise and far-sighted decision. Time has shown its conformity with the long-term goals of the United Nations, the interests of the development of states and peoples of the planet in the conditions of peace and security. Further events confirmed that with all the obviousness».

The 26th anniversary of Turkmenistan's neutrality, which will be widely celebrated this year, enjoys great support and interest throughout the world.

At the close of the 20th century goodwill neighborly traditions of Turkmenistan turned to Neutrality policy.

Turkmenistan, which constructed the legal, democratic, secular state, since the first days of gaining independence, in its foreign

policy followed the humanistic principles such as non-interference into the home affairs of other states, the policy of mutually beneficial cooperation.

The location of Turkmenistan on a very advantageous place in geopolitical, geo-strategic, geo-economic conditions prompted the way of choosing Neutrality in its foreign policy tradition. Geopolitical, geo-strategic, geo-economic conditions, first of all, are closely connected with foreign policy, to be exact, they are conditions ensuring it.

During the past 25 years strongly following the principles of permanent Neutrality Turkmenistan put forward several initiatives and proposals on important trends which were met with a warm response and were supported unanimously in the world of geopolitical space.

Following the principles proclaimed by the UN, during the period of prosperity of our sovereign state, Turkmenistan at a new stage of its development pursues an "open door" policy.

In the foreign policy course of Turkmenistan development and expansion of the fruitful, multilateral co-operation on the vital issues of the global agenda is of high priority. The constructive initiatives set forth by the President of Turkmenistan directed at positive solution of pressing issues of the modern time are widely welcomed by the world community, which is vividly testified by the relevant Resolutions adopted at the UN General Assembly. Clear example





of that is the adoption of the Resolution on declaration of 2021 as International Year of Peace and Trust. Our country consistently realizing its positive Neutrality policy, increasingly involved in the global processes, making a significant contribution to the world peace, stability and sustainable development.

Along with the adoption of laws and other normative legal acts contributing to the further implementation of the principles of permanent positive neutrality, Turkmenistan directly cooperates with specialized UN agencies for practical cooperation.

The stability of the internal and foreign policy of Turkmenistan, the gradual implementation of democratic principles in the life of the state and society contribute to

Turkmenistan's reliable position in the international arena and its equal relations with all countries of the world. Neutrality is the heart of reconciliation diplomacy, equal international relations and the rapid development of the state, a clear evidence of the well-being of the Turkmen people.

As we have witnessed, at the time of the anniversaries of our sacred Independence and Neutrality, the mutually beneficial co-operation of our Motherland with other world nations has flourished. As it is noted in the new book of President of Turkmenistan, a powerful state was built in the early twenty first century, the prestige of our people has further enhanced, and a strong confidence in the future has been established in our nation. This is based on the fact

that noble humanitarian principles such as: a peace, prosperity of the Homeland, science and education, health, hard work, hospitality, friendship, honesty, unity, wisdom are rooted in our culture.

May our Motherland, under the leadership of our National Leader, have new achievements and new heights in 2021 declared as the year of «International Peace and Trust».

Neutrality gives spiritual support and strength to the brave and hardworking Turkmen people, which, under the leadership of the wise leader of our national leader Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, creates and builds a prosperous future. The Turkmen people always thank our President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, who stands at the forefront of such great deeds.



## TURKMENISTAN'S PERMANENT NEUTRALITY ROLE ON THE REGIONAL SECURITY AND AFGHANISTAN PEACE PROCESS

**Begench KARAYEV**

**Senior Lecturer of the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan**

The actualization of the neutrality of Turkmenistan as an effective instrument of geopolitics is especially visible in the regional context, when Central Asia is rapidly drawn into the orbit of world processes. At the same time, it should be noted that the countries of the Central Asian region are becoming not just participants, but also active subjects in the formation of new formats of dialogue.

It should be emphasized that the very concept of "Central Asia"

has several dimensions, where are especially highlighted its historical, geographic, economic and political dimensions.

Central Asia has historically always been associated with nomadic peoples inhabiting its vast expanses and the Great Silk Road, that acted as a place where converged peoples, cultures and ideas from different parts of the Eurasian continent - Europe, the Middle East, South and East Asia.

At the same time, Central

Asia is known in the history of civilization as a space where large empires arose, which formed the political order and dynamics of the geopolitical map of the world in the Middle Ages.

In the political dimension of the region, the starting point is the historical fact that in 1992 at the summit of Central Asian states, proposed to abandon the definition of "Central Asia and Kazakhstan" in favor of the concept of "Central Asia", covering all

the five independent states of this region. The renaming of the former under-soviet region was a political decision, which coincided with the concept of "Central Asia" adopted in the western political science.

In the economical dimension Central Asia, a unique region of the planet, has a good prospect for the development rich natural resources, tourism and other kinds of business. Also region is a strategic link on development of intercontinental transport and communications corridors.

Turkmenistan actively participates in consolidating joint efforts aimed at constructively solving regional problems. As the President of Turkmenistan notes - One of the main priorities of Turkmenistan's policy in the Central Asian region is to ensure peace and security, good neighborliness and sustainable development.

Turkmenistan pay special attention to Afghanistan, where is the key importance is attached to achieving peace. Under the auspices of the United Nations our country continues to act in favor of stabilizing the situation in the country through a political settlement. President of Turkmenistan call on the international community to assist in the socio-economic reconstruction of Afghanistan.

More than 10 years ago, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in the address at the 65th session of the UN General Assembly declared 5 priority positions respected Afghanistan:

1. Turkmenistan understands and supports efforts of the Afghanistan administration, directed at settlement of the situation by negotiations and creating an atmosphere of national concord and reconciliation in the country. This corresponds with our view of perspectives of development of infra-Afghanistan processes. We consider it necessary for the world community to render international assistance to Afghan partners. In this connection, taking into account our neutral status, our country is ready to hold, under the UN auspices, an International high-level meeting on confidence building in Afghanistan and development of efficient institutions of state power. We are ready to discuss issues of organizing such meeting with our Afghan partners, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Afghanistan, other specialized UN structures involved in the Afghanistan issue and all interested parties;

2. Being desirous of rendering assistance to the people of the country in state building, and in accordance with the results of the London and Kabul meetings, we offer our help in training in Turkmenistan, under the UN patronage and programs, of the Afghan personnel for management structures in various sectors;

3. The paramount task is assisting Afghanistan in developing a transport infrastructure. Turkmenistan proposes a project for constructing a railway from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan with its further extension on the Afghan

territory aided by international organizations, donor countries and international financial institutions. We would welcome involvement of the world community;

4. We find it necessary to substantially activate efforts directed at the construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline. The Trans-Afghan pipeline can have a great impact on development of Afghan economy; help resolve major social issues, employment being among them; promote attraction of investments; positively influence the political situation in the country;

5. Turkmenistan is ready to consider the issue of increasing the electric power supply to Afghanistan, as well as expanding our own energy infrastructure for the purpose of future installation and networking on the Afghan territory. We invite the international community represented by the UN to discuss this proposal.

Turkmenistan takes part in the UN 75th session as deputy chairman of the UN General Assembly. Maintenance and strengthening of universal peace, stability and security are acquiring special importance in modern conditions and continues to remain the main issue on the international agenda for the foreseeable future. It is primarily due to the transformation of traditional threats in the conditions of the global pandemic and the need to rapidly adapt the entire existing architecture of security to the new combinations of challenges.



## FUEL AND ENERGY COMPLEX

**Tirkishmyrat DURDYEV**

**Lecturer of the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan**

Turkmenistan is consistently implementing large regional and interregional energy projects. Innovations in the industry, as well as the most efficient and environmentally friendly type of fuel in the country for power plants in modern conditions, huge reserves of natural gas help to effectively solve the problems facing the strategic sector of the economy. The energy sector of Turkmenistan has the potential to increase electricity consumption in world markets, maintaining a stable pace of development. In line with its diversification strategy,

Turkmenistan has partnered with its partners in recent years to implement a number of major pipeline projects in the east and south of the country. Also of strategic importance is the fact that they are aimed at creating modern global energy security, including a diversified system for transporting Turkmen energy resources to world markets.

As the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized: "The Turkmen land is a storehouse of natural resources. The huge Galkynysh gas field alone is one of the clearest proofs

of this. Turkmenistan, together with its long-standing strategic partners in the energy sector, has expanded its energy cooperation in Europe, Asia, the Far East and the Southwest. Mutually beneficial cooperation has been established with the world's leading financial and oil and gas companies". It is aimed at concluding promising transactions and joint projects in accordance with the specific tasks set by President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for the national economy. In addition, holding industry exhibitions, scientific conferences, bilateral and

multidisciplinary business forums on topical issues in the development of a particular sector will allow discussing important issues at the professional, group and expert levels, as well as analyzing its current state. examine the expected needs. This helps to change your tactics and strategy in terms of the development of production and sales of goods, the organization of advertising campaigns for companies.

An example is the annual business events in our country in the field of the fuel and energy complex. For example, it should be noted that the XXV International Conference "Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan-2020" (OGT-2020), held in October 28-29, 2020, became such platforms for such a fruitful exchange of views. Every year, large delegations from foreign countries, top managers of specialized large companies and transnational holdings, scientists and representatives of research groups, academic and financial institutions come to our country to participate in these events. During the XXV International Conference in Ashgabat, new directions for the development of interstate cooperation in the gas sector, the transfer of energy resources, diversification of national and regional gas transportation infrastructure, training of national personnel and other areas for the near future were identified.

It is legal that large world companies are trying to establish close ties with our country in the gas sector. In addition, modern Turkmenistan has established itself as one of the most promising partners in the international



high-volume energy market. In order to develop our country for sustainable development, the President of Turkmenistan initiates the development of diversification of energy resources abroad. In this regard, it should be noted that the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline is of strategic importance for the region.

Recall that the construction of the TAPI gas pipeline began in February 2018 in the Serhetabat region of the Mary velayat with the participation of the Presidents of Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of India. In the near future, the first phase of the pipeline will also be built in the Pakistani part of the project, while preparations are underway in India. Corresponding work is being carried out at all levels, primarily at the governmental and diplomatic levels. By the way, such economically profitable facilities include the commissioned natural

gas processing plant in Garabogaz and the gas chemical complex in the city of Gyanly. The commissioning of a gas plant in the Akhal province of Ovandepe also testifies to the high level of development of the industry.

As a country exporting large volumes of energy, Turkmenistan is not only strengthening its position in the global energy market, but also actively promoting new areas of international energy business by diversifying the commodity structure of energy exports. CNPC, Edison Technologies GmbH, SINOPEC Engineering Co., Ltd, Haldor Topsoe, Allen and Overy, Honeywell UOP, Dragon Oil, which have been operating in our country for several years. Representatives of the world's largest companies such as Exxon-Mobil, LG International and Hyundai Engineering believe that mutually beneficial cooperation with Turkmenistan is promising and that our country plays an important role in ensuring global energy security.



## FISCAL POLICY IS AN IMPORTANT PILLAR IN ENSURING THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF THE STATE

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As a result of reasonable and thoughtful reforms carried out by the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, our country has won a high reputation in socio-economic development and international space. The leader of the nation's concern for the well-being of the Turkmen people is the main goal of the state policy "The state is for the people!".

During the period of prosperity of a sovereign state, the land of our ancestors is changing every

day, developing and improving, while preserving traditions and customs, with a century-old history, and our socio-economic and cultural well-being is getting stronger day by day. A lot of work done, based on the principle of the national program "Socio-economic development of Turkmenistan for 2011-2030" and the program "Socio-economic development of the President of Turkmenistan for 2019-2025", which determines the path prosperity of Turkmenistan,

allows solving large-scale tasks in all spheres of the country's economy and making changes, improving the quality of life of people for the better. Currently, work is underway on large-scale international investment projects initiated by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, which have become a priority of the country's socio-economic development. Political stability, a steady increase in the standard of living of the residents of Turkmenistan became

the guarantor of the solution of the tasks set in the national programs. Despite the emergence and deepening of the global financial and economic crisis, which exacerbated the problems of economic and social development, the economic crisis in the country was averted thanks to timely measures taken by the highly respected President of Turkmenistan. The doctrine of the President of Turkmenistan against the global financial and economic crisis is fully recognized by international political and financial institutions. In recent years, in connection with the transition to market relations, profound changes have been taking place in the economy of Turkmenistan. To a large extent, these changes are due to the clarification and sometimes a change in priorities, incentives and factors for the development of society and the country.

In the context of the transition to market relations, the role and importance of monetary and financial and credit levers have increased dramatically. The development of the economy depends to a large extent on the rational construction of the financial system. A reliable financial system is the backbone in the development and successful functioning of a market economy and a prerequisite for the growth and stability of the economy as a whole. This system is the foundation that mobilizes and distributes the savings of the society and facilitates its day-to-day operations. The financial

system is a set of various links of financial relations, each of which is characterized by peculiarities in the formation and use of funds of funds, performing a different role in social reproduction. The leading link in the financial system of any country is the state budget. The state budget of Turkmenistan is the financial plan of the state for the planning period, which determines the volume of receipts and financing of expenses that ensure the activities of state authorities and administrations, local executive authorities and local self-government, financing of investment and innovation activities. The state budget of Turkmenistan includes funds from the Centralized and local budgets.

Fiscal policy is an important part of the state's economic policy and an important pillar in ensuring the financial stability of the state. The creation of financial incentives for the social development of the country also depends on this policy. Fiscal policy affects GDP, key macroeconomic indicators, interest and inflation rates, and investment in the economy. State expenditures on socio-economic development today serve as an indicator of the peculiarities of the development of the economy of Turkmenistan.

The state budget plays a key role in ensuring sustainable economic development and solving social and cultural problems.

The state budget makes a significant financial contribution to the development of the social system. Funds allocated from the

state budget to finance education, health care and, in particular, social services, are steadily growing.

The main goal of the budget policy reform strategy is the creation and development of an effective budget system that contributes to economic growth and an increase in the well-being of people.

In accordance with the strategic objectives set by the President of Turkmenistan, the financial policy is aimed at supporting rapid development, its further diversification, active development of all sectors through investments in large-scale projects, and active development of small and medium-sized businesses. The development of the economy and social system of Turkmenistan is based on the achievements of recent years, in particular, on the further strengthening and modernization of the production and economic potential of the country, the ongoing structural diversification of the economy, improvement of the legal and industrial base.

The main goal of fiscal policy is to further improve the system of public spending and increase its efficiency, which will contribute to the sustainable development of the economy and the well-being of people.

In accordance with these goals, it is planned to solve the following tasks:

- Improving budget planning and forecasting, including the transition to medium-term planning;

- ensuring transparency at all levels of the budget;

- find the optimal level of budget expenditures and increase the efficiency of their use;

- improving the regulatory framework of budgetary legal relations;

- the main task of the regional budgetary policy is a clear limitation of expenditures between the levels of the budgetary system;

- to increase the level of tax autonomy;

- consists in taking into account specific areas of financial assistance to the regions.

Achievements in all sectors of the country in recent years allow us to confidently pursue fiscal policy.

It is imperative to improve the country's financial sector in order to reduce the impact of systemic crises in the context of a slowdown in global and national economic growth. This task provides for the implementation of a unified state fiscal policy aimed at increasing the stability and efficiency of the financial system, including the State Budget of Turkmenistan. In addition, the state budget of the country is intended to accelerate structural reforms in the economy in the coming years.

In the context of the reforms carried out in the country, the role of the state in financing the state system and maintaining the standard of living and well-being of citizens is increasing, including in the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development

Goals. In the coming years, within the framework of fiscal policy, measures will be taken to expand and modernize the economy in many areas, to create new, non-hydrocarbon production opportunities, to develop innovative sectors of the economy, as well as to improve the quality of human resources. When creating incentives for investment activity of taxpayers, the task of ensuring budgetary equilibrium will remain one of the key principles of fiscal policy.

Budget replenishment will be ensured by maintaining a steady growth in budget expenditures and sustained rapid economic growth. Special attention will be paid to the targeted and efficient use of budget funds.

In accordance with the Budget Code, financing of budget expenditures will be carried out on a programmatic basis in order to ensure the availability of these expenditures, strengthen control over the rational use of budget funds and ensure transparency of budget operations. In accordance with the Budget Code, financing of budget expenditures will be carried out on a programmatic basis in order to ensure the availability of these expenditures, strengthen control over the rational use of budget funds and ensure transparency of budget operations. At the same time, budgetary expenditures will continue to be used to finance the social system - education, health care, culture, pensions and

social security. In a wide range of financial policy projects aimed at the successful implementation of the tasks set in the economic strategy to form a competitive, strong national economy that meets the requirements of a prosperous period of a sovereign state, and further improve the quality of life of the residents of Turkmenistan. In accordance with this goal, the following issues will be resolved:

- improving budget planning;
- ensuring transparency at all levels of the budget;

- improving the structure of the budget of the first and second levels;

- improving the efficiency of budget use;

- improving the legal framework of the budgetary system.

An increase in state budget expenditures on social and economic development is one of the important conditions for accelerating the rate of economic growth and its diversification.

Thus, in order to ensure a more favorable level of state budget expenditures, new approaches to assessing the efficiency of using the economy of Turkmenistan will be developed, and new directions for improving the functioning of the budget system will be determined.





## LEGISLATION OF CONSUMER RIGHTS PROTECTION

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In the Prosperous Epoch of Powerful State progress is being made in all spheres of the economy. On the slogan of our esteemed President "The State is for People!" our country is reaching high points. In his speech to the members of the People's Council of the National Council of Turkmenistan on April 14, 2021, our esteemed President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted: "The People's Council must legislate the humanitarian policy of our state in the field of protecting

human rights and freedoms. Our state must further improve the legal framework of human rights, in accordance with the governing norms of international law." This assignment of the Honorable President ensures the achievement of very important goals, the further dissemination of democratic principles in society, the protection of human and civil rights and freedoms, and the creation of favorable conditions for their implementation.

In this regard, it is important to study the legal framework for consumer rights protection.

According to historical and scientific sources, consumer rights protection began to emerge in earlier times. However, in the 1960s, the Consumer International was founded. The Consumer Rights Protection Act was passed in the USA in 1962. Then, Resolution 39/248 was adopted by the UN General Assembly on April 9, 1985, aimed at protecting consumer rights.



The protection of consumer rights in our country was initially regulated by the provisions of the earlier existing Civil Code. After our country gained state independence on October 27, 1991, on October 1, 1993, the Law of Turkmenistan “On

Protection of Costumer Rights” was adopted. This law defines the legal, economic and social basis for the protection of consumer rights of goods (works, services).

Under the leadership of the esteemed President, high socio-

economic development has been achieved in our country, the standard of living of our people has increased, and the scale of international relations has expanded. These circumstances have further increased the demand for quality goods, works and services in the consumer market.

On November 8, 2014, the Law of Turkmenistan «Protection of Consumer Rights» was adopted. With the adoption of this law, the previous “Law on the Protection of Customer Rights” and its amendments and additions were declared invalid. Articles of the second part of the Constitution of Turkmenistan define the rights, freedoms and duties of a person and a citizen in our country. For example, Articles 52, 53 and 55 of the Constitution establish the human and citizen’s right to health protection, access to medical care and a favorable environment, as well as to education. Articles 27, 61 and 63 of the Constitution guarantee the protection of human and civil rights and freedoms, the right to demand compensation for damage and receive legal assistance. Thus, these rules provide constitutional protection of consumer rights in our country.

The Civil Code of Turkmenistan has the highest legal force in national civil law after the Constitution of Turkmenistan. The Civil Code of Turkmenistan is a sectoral regulatory legal act aimed at ensuring uniform regulation of commodity-money, property, non-property personal, organizational-property and other legal relations throughout the country. The Code establishes the foundations for the emergence of

civil rights and obligations, the legal status of persons involved in civil law relations, methods of harm and protection to them, civil law contracts, for example, aimed at settling other legal relations and contracts in the field of purchase and sale and consumption. Thus, the Civil Code of Turkmenistan is the legal basis for regulating relations in the field of consumer protection.

The concept of consumer rights protection legislation in Turkmenistan is not limited to this law. This concept is regulated by the Code of Administrative Offenses of Turkmenistan, the Civil Code of Turkmenistan and the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan, the Laws of Turkmenistan "On Food Safety", "On Licensing of Certain Types of Activities", "On Chemical Safety", "On Standardization", "On Insurance", «On certification», «On ensuring the safety and quality of food» and other laws, as well as decrees and decisions of the President of Turkmenistan regulating the protection of consumer rights in our country, the Cabinet of Ministers, the competent industry administration.

Thus, consumer protection is aimed at regulating the relationship between the consumer and the manufacturer, the contractor and the seller, represent complex measures taken by state and non-governmental organizations that determine the exact rights of consumers, the procedure for their protection and responsibility for violation of consumer rights.

Of course, it is important to note that everyone has the right to apply to the appropriate government

agencies to restore their civil rights. Currently, consumer rights in our country are reliably protected by courts and other law enforcement agencies, executive authorities.

In particular, the protection of consumer rights is carried out by the Trade Supervision Service of the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations of Turkmenistan. It should be noted that the concept of "consumer right protection" is broad and covers a number of different areas not only in the field of trade, but also in the field of ordering work, services, environmental well-being and ecological cleanliness. In short, relations in this area are considered very broad in scope. In this regard, it is advisable to create a special body so that other citizens have a broad understanding of their rights and legitimate interests, in particular of the rights arising from the legal status of the consumer. Considering of the fact that the agency operates as a service within the ministry, it is clear that changing the name of the consumer rights protection service will not be enough to achieve the desired goals. In this regard, the need for a specially authorized special agency is obvious. Based on world experience, specially created government agencies take the necessary and sufficiently effective measures to protect consumer rights. In our opinion, the creation of such institutions will strengthen consumer protection, improve the quality of products, goods and services, improve environmental well-being and have a positive impact on the conduct of free competition. Therefore, it would be advisable to create a State Service for



the Protection of Consumer Rights under the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, which is directly aimed at protecting consumer rights in our country. In this case, control over this area of activity will be even more strengthened, the rights and legitimate interests of consumers will be protected in modern conditions, which will lead to a further improvement in the living conditions of the population of our country and will be a condition for achieving new heights of the quality of products produced in our country.

As a result of the humanitarian state policy pursued under the leadership of the esteemed President, all the necessary conditions have been created in our country for the full use of the opportunity to cover the personal and social expenses of each person in the country with quality goods, works and services.



## TURKMENISTAN- UNESCO: COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

**Chinar RUSTAMOVA**

**Executive Secretary The National  
Commission for UNESCO affairs**

An important condition for the growth and bringing the economy of Turkmenistan to a new level is the accelerated introduction of modern innovative technologies and advanced scientific achievements into the economic sphere, with the use of the intellectual potential of society in their implementation. That is why, in the concept of socio-economic development of the state, the leading role is assigned to an innovative economy based on deep scientific and theoretical knowledge and extensive practical experience combined in effective technologies.

Thanks to the well-planned scientific and technical policy of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Turkmen science today has its own creative potential, where fundamental transformations are taking place. In the last decade, serious efforts have been made in the country to improve the structures of the Academy of Sciences, research institutes, secondary and higher educational institutions, and program work is underway to digitalize all spheres of introduction of scientific to accelerate the scientific and technological progress of the country and increase the intellectual potential of the society.

In recent years, a solid and

reliable legal base of domestic science has been formed in the country. The legal support of the scientific sphere is carried out by the implementation of fundamental documents, such as “The Program for the development of innovative activities in Turkmenistan for 2015-2020”, “The State Program for the development of natural and exact sciences in Turkmenistan”, and “The State program for the training of researchers in Turkmenistan”.

The necessary conditions for carrying out scientific work, expanding the range of research, introducing their results into practice are also created by the Presidential Resolutions “On improving the efficiency of scientific research in Turkmenistan”, “On financial support for the development of the science system of Turkmenistan”. There is no doubt that the successful implementation of these reforms contributes to increasing the role of science in accelerating the scientific and technological progress of the country and building up the intellectual potential of society. In this context, the words of the Turkmen leader: “Science is the power of the state” sound like a continuation of the general line of the state policy in the field of science and scientific education.

It should be particularly noted that the systematic implementation of multi-purpose state programs and the far-sighted policy of the Turkmen leader, aimed at the benefit of universal peace, friendship and progress, are already displaying positive results in the international arena. As the country successfully integrates into the global scientific space, Turkmenistan is now turning

into a harmoniously developing country in terms of innovation and technology.

One of the illustrative examples of the high achievements of Turkmen science is the project of an Innovative Platform for scientific creativity launched by the Institute of Telecommunications and Informatics of Turkmenistan. Today, it has become an active center for uniting young people of the country who are interested in active scientific activity, where creative developments and projects, theoretical research in such areas as computer technology, information and communication system, innovative economy, and digital science are presented.

The implementation of the on-going mega-project of the first “Smart City” in the Turkmen capital with the introduction of ultra-modern information and communication technologies, various intelligent systems and alternative energy will serve as a vivid example of the successful implementation of innovative reforms initiated by Head of State Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in the field of science and intellectual diplomacy.

Being a powerful transformative force of social development, Turkmen science increasingly plays an important role for the country and serves as a key condition for the integration into the ranks of the advanced states of the world. Confidently introducing world standards into the scientific process, our country is increasing cooperation in this area with international organizations, especially with UNESCO, the UN

specialized organization in the field of education, science and culture. Cooperation in this area is being strengthened on the basis of joint projects and programs.

As it is known, UNESCO helps a wide range of countries around the world to invest in science, to reform scientific systems, providing current and complete information on internationally best practices in the field of science. An important promising project for cooperation with UNESCO is the scientific program “Micro Science”, which has proven itself well in building the scientific potential of primary and secondary schools and promoting the scientifically based development of national educational networks in general. This project initiative plays a key role in increasing the role of micro-science in development, increasing public interest in scientific activities.

Currently, Turkmenistan is actively studying the possibility of introducing the international project “Micro Science” in secondary schools. The country is working on organizing introductory training sessions for teachers and students of secondary schools. The main focus of this project is on the training of secondary school teachers in natural sciences through e-learning and modern teaching materials on science education. The project also promotes international cooperation and global partnership for the development and strengthening of national and regional capacities in the field of fundamental, physical and mathematical sciences.

Such priority areas as science for sustainable development, the development of a “green” economy,

the conservation of biodiversity, climate change, the protection and sustainable use of natural resources are among the promising areas of cooperation between Turkmenistan and UNESCO. A significant place in this plan is given to the UNESCO Program "Man and the Biosphere", established in 1971 with the aim of creating a scientific basis for strengthening the ties between people and their environment, and promoting sustainable development.

The policy pursued by the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov aimed at the dynamic comprehensive development of our country, where one of the key criteria is the issues of environmental protection and environmental safety, is fully consistent with these goals. In his speech at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development "Rio+20", the President of Turkmenistan voiced specific environmental proposals designed to promote the consolidation of common efforts in the name of global climate and environmental protection. The Head of state also regularly speaks from the platforms of international organizations with important initiatives and proposals for deepening and expanding positive cooperation with all UN structures for conservation of natural values and the biological diversity of the planet.

Cooperation between Turkmenistan and UNESCO within the framework of the UNESCO program "Man and the Biosphere" is of particular importance, taking into account the inclusion of the Repetek Reserve in the World

Network of Biosphere Reserves, a network of protected areas representing the main types of ecosystems of the world. As you know, on February 19, 1979, the joint Council of UNESCO "Man and the Biosphere" adopted a resolution on assigning the legal status of the state biosphere reserve to the Repetek Reserve, which served as the accession of Turkmenistan to the "World Network of Biosphere Reserves".

Today, the Repetek State Biosphere Reserve has become the subject of close attention to scientists around the world. The second on the planet by its territory, this natural ecological museum has preserved its exceptional uniqueness to this day, largely due to the inherent ability of the Turkmen people to live in harmony with their surrounding nature since ancient times.

In recent years, within the framework of the "World Network of Biosphere Reserves" project, Turkmen scientists, with the participation of international specialists, have carried out joint research and experimental work on the complex study of ecosystems and biodiversity of various reserves, as a result of which significant final materials have been accumulated, which gives grounds for including a number of these objects in the UNESCO World Heritage.

Currently, within the framework of the project "Central Asian Desert Initiative-Conservation and sustainable use of the deserts of Turkmenistan", preparatory work is being actively carried out to include the Karakum Desert in the UNESCO World Heritage List as a unique ecological system. This program

is implemented by Turkmen scientists together with the Zukov Foundation for Nature Protection, which implements a number of national and international projects on nature protection in cooperation with partners.

As you know, the International Day of Birds is celebrated annually in our country on April 1st, which is held within the framework of the UNESCO biological program "Man and the Biosphere" in order to preserve the species diversity, the number of birds, and raise public awareness about the benefits of birds for nature protection and the environment. This holiday of the ecological calendar contributes to introducing young generation to folk culture and traditions, enriching the content of cooperation between Turkmenistan and UNESCO in the field of environmental protection.

The key vector of Turkmenistan's cooperation with UNESCO is the implementation of promising scientific ideas and projects in such areas as information and communication, innovative and digital technologies, which are a powerful tool for the development of scientific knowledge, providing services and expanding development. The introduction of science to new, higher frontiers will lead to a further increase in the technical and economic potential of our country, creating opportunities for the growth of the cultural level and well-being of the Turkmen people.



## INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL LEGAL BASES OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER OF TURKMENISTAN

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Respect and honor displayed towards water by our people originating from remote ages was far and away multiplied by our President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in prosperous epoch of the powerful state. In a word, in our sunny Motherland, along with all other sectors of our national economy, enormous work is carried out concerning improvement of water supply. In our Motherland, along with growth of the number of population,

increase of level of development of agriculture, as well as along with establishment of new villages and settlements, meeting all world standards, the demand for water significantly grows as well. In this connection, as our national leader notes, Turkmenistan, that considers water to be guarantee of abundance and prosperity, quite reasonably and seriously treats solution of such issues as careful and economical use of water resources of our country as well as supplying of our people

with rich reserves of pure potable water.

Water issue and all circumstances connected with it in our state were always connected with general level of development of our Motherland. President and Government of Turkmenistan displayed an initiative of construction of drinking water production factories as well as large-scale water-purification and irrigation facilities. Taking into consideration the changes

of weather conditions, water-saving technologies are widely used. Construction of Turkmen lake "Altyn asyr" in the depth of the Karakum desert is one of large projects that provides an opportunity to improve, on annual basis, ecological condition not only in the country, but within the whole region.

In this connection, our Esteemed President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on December 12, 2020, within the scope of his speech at international conference held under the title "Policy of Neutrality and its role in arrangement of international safety, peace and sustainable development" noted the following: "International initiatives of Turkmenistan are of significant importance and they are quite topical within the scope of arrangement of energy safety, cooperation in transportation system, ecological and food supply, availability of water resources, protection of rights of refugees as well as concerning other crucial trends of general development. We create opportunity of solution of these issues relying on the necessity of integration of efficient and distinct principles of world nations and international organizations".

At the abovementioned international conference, our national leader, having noted the fact that Turkmenistan in the year of 2016 undertook the holding of the first general conference on sustainable transportation system, stated that in the upcoming year it is planned to hold in Ashgabat city an international conference of ministers

of transport of developing countries without an outlet to the sea. Apart from that, Turkmenistan is stirring up its efforts concerning rendering support to projects of Resolutions of the United Nations Organization which call up for cooperation on sustainable transportation system.

In particular, the Turkmen part displayed its distinct economic interests and also underlined the importance of unification of situation of international cooperation with the need of conservation biodiversity of the Caspian Sea, and also expressed its view concerning significance of non-admission of violation of its excessive ecological level. Besides, Turkmenistan also displayed its Water strategy for Central Asia, working out by the United Nations Organization of Special program for countries of the Aral Sea, as well as several other suggestions concerning implementation of regional plan of Movements on environmental protection as a single ecological program of countries of Central Asia.

As it is underlined by our Esteemed President, our country is an author of project of Resolution under the title "Cooperation between the United Nations Organization and International Fund of Saving the Aral Sea" and this Resolution received support of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization and currently proves to be a dependable basis for coordination of joint efforts aimed at settlement of the Aral problem and improvement of economic and social conditions of

this region as well as increase of the level of living conditions and health of its population. No doubt, these initiatives are mostly related to the region where Turkmenistan is located. First of all, rising generation, has to connect such principles and approaches with the care of preservation of beautiful view of our planet as well as with the care of environmental protection, and along with that, this task is to be a concern of other world nations as well.

In this connection, another crucial steps in this direction were in accordance with the Law of Turkmenistan "About international treaties of Turkmenistan", by the order of President of Turkmenistan signed on November 17, 2020, assignment given by the Turkmen part to rector of Institute of Engineering, Technical and Transport Communications of Turkmenistan to sign memorandum of understanding between Institute of Engineering, Technical and Transport Communications of Turkmenistan and branch of federal state budget institution of higher education "Volga state university of water transport" Caspian institute of river and sea transport named after general-admiral F.M.Apraksin, by the order signed on December 1, 2020, assignment given by the Turkmen part to minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan to sign memorandum of understanding between Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan and representative office in Turkmenistan of



Development Program of the United Nations Organization, assignment given by the Turkmen part to minister of Energy of Turkmenistan to sign memorandum of understanding concerning implementation of cooperation on sustainable development of electric and energy field between Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan and representative office in Turkmenistan of Development Program of the United Nations Organization, assignment given by the Turkmen part to Chairman of the State Committee for Water Economy of Turkmenistan to sign memorandum of understanding on sustainable management of water resources between the State Committee for Water Economy of Turkmenistan and representative office in Turkmenistan of Development Program of the United Nations Organization.

As for protection of the Caspian Sea, it is necessary to note approval by Turkmenistan on August 19, 2004 of Framework convention of protection of water environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran convention). Major goal of the Convention is to protect water environment of the Caspian Sea from pollution, including protection, careful storage, restoration as well as sustainable and rational use of its biological resources.

Turkmenistan signed "Agreement of protection and rational use of water and biological resources of the Caspian Sea" (September 29, 2014, Astrakhan city). Major goal of the agreement is to preserve water and biological

resources of the Caspian Sea as well as to manage water and biological resources. Turkmenistan confirmed this agreement on November 8, 2014. Within the scope of this agreement, parties carry out cooperation concerning implementation of the stipulated scientific researches, working out of activities regarding regulation of catching of water and biological resources; working out of activities regarding struggle against illegal and unregulated catching of water and biological resources; as well as preparation and implementation of short-term, middle-term and long-term programs of protection of water and biological resources and their reproduction environments as well as production of sturgeon and other species of fish.

On August 12, 2018, in the city of Aktau of the Republic of Kazakhstan, within the scope of the fifth Caspian Summit, Presidents of Caspian states signed Convention of legal status of the Caspian Sea. Countries of the region undertook to preserve the ecosystem of the Caspian Sea as well as its whole constituent part. In accordance with the Convention, it is prohibited to carry out types of activity exerting detrimental effect on biological diversity of the Caspian Sea. The Convention is unlimited and it was approved by Turkmenistan on December 1, 2018.

In accordance with Constitution of Turkmenistan, in our country there are several valid laws about protection of water resources and rational use of water: Code of commercial and sea ways of

Turkmenistan (23.10.2008); Water Code of Turkmenistan (15.10.2016); Law of Turkmenistan "About drinking water" (25.09.2010); Law of Turkmenistan "About fishery and preservation of water and biological resources" (21.05.2011), National Plan of Movements of Turkmenistan concerning the Caspian Sea confirmed by Decree No 9541 of President of Turkmenistan dated February 26, 2008; Main Program of supply by pure drinking water of inhabited localities of Turkmenistan confirmed by Decree No 11457 of President of Turkmenistan dated January 10, 2011; Program of works concerning rational use of water resources and Increase of water discharge output of the Karakum river for the period of 2015-2020 confirmed by Decree No 14047 of President of Turkmenistan dated January 9, 2015; National Strategy of Turkmenistan about the change of weather confirmed by Decree No 1415 of President of Turkmenistan dated September 23, 2019; Regulations about "Turkmendenizderyayollary" Agency confirmed by Decree No 1701 of President of Turkmenistan dated March 4, 2020;

Apart from that, there are also valid normative legal documents that regulate relations taking place in other spheres and describing certain regulations of rational use of water resources and their careful storage. For example, in accordance with the 2nd paragraph of the Norms of arrival and stay of citizens within the frontier region of Turkmenistan, confirmed by Decree No 9126 of President of Turkmenistan dated

October 178, 2007, frontier control zone is a zone beginning from the State border, overland, and from the banks of frontier rivers, lakes and other water storage basins until the land zones allocated for location of control facilities for the State Border Control Service of Turkmenistan. On the coast of the Caspian Sea and on the territory of Konekesir village of Magtymguly district of Balkan region there is allocated a zone of frontier control with width of 2 kilometers. And in the 1st paragraph of the norms of frontier rules established in the zone of frontier control of Turkmenistan confirmed by the abovementioned Decree, it is noted that movement of citizens and vehicles within the zone of frontier control is carried out in accordance with special permits issued by the State Border Control Service of Turkmenistan, and the order of their temporary stay in the zone of frontier control and the use of water on the territory of frontier rivers and lakes as well as the order of carrying out of various activity on their territory is established by the State Border Control Service of Turkmenistan by agreement with heads of administrations of towns and districts located on the territory of the zones of frontier control.

Besides, in the preface of the state program of President of Turkmenistan "Saglyk" confirmed by Decree No14336 of President of Turkmenistan dated July 17, 2015, it is said about expansion of the scope of works carried out regarding supply of our population with pure drinking water.

In accordance with Decree of

our Esteemed President dated June 27, 2019, Agency on protection of economy from risks affiliated to Ministry of Finance and Economy was appointed as authorized state body on protection of water biological resources.

Apart from that, by this Decree, the State Fish Conservation Board of Turkmenistan of "Turkmensenagat" Agency of Ministry of Industry and Communication of Turkmenistan was passed under the authority of Agency on protection of economy from risks affiliated to Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan, and this Board was named the State Board of Fish Conservation and Control of Water Biological Resources.

Another reform implemented in the field of use of water resources is adoption on January 29, 2019, of Decree No PP-475 of President of Turkmenistan "About establishment of Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan, as well as the State Committee for Water Economy of Turkmenistan". Reorganization of structural units on this basis is related to the fields of nature conservation, agriculture and other fields. Thus, there were added Ministry of Agriculture and Water Economy of Turkmenistan as well as the State Committee for Environmental Protection and Land Resources of Turkmenistan, and on their basis, there were established Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan as well as the State Committee on Water Economy of Turkmenistan.

Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan was defined as legal successor on agriculture of Ministry of Agriculture and Water Economy of Turkmenistan as well as the State Committee of Water Economy of Turkmenistan, and the State Committee of Water Economy of Turkmenistan was defined as legal successor on water economy of Ministry of Agriculture and Water Economy of Turkmenistan.

Efficient results of the actual work carried out in our country by our Esteemed President aimed at supply of our population with pure drinking water are obvious. To achieve high objectives with great honor it is necessary to carry out harmonious organization of work in accordance with demands of the modern epoch. And strengthening of efforts aimed at wide introduction of state-of-the-art technologies, useful methods, foreign experience and efficient arrangement of scientific work are demanded by our Esteemed President and our modern epoch as well. Our Esteemed President calls to head along this way and creates all conditions necessary for the achievement of optimal results. We wish our President who makes enormous contribution to development and prosperity of our country and implementing huge work aimed at development of our Motherland with rapid pace, strong health, long life and success in all of his future endeavors!



## DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRANSPORT SECTOR OF TURKMENISTAN

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In 2021, Turkmenistan celebrates the 30th anniversary of its independence. Since gaining sovereignty, our country has been implementing a number of reforms, large-scale programs and projects of international importance.

As a full-fledged member of the world community, in recent years, Turkmenistan has regularly put forward important international initiatives aimed at solving pressing challenges of our time and contributes to ensuring international security and peace,

which, of course, increases the prestige of our country on the international arena.

The international cooperation of Turkmenistan has multifaceted, consistent and long-term nature. It is based on national priorities, the experience of our state and is aimed at making a concrete, practical and meaningful contribution to international efforts to preserve and promote peace and security, to create favourable conditions for sustainable development, which in general are designed to contribute

to the full life of the citizens of the country.

The Foreign Policy Concept of Turkmenistan for 2017-2023 is designed to contribute not only to the protection of the national interests of Turkmenistan, but also to make a practical contribution to promotion and strengthening peace, security and development in the region and beyond. The head of state, directly involved in the development of the Concept, pointed out the need to create transport diplomacy, aimed, in



turn, at the further development of the national transport sector and the achievement of its competitiveness.

The active foreign economic policy of Turkmenistan, aimed at strengthening the economic power of the country, allows our state to implement large-scale international projects. In this regard, the head of state attaches great importance to diversifying multifaceted interaction with other states.

The practical embodiment of the successfully pursued the "open door" policy is the consistent implementation of the large-scale projects aimed at creating new transcontinental transport and communication corridors linking large sectors of the global market with the most economical routes.

In this aspect, the initiatives of the President of Turkmenistan to ensure transport security and the creation of a modern and high-tech transit and transport infrastructure sound very relevant. The creation of an extensive and, equally important, safe international transport infrastructure is one of the essential factors of global sustainable development.

The President of Turkmenistan, speaking at the international high-level conference "The role of transit and transport corridors in ensuring international cooperation and sustainable development", held in Ashgabat in September 2014, said: "Turkmenistan is convinced: the global transport strategy of the 21st century is a strategy of an integration breakthrough, unification geographical and infrastructural capabilities, technical and technological potential of states and regions". The head of state also stressed that the geopolitical, geo-economic significance of the proposal for the creation of large-scale and combined structures of transport and transit corridors will contribute not only to the development of a coordinated system of international and interregional sea, river, road, rail and air routes, but also harmonization and effective use of the advantages of each type of transport.

As an outcome of the conference, the Ashgabat Declaration was adopted, which reflected an understanding of the need to

develop criteria for cooperation in this area. Providing new priorities in the work of the Community of Nations, the document became the basis for the development of the UN General Assembly Resolution "Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development", adopted on December 19, 2014. The document was co-authored by 66 states. The UN resolution entitled "Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multi-modal transit corridors" was adopted by the General Assembly on December 22, 2015. The document was co-sponsored by 85 states. In addition, on December 20, 2017, the third UN Resolution "Strengthening links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals" was adopted. The document was co-authored by 74 states. These documents serve as evidence and confirmation of the success of Turkmen diplomacy in the field of transport. It should be noted that the resolutions are the first international documents of the United Nations in

the field of transport.

The creation of multimodal highways that meet the requirements of the time is necessary for the successful development of our country. The advantages of the geographical location of Turkmenistan, located at the crossroads of the main highways of the continent, provide an opportunity for all countries in the region to use the multimodal transport system created in our country for the strategic transit corridors of Eurasia.

The unique geographical location of our country at the crossroads of North-South, West-East routes contributes to the development of transport infrastructure of interregional importance.

The importance of transport and mobility in achieving the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is clear. Following them, our country is taking the necessary measures to implement the initiatives put forward by the head of state. The head of state notes the need to intensify effective relations in the field of transport with specialized UN structures, in particular, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the International Road Transport Union (IRU).

Within the framework of effective cooperation with the aforementioned international structures, it was proposed to discuss the possibilities of creating a modal highway in Central Asia.

The effectiveness of the implementation of the initiatives of the President of Turkmenistan served as the basis for the UN decision to hold the Global Conference on Sustainable Transport in Ashgabat in November 2016. Within the framework of the conference, the Final Document was signed. The very fact that such a significant event is held in Turkmenistan is another evidence of the high international authority of our country and the universal recognition of the constructive initiatives of the head of state, voiced from the rostrum of the UN General Assembly and aimed at optimizing mutually beneficial partnership in the transport and communication sector.

The Conference was attended by heads of state and government, heads of parliaments of several countries, representatives of authoritative international organizations and structures - the United Nations and its leading Commissions and specialized agencies, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Economic Cooperation (ECO), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the European Commission Transport Bureau of the European Commission, the International Road Transport Union (TRU) and other international organizations.

It should be noted that Turkmenistan is implementing a large-scale program for the creation, development and modernization

of transport infrastructure not only at the national, but also at the international level. The country is implementing the construction of highways, junctions, bridges. A good example is the opening of new railways. The railways Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran, Kerki-Yamnazar-Akina, Serhetabat-Turgundi are a clear example of the significant contribution of Turkmenistan to the development of good-neighbourly relations, its integration into the system of regional and world economic relations.

Commissioning of the Akina-Andkhoy railway, the Kerki (Turkmenistan) and Shibirgan (Afghanistan) power lines and the Yamnazar international fiber-optic communication line -Akina and Serhetabat-Turgundi on January 14, 2021, in the year the slogan of which is "Turkmenistan - Homeland of Peace and Trust" with the participation of the President of Turkmenistan and the President of Afghanistan, became an excellent example of interstate cooperation.

It should be especially noted as a key link in the modern format of the Great Silk Road, the international transport corridor "Lazurit", which unites the states of Afghanistan-Turkmenistan-Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey. On November 14-15, 2017, within the framework of the VII Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA VII), a five-sided agreement was signed on the creation of this international transport corridor. The implementation of this project will contribute to strengthening



cooperation in a broad geo-economic framework, including the regions of Central and South Asia, the coast of the Caspian, Black Seas and Mediterranean Seas.

The transport corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRASEKA), in which many countries are interested, can be called a vivid example of productive international cooperation in the field of transport.

On May 2, 2018, the International Sea Port in the city of Turkmenbashi was put into operation, which opens up promising opportunities for new trade routes. The port was identified as the main point of the TRASEKA route.

The country's transition to an industrial path, the development of foreign economic relations in a qualitatively new format stimulate the priority growth of industrial sectors and the modernization of the country's economy as a whole, which, in turn, implies an expansion

of the range of interaction not only with neighbours, but also with non-CIS countries. In this regard, the policy pursued by the head of state demonstrates a clear strategy of Turkmenistan, concluded in the principle "Think globally - act locally".

In September 2016, the Ashgabat International Airport, equipped with modern technology, was opened in our country. The new airport is an important part of the country's transport and logistics sector. As you know, the airport of the State National Service "Turkmenhowayollary" is provided with aircraft from the world's leading manufacturers.

On June 23, 2021, in the city of Kerki, Lebap velayat, the International Airport was commissioned with the participation of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. Speaking at the opening ceremony, President of Turkmenistan said, "The construction of the International Airport in the city of Kerki, which is a large industrial centre of the velayat, will expand the possibilities of domestic civil aviation, contribute to the implementation of high-level passenger and cargo air transportation, create favourable conditions for the development of tourism in the region and increase economic cooperation with neighbouring countries." The civil aviation of Turkmenistan today includes international airports in Ashgabat, Turkmenbashi, Turkmenabat, Mary and Kerki, as well as airports in other cities.

As noted, Turkmenistan regularly puts forward proposals for the creation of multimodal international transport corridors in Eurasia on the platform of international and interregional integration of organizations. In this respect, the possibilities of transport and transit corridors of the Caspian Sea are of great importance. Thus, the International Sea Port was created in the city of Turkmenbashi, which became a powerful logistics centre at the junction of Asia and Europe, coordinating cargo flows using both sea and road, rail and air transport.

Another important project in this area is the construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan railway, which will contribute to the creation of the Asian International Transport Corridor. It is assumed that this highway, passing through the territories of the countries participating in the project, as well as Kyrgyzstan, will enter the ramified railway network of China and through it - to the markets of the Asia-Pacific region.

In general, the entire foreign policy strategy pursued by the President of Turkmenistan has a solid foundation, based both on permanent positive neutrality and on the centuries-old traditions of the Turkmen people, striving for peace, stability and well-being not only of their state, but also of their neighbours. In this regard, 2021 will go down in the annals of independent Turkmenistan as one of the most successful years in the history of the foreign and domestic policy of our country.



## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GREAT SILK ROAD IN CULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS

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This year Turkmenistan is marking the 30th anniversary of its Independence. Since Independence country is experiencing economic, cultural and political development. The domestic and foreign policies of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov have been supported by the world community. Today, the humanitarian principle of the Turkmen people is historically important in shaping the state policy of our independent, permanently Neutral Turkmenistan. Our

esteemed President pursues a humane policy in strengthening peace around the world, developing good cooperation with neighbouring, regional and far countries.

Domestic and foreign policies in the development of our country are yielding positive results in addressing issues of international importance. Much attention is paid to the development of cultural relations. International scientific and practical conferences, forums, exhibitions, the Days of Culture,

festivals, sports competitions held in our independent, permanently Neutral Turkmenistan are a clear indication that the humanitarian policy of our Motherland is supported by the states and peoples of the world.

Turkmenistan's development of friendly and fraternal relations with countries and peoples around the world is linked to the achievement of independence and the legal status of permanent neutrality. Sovereignty and freedom have opened up great opportunities

for the restoration of the ancestral traditions of the Turkmen people and the continuation of the national path.

Supporting the domestic and foreign policies of our esteemed President, the youth also play an important role in nourishing the future of our Homeland with greater prosperity. In our country, all opportunities and conditions are created for the triumph of scientific and educational policy, the creativity and research work of young people.

Independence has paved the way for the study of the history of our people, the preservation of the cultural and material values created by our ancestors in the past. These works are scientifically significant in restoring the rich history of the Turkmen people and making them known to the international community.

Mankind has witnessed new times for thousands of years, discovering new times with its own development. In such a historical path, peoples and nations have also been interconnected. The Great Silk Road played and still plays an important role in establishing and strengthening economic, cultural and humanitarian relations among the peoples of the world. The Turkmen history of the millennium is also connected with the Great Silk Road. Trade caravans traveling through many countries through this route are also of historical significance in the development of the cultural relations of peoples and nations living in many countries of the world. New cultures have

sprung up in the countries of the Great Silk Road and have become firmly entrenched in the living cultures of those peoples. The role and significance of the Great Silk Road in the development of cultural relations among countries and peoples are widely described in the books by Turkmen and foreign scientists.

Conditions and opportunities for the development of culture were created in the cities of Turkmenistan. The works of the scholars who lived in Khorezm and its environs in their time were of great importance for the development of culture and science. Muhammad al-Khorezmi, Abi Nasir al-Farabi, Abi Reyhan al-Biruni were involved in various fields of science and were creative in the cultural and scientific development of society in Central Asia, including in the Middle Ages, in the territory of Turkmenistan. Muhammad al-Khorezm's works on mathematical calculations contain advanced concepts in the development of the science of algebra. Farabi, who lived a century after Khorezm, inherited more than 160 scientific books covering many fields of science. During his lifetime, he wrote more than 150 books covering all branches of science. Ibn Sina, popularly known as the Physician, made great contribution to the development of not only the science of the East, but also the world science. The scientific works of these scientists have been a great contribution to the development of science in Central Asia.

The development of trade relations through the Great

Silk Road also increased the interconnectedness of the literary relations between the peoples. The coherence and closeness of ideas and content in the literature of the East and the West is a literary phenomenon emerged on the basis of the expansion of economic relations. Different relations between peoples enrich national cultures. Spiritual unity promotes the development of a universal, national culture. National principles that suit living conditions are developed through cultural relationships. The events that took place in the political and economic life of the peoples at a certain historical period created the conditions for the cooperation in their literature. The similarity of the historical events of the peoples is one of the main reasons for their spiritual rapprochement.

The developed economic relations, which continued through the Great Silk Road, also developed cultural cooperation. The reflection of material products imported from India and Bulgaria shows the richness of the artistic spirit of our people. Magtymguly is our great poet, thinker, personality who knew the economic life and cultural situation of the people. The many lines of Magtymguly's poems serve as a rich source for studying valuable information about the historical state of the economic, political and cultural life of the Turkmen people.

Through these examples, we can clearly see the importance of the Great Silk Road in strengthening and developing cultural relations of the Turkmen people with the



countries and peoples of the world. These relations have become a principle of friendship and brotherhood today and are further expanding, acquiring new modern forms.

Human society has continued the traditions that have been the source of life and spiritual culture since its inception. This cultural principle continues to be enriched and modernized with new content even today. The festivals created by the peoples in connection with different living conditions are a clear definition of this.

Novruz is one of the holidays that became a common holiday as a result of various inter-ethnic relations. It is undeniable that the Great Silk Road played a significant role in the spread of Novruz to countries and peoples. Novruz, which marks the period of renewal of nature, is imbued with the spiritual culture and moral principles of the peoples of the East. On September 30, 2009, with the support of 24 countries, Novruz was included in the list of the intangible cultural heritage of mankind. In February 2010, at the 64th session of the UN General Assembly, the adoption of a special Resolution declaring March 21 as the International Day of Novruz testifies to the international recognition of the Novruz holiday, which brings together the spiritual values of the peoples of the East.

In the 21st century, the continuation of the Great Silk Road has gained new meaning through various modes of transport. Strengthening peace and strengthening friendly

and fraternal relations between the peoples is an important issue for the implementation of international road transport. Our state focuses its enormous natural resources, the potential of its favourable geographical location on the peaceful coexistence of countries, regions and peoples, the development of trade, economic and cultural ties.

Soon after independence, the original spiritual values of the Turkmen nation were brought back to our society. The language, religion and traditions of the Turkmen people have been restored. These years have been an important milestone in shaping public consciousness. The most important work in this area is the cultural heritage of our nation, which was restored in those years and is more widely developed today.

After gaining its independence, the relations and cooperation of the state of Turkmenistan with other states are expanding day by day and becoming more diverse. These include political, diplomatic, economic, cultural, humanitarian relations covering different spheres of the life of society: science, education, health care, ecology, sports, literature, art, cultural heritage and public life. Bringing up an educated generation is the ultimate goal of ensuring the healthy and sustainable development of society. In its broadest sense, culture is the material and spiritual values created on the basis of the human mind, which contributes to the perfect formation of the human sense of contributing to life, the

development of society, the creation of material and spiritual values.

The esteemed President of the Independent, Permanently Neutral Turkmenistan emphasizes the importance of studying the Great Silk Road, which historically led to the formation and expansion of economic, cultural and political relations. The Head of State states, "The pillar of wisdom, the roots of support, is still there. With this in mind, we call for the restoration of relations between the times, the preservation and thorough study of the common history of the peoples, and the strengthening of the foundations of neighbourly relations between all countries." This statement is a clear indication that the Turkmen Neutrality is rooted in friendly relations, good cooperation and humanitarian principles.

Our independent, permanent Neutral Turkmenistan advocates peace in the world, strengthens friendship and brotherhood among peoples and develops multifaceted relations. The Open Door policy of the country provides ample opportunities for economic, political and cultural relations with countries around the world. Celebrating the glorious 30th anniversary of the sacred Independence, under the slogan "Turkmenistan - the Homeland of Peace and Trust", shows that the domestic and foreign policies of Turkmenistan, international initiatives and proposals have received worldwide support.



## TRANSFORMATION OF THE TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS SYSTEM OF TURKMENISTAN

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The independence of Turkmenistan is a source of happiness for the entire Turkmen people, a holiday of the Turkmen spirit and dignity. Over the years of independence, a solid foundation for sustainable development of the state for the long term has been created in Turkmenistan, and the sectoral structure of the economy has been improved due to cardinal transformations. Today our country has a developed industrial infrastructure, an extensive transport and communication

system and a rich human potential. The consistent modernization of the transport and communication infrastructure is increasingly integrating the country into the international transport system and opening up access to the markets of Europe and Asia.

The creation of a modern, integrated, balanced and high-tech transport infrastructure is an objective imperative of the time, one of the priority goals of sustainable development. Its implementation meets the strategic interests of the

entire international community, can really help strengthen world economic ties, stimulate investment activity, and effectively contribute to the growth of economic and social indicators on a global, regional and national scale.

Construction of an integrated, combined transport and transit infrastructure covering the space of continental Eurasia with access to the sea terminals of the Black Sea and Baltic regions, South and Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. These projects also imply the prospect

of connecting to the international transport infrastructure in the southern and eastern directions with access to such powerful economic centers as Europe, China, India, Pakistan, countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

An example of this is the Tejen - Serakhs - Mashhad, Ashgabat - Dashoguz, Kazakhstan - Turkmenistan - Iran, Kerki - Ymamnazar - Akina - Andkhoy, and Serhetabat - Turgundi railway lines. All these lines were put into operation during the years of independence of Turkmenistan and are part of the above transport corridors.

Nowadays, high-speed autobahn projects are being implemented in two directions: "Ashgabat-Turkmenabat" and "Ashgabat-Turkmenbashi", which are located along the "Great Silk Road".

Today, in Turkmenistan, unique engineering structures are also being commissioned everywhere - railway and road bridges, designed to become the "golden link" of the international network of transport communications. In total, over the years of independence, Turkmenistan has erected more than 20 large bridges along transnational highways.

These include the implemented projects on the creation of transit transport routes, where Turkmenistan is involved, first of all, it is worth noting the East-West corridor. It consists of three routes, and all three start in China. The first passes through the territory of Kazakhstan, then - Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey via the Baku-

Tbilisi-Kars railway (TRACECA). The second route passes through Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey. The third is through Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey (Lapis Lazuli).

Another strategically important initiative is the construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline. As President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasizes, the new energy pipeline, which will carry long-term natural gas supplies to one of the largest countries in Southeast Asia, will give a powerful impetus to the economic development of the region, will contribute to solving social and humanitarian issues, strengthening peace and stability.

Turkmenistan also considers the development of the Avaza National Tourist Zone and sea routes as an important element of the full-scale integration of the countries of Central Asia and the Caspian basin into the international system of economic relations. In this context, the new seaport in Turkmenbashi, which includes ferry, passenger and cargo terminals, plays an important role. The port can connect Central Asia and the states of the Caspian basin with the Transcaucasia and the Black Sea region with further access to Turkey and European countries.

Turkmenistan is actively improving infrastructure and carrying out technical re-equipment also in the field of civil aviation. Commissioned in 2016, the new Ashgabat International Airport

is considered one of the most beautiful and modern airports in the world. The capital airport is a major transit point on continental and intercontinental air routes. It should be noted that in 2009 a new air terminal complex was opened in the city of Mary, in 2010 - the International Airport of the city of Turkmenbashi, in 2018 - the International Airport of the city of Turkmenabat, and in 2021 - the International Airport of the city of Kerki. With the beginning of the functioning of the new air harbors, new impulses will be given to the development of domestic aviation, which is of great importance for all industries and segments of the national economy, all areas of multifaceted interstate relations and multilevel international contacts.

The air fleet of the state service "Turkmenhowayollary" is equipped with the latest generation airliners and helicopters from the world's leading manufacturers.

Sustainable functioning of transport throughout the country is a guarantee of the unity of the economic space, free movement of people, goods and services, development of competition and freedom of entrepreneurship, improvement of conditions and living standards of the population, ensuring integrity and national security, integration into the global economic space.

Focusing on the development of logistics as a scientific and technological direction for the implementation of the transport and transit potential of Turkmenistan, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov

highlights the introduction of scientific and technological progress in this area, the most modern organizational and methodological approaches, bearing in mind the strict mathematical calculation in optimization traffic flows. Indeed, as the leader of the nation notes, in conditions of market competition, it is the economic benefit, cost reduction and delivery speed that serve as the main advantage.

At the present stage, Turkmenistan has formed its own concept for the development of interaction with the international community in the field of transport. Its main goal is to promote on the world stage scientifically grounded and practically effective models of multilateral partnership in this area, creating a set of appropriate conditions necessary for intensifying and increasing the efficiency of international transport and transit communications.

In Turkmenistan, a modern transport system has been created and is generally functioning steadily, which is the most important component of the industrial and social infrastructure that meets the needs of the national economy and population in transport services, territorial integrity, economic and geopolitical security of the country.

The introduction of a logistic approach to the implementation of the Transport Strategy of Turkmenistan will provide:

- acceleration and continuity of promotion of end-to-end commodity flows;
- a 30-40% reduction in distribution costs associated with the promotion of commodity

flows from production sites to consumption;

- development of container transportation of goods in inter- and multimodal traffic;
- introduction of logistics services at the level of international standards;
- development of export of transport services and implementation of the country's transit potential.

In the context of the globalization of the economy, the creation of large transnational corporations and the integration of the transport of a number of states into the world transport system, an intensive process of formation of international transport corridors is underway, ensuring the accelerated promotion of large commodity flows between different countries and continents on the basis of the introduction of modern logistics technologies for the delivery of goods.

In accordance with the definition of the group of experts of the UNECE Transport Committee, an international transport corridor is understood as a part of a national or international transport system that provides significant international freight and passenger traffic between individual countries and continents, including rolling stock and stationary devices of all modes of transport operating in this direction, as well as a set of technological, organizational and legal conditions for the implementation of these transportation.

The purpose of the formation and development of an international transport corridor on the territory

of Turkmenistan is:

- providing conditions for increasing the reliability and efficiency of foreign trade transportation of Turkmenistan;
- involvement of additional transit freight traffic on the transport communications of the country;
- attracting domestic and foreign investments for the development of transport infrastructure;
- creating conditions for accelerating the development of the country's regions located in the zone of gravitation to the routes of the international transport corridor;
- ensuring the integration of Turkmen transport into the regional and world transport systems as an equal partner.

The logistics strategy of Turkmenistan also determines a qualitatively new development of the entire complex of transport and communication sectors, their close interaction and precise coordination of the movement of goods flows. The advantages of the geographical position of Turkmenistan at the crossroads of the main routes of the continent allow our country to profitably realize the national transport resource to ensure Eurasian ties.

Thus, the formation of a modern ramified transport system is one of the priorities of the state policy of the country, aimed at achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals of Turkmenistan.



## REFLECTION OF NATIONAL VALUES OF TURKMEN PEOPLE IN THE «GORKUT ATA» EPOS

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**W**ise initiatives of the Esteemed President of Turkmenistan created great opportunities for scientific research of material and spiritual culture of Turkmen people. In the book «Turkmen Culture» by Turkmenistan President the idea that we should pay special attention to the versatility and deep philosophical fullness of cultural values created and perfected by our ancestors during centuries. Their richness of content and philosophical orientation amazes and admires us, contemporary people. We managed to restore only its small part, which became a national heritage.

Appeal to literary and historical sources, their study through the ethnography of our people is an interesting scientific task. Dated by V century, the heroic epos of the Turkmens «Gorkut Ata» is an outstanding monument of national heritage. For the first time a full translation of the epos into Russian was carried out by academician V.V.Bartold. As orientalists V.Zhirmunsky and A.Kononov noted, for historians and

ethnographers the epos «Gorkut Ata» has exceptional interest. And this is not surprising, because in this work the customs and rituals, life and social relations, beliefs and mentality of the Oguzs-Turkmen were widely reflected.

The epos consists of several chapters and narrates about the main characters: Gorkut Ata, Salor Kazan, his son Oroz, as well as Bayyndyr han, Dirse han, Bamsy Beyrek, Ganturaly, Dyali Domrul, Burla Hatun, Banu-Chichek and other characters. Written exclusively in an artistic and sonorous language, this work contains a lot of information about the ethnography of Turkmen of that period. Their historical authenticity, increases the historical and ethnographic value of the work.

The epos is permeated with the ideas of kindness, unity, mutual assistance, hospitality. In the prosaic text and in verse lines spiritual values of Oguz-Turkmens are stated, courage, readiness to repel the enemy and protect their land, fidelity to the family and traditions of ancestors is sung. Educational value of the epos «Gorkut Ata» is great. It is an invaluable spiritual source, a peculiar manual in the education of deserved generation. The roots of this education go deep into the thousands years long history of the Turkmen people.

Proverbs and sayings run through the whole narrative: «God does not love haughty people», «Without killing a horse you cannot go through the road», «A daughter will not take instruction without her mother's example, a son will not lay the tablecloth without his father's

example», «To greet the guests with the hospitality» and many others. All these proverbs and sayings do not lose their educational significance today.

Wedding ceremonies of Oguz-Turkmens were reflected in «Gorkut Ata». It is interesting to observe how one of the characters, Beyrek, informs his father Baybur about his intention to marry, which is narrated in the chapter «Song of Bamsy-Beyrek, son of Kan-Bura». Asked by his father what he saw curious about Oguzes, the son replies: «What can I see? He, who has a son, marries him, he who has a daughter, marries her», from which the father understands his intention. In Turkmen families a son, due to respect for his father, as a rule, does not directly tell him about the desire to marry. The head of the family is informed about this by his wife or other relatives. «The father gets a son for glory, the son girds his sword on pride to his father, in that century the son did not break the word of his father; if someone broke, this son was not accepted», says the epic.

At the Turkmen wedding, horse racing was held from time immemorial, national wrestling «goresh», singers-bagshi sang songs, performed music by destans. This is also mentioned in the epos «Gorogly», and in the other destans. Passed through the millennia, these traditions and customs continue today, enriched by the new trends of our nice era. The epos «Gorkut Ata» is, therefore, the most valuable source of the wedding ritual of our ancestors. Turkmen must have the blessing of their parents

for marriage. In the chapter of the epos «A Song about Kan-Turali, the Son of Kanly-Koja», the young man Kan-Turali addresses his father: «Father, choose such a girl for me, that will rise before me, when I be not even risen from my place; let her mount my black strong horse prior than I mount it ...». A young man makes it known that he wants to marry a diligent, modest, exemplary, hardworking girl. To marry the beautiful Seljan-hatun, the young man fulfills three terms of her father. The girl is given to the young man. On the shah's order preparations, the wedding start. But Kan-Turali does not enter the wedding tent, not seeing his parents, «and let me be dig through like this land, cut over and again by this sword, be caught by my own arrow». Thus, dismantling the wedding tent, he leaves with bride to their lands, to receive the parents' blessing to marry.

The ancient tradition of Turkmen people is to solve the most key issues of family and society involving the elderly people – yashuly. Detailed description of a ritual, which survived until nowadays and preserved its actuality and importance is given in the epos. Before son's marriage a council of elders delegates matchmakers including the most respected people of elder generation, to the bride's house. And few days prior to the wedding, in the groom's house a council is gathered – gengesh of close relatives, friends and neighbors, where questions about the arrangement of the wedding are being decided. In the book namely wise Gorkut Ata is directed to ask in

marriage Banu-Chichek, according to the decision of Oghuz beys, for Bamsy-Beyrek, son of Kan-Bura. This tradition finds its reflection in the Independent, Neutral Turkmenistan.

The chapter «Song of Bamsy-Beyrek, Son of Kan-Bura» of the epos describes the Oguz small wedding. Turkmens before the wedding, in the family of the bridegroom and in the bride's family always get a «toy-sadaka», they cook festive meals, invite guests. Also, in the family of the groom there is a rite «atgulak asmak» (wedding ritual of presenting gifts, tied in the scarves or clothes), to the hosts of the wedding party on the part of the groom's close relatives. All these customs are hold in the manner of continuous happy solemnity.

Contemporary people also follow the tradition, which is described in the epos and deals with the bridegrooms' dress on the marriage day. The bride puts on a dress made of red silk «keteni», then over it - a red silk «chabyt» (an embroidered women robe until knees), and a red cloak «kurte» is put over her head. The Oguzes also had a red robe - «gyrmyzy don» - festive top men's clothing. At the wedding of Beyrek the bride presents him a red caftan. The word «caftan» professor M.Kosayev translates as «elegant outerwear». This Turkic word appears in the dictionaries as «festive clothing long to the knee with sleeves».

In «Gorkut Ata» the woman Kasyrcha-Nike (childless daughter-in-law, «yenge» is a close relative of a bridegroom, who accompanies her to the groom's house) who is

everywhere near the bride Banu-Chichek. A groom should also have a «yenge». A «yenge» in the Turkmen wedding ritual is given an important place. So, «yenge» of the bride helps to dress her on the day when the bride is taken to the groom's house. «Yenge» of the groom, when a bride is brought into the house, by tradition sits down on the place where the bride should be sit and does not get up until her mother-in-law presents her a piece of cloth or a shawl. Thereafter, a yenge gives up her place.

Deep respect of Turkmen to the woman, mother, wife, sister, and daughter is shown in the epos. In the chapter «A Song of How the House of Salor-Kazan was plundered» it is narrated that the mother, wife and son of Kazan were taken as prisoners. It is noteworthy that, being reconciled with the captivity of his wife and son, Salor-Kazan wants to rescue his mother, referring to the invader: «Mere, King Shyukly, you carried my gilded houses; may they give you a shadow! You took my rich coffers, my big money; may they pay you! You led Burla-hatun and with her forty slender girls; may they be your captives! You took my son Uruz away and forty jigits with him; let them be your slaves! You led my old mother; listen, gyaurl! Return me my mother; without struggle, without battle, I'll go back, I'll go, know it well». Exactly these words make clear the attitude of Turkmen to their mother. Mother is the keeper of home hearth and family traditions. «The right of the mother is the right of God» Turkmen people have it.

In «Gorkut Ata» such qualities as loyalty, modesty, wisdom, diligence, and kindness are shown on the example of such women as Burla Hatun, Banu-Chichek, Seljan-hatun, Dyali Domrul's wife. The Turkmens pay great attention to the upbringing of the girl.

An outstanding scholar and orientalist V.V.Bartold wrote about a special position of the Turkmen woman, that the Oguz Turkmens have only one wife whom they love, respect: every hero has only one mistress who «saw him after opening her eyes, who fell in love giving her heart». One of the characters of the epos, Dirse khan, for lack of children was put in a black tent on a black rag, turns to his wife with bitterness, but at the same time he calls her in such a way: «Come here, the happiness of my head, the support of my home, of the height like a splendid grown cypress, you, whose black hair wraps around your ankles ... ». The fact that the Turkmen accepted to consult their wife on important family matters, that the mother of the family has the decisive word in such serious and important moments as the marriage of the son and the marriage of the daughter, noted many European travelers who were in Turkmenistan in XIX - beginning of XX century. So, the wife of one of the heroes of the epos advises: «Go hunting, your heart will be comforted». Bekil saw that the mind and the advice of his wife are good.

A Turkmen woman treats her husband with deep veneration and love. In the chapter «A Song of Dyali Domrul, Son of Duka-koja» Domrul's wife readily agrees to die

for her husband: «With your black mountains lying against us, after you, what should I do? If I go there for a summer, let them be my grave! If I drink your cold, cold waters, let them be my blood! If I spend your gold and silver, let them be to me a shroud!». Faithfulness to husband, deep respect and honoring of her husband distinguish the Turkmen woman. Raising a daughter in such national traditions is the most important maternal and family debt. A daughter follows mother's example, with the pass of time and in her family she must be the guardian of the hearth, the helper and counselor of her husband.

According to the epos, the Oguz-Turkmens did not name the boy until he showed himself to be brave, resourceful. It concerns about protecting your people from the enemy, as well as defeating a large animal: a bull, a lion. Bogach, son of Dirse han, is named at the age of fifteen, after he struck a bull. Here the name is derived from the Oguz-Turkmen word «buga» – a bull. Ethnographers associate the above-described rite with initiation. This term in ethnography denotes an ancient custom, which existed among many peoples. Its essence was that in adolescence, boys through various kinds of tests became full-grown adult members of the father's clan. Until now, the Turkmen, congratulating the newborn's parents and hearing how he was called, say: «Let him be the master of his name». And this desire applies both to a boy and to a girl. Naming the child by a beautiful, sonorous name is considered to be an important parental duty for

Turkmens.

Deserves attention in the epic «Gorkut Ata» The custom of avunculata, consisting in rights, obligations of uncle from mother's side («dayy») and a nephew («yegen»). So, in the chapter «A Song about Ikenek, Son of Kazylykkoja», the young man Ikenek, born in the absence of a father, who was taken prisoner, is brought up in the family of his mother's brother. One of the central characters of the epos, Salor-Kazan, was also brought up by his uncle on mother's side. Ethnographers see the remnants of the maternal family in the custom of the avunculatus. Echoes of this custom are preserved among Turkmen in the ritual of «galpak toy», when the child ages one year of life, the mother's brother (and for lack of him, a relative from the mother's side) cuts the first hair of the child. For this the child's father gives him a present. Also, when a child's first teeth are cut and he becomes restless, the Turkmen say that «the child asks for «an inji» (a gift from his uncle) ». A grandfather, or uncle from his mother's side, makes a symbolic gift, and thus, as it were, helps a nephew or niece to overcome a difficult period. It is believed that after the uncle's gift, the teeth of the child are cut painlessly. And in the wedding ritual of the Turkmen, there are echoes of this ancient custom. So, when a bride is taken from her parents' house in a wedding cortege in our days, her uncle (on mother's side) is also given a gift. And also, a bride, together with the presents to the closest relatives of the groom, brings a present to his uncle on

mother's side.

According to the epos, boys attain the age of majority at Oguz-Turkmen by 15-16 years. There are lines in the epos how Baybur's son reached the age of majority: first he aged 5 years, then – 10, and finally, at the age of fifteen he became an exemplary, good young man. Also, Salor Kazan reproaches his son Oroz that by the age of sixteen he had not committed a significant act: he hadn't draw the bow, neither had he discharged an arrow. Nowadays in many countries this age corresponds to the age of majority, among the Oguz-Turkmens this tradition dates back to the first centuries of our era.

In the epos you can find information about the material culture and economy of the Oguz-Turkmens. Throughout the epic, a white tent is often mentioned. Here we are talking about the ancient Turkmen dwelling – a white yurt «ak öy» Turkmenistan is the birthplace of Jeytun culture, one of the earliest agricultural cultures in the history of mankind (VII-VI millennium B. C.), which is evidence of the very ancient settled-farming traditions of the Turkmen. It is known that the creation of a people's dwelling is determined, first of all, by the conditions of environment and climate, and only then by the type of economic activity. The white yurt of Turkmen is an ideal home in a hot climate and from the ecological point of view: it is cool in summer and warm in winter, its installation does not require much effort, and the building material is a wood. At the same time, construction and interior decoration of the yurt Turkmen elevated to the rank of art. There are





several types of Turkmen carpets and carpets products, which were intended only for the decoration of the yurt.

And today the traditions of building a yurt are not lost. In 2015, an International Organization of the Turkish Culture (Turksoy) chose the Turkmen city Mary as a cultural capital of the Turkic world and in honor of this event a modern building «Türkmeniň ak öyi» («White Yurt of Turkmen»), which was stylized for the Turkmen white yurt, was built. In October 2017, the Council of Elders of Turkmenistan was held a new beautiful building «Nowruz ýaýlasynyň ak öýi» («White Yurt of Novruz Valley»).

In the epos you can find

information about the farming of Oguz-Turkmens: agriculture, cattle breeding, hunting, crafts, trade, viticulture, etc. Thus, mulberry trees are mentioned and it tells about the development of sericulture, weaving. There are notes that Turkmen women wove carpets, including silk. The national clothes of Turkmen are mentioned: women have shiny thin silk dressing gowns, red dress, a red cape; men have patterned robes, warm outer clothing made of sheep's wool, a fur hat, a scarlet caftan.

In the epos there are such words as khan, sultan, bek, ruler, ambassador, council, divan (a state council, chancellery in Middle Ages states of Muslim East), which

testify about the state formation of Oguz-Turkmens. Professions of shepherd, horse breeder, trader, etc. are mentioned. Such words as white yurta, wooden cradle beshik, boat testify about the woodworking craft. The blacksmith's craft is shown in the epos by titles of weapons.

Thus, the epos «Gorkut Ata» is the most important source for the ethnography of Turkmen people; it reflects information about material and spiritual culture of Oguz-Turkmens. On the example of the epos one can see the continuity of folk traditions and rituals, most of which are still preserved till nowadays.



## DEPTH OF PHILOSOPHICAL THOUGHT AND POWER OF POETIC IMAGINATION OF MAGTYMGULY FRAGI

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**M**agtymguly Fragi is a legendary personality in a new history of Turkmen people. He is great poet, but at the same time, he is more than poet because his words are prophecy. It is truth that he is unique thinker and even more than thinker is. His wise thoughts regarding what is truth and what is lie was long ago accepted as a criteria. For Turkmens Magtymguly is sacred. Saying in brief, he is phenomenon in the history of his people.

One may understand the essence of phenomenon of Magtymguly Fragi from exoteric point of view, i.e. proceeding from earth historical realities of Turkmen life of XVIII century. To this end, we may state the following: phenomenon of Magtymguly as cultural historical occurrence became the last echo of great Central Asian civilizations of Medieval. Two historical epochs – cultural grandeur of Medieval East and stagnation of a new time have found their mutual combination

in his creativity and through his creativity. The XVII century is a starting point for a new period in the history of Turkmen people. It was historical revival of Turkmen nation. It was just Magtymguly - personality, who, using his creativity, spiritually provided and identified historically this epochal turn in the cultural history of his people.

Magtymguly became exponent of new Turkmen mentality. He is by right creator of modern

Turkmen literary language. «The key of truth is in the symbols of language. The house of existence is an active language. The language is an existence itself, which discloses ontological basis of human feelings». It just the language created by Magtymguly, was the lever for Turkmens to be unified spiritually, which were separated from political point of view. Spiritual basis of new Turkmen nation were laid by literary language (the word «language» we use with deep ontological, Haidegger's viewpoint). New literary language has become a base for consolidation new Turkmen unification historically. It forms spiritual, ethnic, mental and psychological qualities, which are peculiar to Turkmens in New era. This provides irreversibility of historical processes to form new national mentality of Turkmens. However, deserves of Magtymguly in the field of language go over the frontiers of Turkmen people. We may consider Magtymguly as a founder of new literary language covering all Turkic worlds. Prior to him, in the history of Turkic literature there were three main literary languages old Oguz-Turkmen language, which was used in early medieval time, the language of «Rumi-Turkmeni, which was popular in Middle East» and also Chagatai language in which all originators from Central Asian peoples wrote their works. The Turkmen poet Seid Imadmuddin Nesimi is a founder of «Rumi-Turkmeni», while Alisher Navoi is the founder Chagatai language. Magtymguly has become the creator

of new Turkmen language, that was applied not only by Turkmen poets, but with representatives of other Turkic people of Central Asia. This new language is placed in lexical, semantic and gramatical wealth of all literary languages used before. That's why, it is not surprising that the language of Magtymguly is clear and understandable for all Turkic people of this region.

The language phenomena, and more over of literary language is considered multi-planned and complicated spiritual-historical occurrence. Dovletmamed Azadi, father and the first teacher of Magtymguly, was the one, who formed the attitude to the language. Language strategy of Azadi came from the historical experience from Turkic literary languages and was conditioned by actually issues of Turkmen society of XVIII century. The burning task was identification of national ideology-system of national spiritual values. Azadi made a conclusion that it was necessary to relay on multi-aged national values. National language was the first among them. All national spirit and national understanding were realized through language in practice. However, the language priorities of Azadi has been dealt with past. They were directed in this trend to the past and remained within the of Chagatai language framework. Though the Chagatai language was rich and deep and potentially powerful language, it needed active perception of reality. Poetical languages stagnation period was XVIII century, when the material

was completely covered by forms, and the form became model. In order to create new poetic forms it was necessary to have a new material, fresh elements of practical language. An active language was required for expressing of active spirit. Having understood the essence of practical language in a new effective way, as well as sacral essence of poetic language, Magtymguly has chosen such a language ideology, which would have been directed for the future. Poetical language created by Magtymguly is a combination of Oguz-Turkmen language and literary language of Rumi-Turkmeni, Chagatai language and active Turkmen language of Central Asia. It was a new poetical language in terms of all Turkic language creativity's scale. If we want to understand the fact, why Magtymguly is more than poet and more than thinker, there is a need for shifting to the esoteric, internal, metaphysics' interpretation of language phenomena. As a metaphysic skill expression form, the poetry of Magtymguly included in cultural experiences of three languages, Turkmen-Turkic poetic the language of Eastern Gnosticism-Irfan, and also an active language Magtymguly-Arif (Gnostics) created poetry, and the poetry is considered - high literature - literature of literary heights. Saying the words of A.Korben «Metaphysics is not conditioned by social alterations, but by its own object, i.e. spiritual world, which called to penetrate and which should be depicted». Arif was anthologized by Magtymguly the metaphysics knowledge of Irfan

due to hermeneutics personality. Hermeneutics subject – that is the knowledge, which is a means of his existence. Magtymguly learnt the knowledges of all representatives of Irfan, starting with Nedjemetddin Kubra and completing with arifs of Persian language and Turkic language of his time. Using the terminology of K.Yung, Magtymguly expressed actually in active Turkmen language all main archetypes of metaphysical language of Irfan. He has articulated actively and specifically articulated ontological and esthetic problem of eastern metaphysics. It has become a new poetical language in the history of all Turkic linguistic. «The word is given to existence itself in the poetry». The poetry of Magtymguly, which is based on such a deep measurement, has become semiotic sign projected the future. According to the terminology of Merlo Ponti the metaphysical language of Magtymguly is considered as the language of speakers (New speech practice, active movable creativity linguistic act in which trastendirovation, overwhelming of available meanings by the speaking person, is made). This language is a «dynamic reality, aggregation of available new needed meanings». Unlike « speaking language» of Magtymguly, «the language said» i.e. is closed as language space. On its deep measurements the poetic language is not linguistically, but ontological, not social but metaphysician. M.Heidegger states that language is a house of Existence. The language of Magtymguly became a cultural

phenomenon, which opens new existence horizons. It is not only the means of communication but also a cultural format, which presupposing deep, ontological perspectives. This language became a starting point for new historical horizons in the life of Turkmen people. On the symbolic language of Irfan such a language was called as a «language of birds».

Disharmony between soul and body, and disagreement by myself The heart is crying, while the soul is in sorrow from the pain, Though, I am a human on my shape, I have the bird voice.

In the life of fun and laziness, I am the one, who is unhappy.

Peculiarity and novelty as well as secret of viability of «language of birds» at Magtymguly looks like as follows: primary understanding of reality has been revived by transforming energetic of active Turkmen language on the metaphysic level. It is a language of body, however from the other side it is a language of spirit. Active dialectic of the body and spirit (soul), which was poetically recorded in the poems of Magtymguly, resulted in creating new hermeneutic subject. It is a very original trio-logy of hermeneutic subject at Magtymguly. This personality presents a bodily-spiritually physiology consisting of Heart, Soul and Language, where heart-treasure of secrets, soul-metaphysic mirror, and a language is a bedflower rosarium of symbolic signs.

The one, who lives believing in truth, and waits no generosity, From the world, where all grows

not long,

That a poor will speak your language solemnly,  
If there is no alive flame in the heart.

The heart takes the first line in this tri-ology in terms of logic occurrence of poetical language. Having been bodily organ the heart provides an opportunity to concentrate an active energetic of real life. The heart is followed by the soul, which is already a body of metaphysic rather than analysis. Conservation of metaphysic, irphanic substances takes place through soul. Poetic form goshuk has become main poetical mechanism of such conservation Magtymguly was the first in the history of Turkic poetical tradition, who gave metaphysic sense to the form – goshuk. The efforts taken by him resulted in transforming of the ordinary genre into format of metaphysic articulation of Existence and in line with gazal and mesnevi achieved the metaphysic height of poetical expression. The third body of hermeneutic subject – language is used as a tool to express social experience and metaphysic understanding of soul. The language – originated from «house of soul».

If you are able to understand the sense of Godly like word,  
You are in a position to distinct good from evil,  
To speak about life sense requires wisdom and health,  
No need for louts to talk on high scale topic.

House of spiritual reality – is overconsciousness, which stands

higher outer, social, historical reality. Outer reality is constituted with the highest spiritual reality. The house of soul opened by Magtymguly became the highest spiritual world's space. Poetical language of Magtymguly, which has metaphysic measurement, having been an expression of skill of hermeneutic subjects, turned out to be the energy reservoir, eligible to educate national mentality. Thus, Magtymguly became a creator of the poetical language, which within ages showed its viability and turned out to be a space for national spirit.

Irfan has become as philosophical base of artistic creativity of Magtymguly. Irfan is defined as an eastern Gnosticism. The research works carried out on this direction certifies that Gnosticism has worked out values, which have human importance.

Viewpoint on Gnosticism became philosophical, ethic and esthetic fundament for understanding and perception of the world by Magtymguly. The Irfan science was studied deeply and in detail by the poet. This science is not an occurrence, which was brought in Turkmen life from somewhere outside. Vice versa, within several ages this spiritual trend in practice became a shelter, for different prior-Islamic perception and values to be inherent to the peoples of Central Asia. This is a condition for deep national diversity of works of Turkmen poet. Due to this Gnosticism values of Magtymguly's philosophy became finally and anthropocentric viewpoint. Within the framework of this system the

humans got freedom in viewpoints issues.

Gnosticism has chosen True in a very wide sense of philosophical and ethnical meaning of ties conception as a subject of its understanding. One of the Western researches characterized Irfan as follows: «it is believe of public». The viewpoint of Gnosticism in terms of philosophy identified the specific of artistic thinking of Magtymguly. Magtymguly is a symbolist in terms of reflection of reality. Allegory and symbol are main features of his artistic thinking. He interprets the universal as a symbol of eternal world. In essence, each of his metaphor is a symbol. Every work of the poet is allegory itself and in line with high arts. The symbolic language is able to disclose the secrets of world and human existence. Since ancient times, the symbolic forms were considered a measurement of esthetic perfection of philosophical depth. The symbol adds ontology status not only to the word art but to all spiritual creation of human. Proceeding from the fact, we may say that metaphysic heights of human soul are accessible for the symbolic reflection.

Thus, severe historical, that is earth reality, as well as a new poetical language of high Gnosticism philosophy leads to occurrence of Giant of poetical perception. In the Turkic literature, Magtymguly has become unseeable poetical personality. Great historian and Turkology V. Bartold stated at the beginning of XX century, not without purpose, that «Only Turkmens have such a

national poet as Magtymguly out of all Turkic peoples». At the end of the same century, another writer with world name Ch. Aitmatov stated: «XVIII century in the Central Asia became a century of Magtymguly Fragi».

What are the main features of this poetic personality? Magtymguly became the last in Central Asia as a real poet of deep sacral world perception. We can single out three features:

First, he is mystic, who is fond of sacral True. Love to True resulted him in mystic understanding of the world. Experience of gnostic, which is gained in a way to True and having psychological and ethical importance gives an adapter to step over physical reality. Spiritual skills are linked with deep esthetic troubles. This is an exit of esthetic conception over the borders limited anthological that is social time and space. It is just skills of timeless, metaphysic «travelling» of conscious, which has spiritual – esthetic sense without any doubt. Gnostic disposition – whole world understanding, which includes: social, ethic and mainly esthetic perception. The main means of this understanding is intuition (Magryfet-of over feeling conception). «Intuition – metaphysic body rather than analysis». Intuition covers with some thread. It is called to see everything itself, whether the thread is stretching, till the heavens or stopped on some distance from the land. The first case – Is metaphysical experiences of great mystics». Since the poetry deals with secrets of world creation and



human life, mystical poetry alike poetical ones are similar in terms of nature. It is noticeable, the word mystics has common root with the word «mystery».

The outcome of this spiritual transformation is spiritual whole understanding of the most mystery occurrence of the physical world – time. Magtymguly chooses the non-abstract true, but time phenomena, as an object of his mystical emotional experiences. Time – is universal occurrence of phenomena that is physical existence. Hence, Magtymguly has always linked mystic with esthetic. In this sense, the poets Gnostics were dealing with guessing the puzzle i.e. interpretation of birds language into humans. All this resulted in occurring great metaphysic legend, great mystical poetry.

As is known, the issue relating

to time is main anthological questions. Having passed through the time forms, the spirit of human are self-asserted in the world of phenomenal essences. In other words, the human soul gets intellectual and ethical freedom through gnostic perception. All essence of Gnosticism proves that basic in in the perception – fighting of soul for the right of anthological existence. Intellect perception always follows soul perception; intellect releasement is always accompanied by releasing of soul from the chains of phenomenal existence.

The second criteria of true irfanic poet, i.e. the poet, who is in a way to find secrets of existence – is Gnosticism (Aryflyk). Metaphysic experiences of perception of timeless essences, has given a chance to understand cosmic nature of time.

The cosmic time at Magtymguly is called «Pelek» The main essence of the cosmic time is to annihilate all and everything, of course, except the soul itself. Physical world – is a reality, which may exist with time only. Such an existence is fatal for the human personality. That's why, Magtymguly opposed to the time, describing it in the most negatives images.

Third, perception of essence of the cosmic time gave a birth for the third feature. Having understood what was the world, and whom the world will was directed against, Magtymguly understood that he became preacher – teacher, tutor and studied the people on life. The preaches of Magtymguly are metaphysics and not didactic in its essence. Great poetical power of artistic word comes from here.



## ACHIEVEMENTS OF INDEPENDENT AND ETERNALLY NEUTRAL TURKMENISTAN FOR 30 YEARS AND THE CONTENT OF THE YEAR “TURKMENISTAN IS THE HOMELAND OF PEACE AND TRUST”

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The Turkmen people are one of the historical peoples that have their roots in the depths of centuries. Rather, by joining the ranks of countries such as Egypt, Mesopotamia, China and India, the earliest world civilizations, he was able to contribute to the history and culture of the world. The evidence of these words are proverbs and parables related to the folklore of our people - epics, legends and

fairy tales related to lala, huddi, monzhugaty and other written forms of literature.

The Turkmen people were reborn in 1991. In addition to independence, it has regained its lost culture, forgotten traditions and also national holidays. Since then, big changes have begun to take place in all industries. And on December 12, 1995, our Independent Motherland also received the status

of Neutrality and began to sail in its own direction in the political ocean of the world.

Since the day when President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov came to power in 2007, this work has been called “The State is for the people!”. In our country, invaluable work has been done in the areas of urban planning, green ecology, healthy generation, education and science, culture



and a number of other areas. Back in 2011, more precisely, 20 years after independence, Turkmenistan has changed in many ways. Numerous objects of our country and the capital itself are listed in the Guinness Book of Records. In the field of urban planning, construction and commissioning of buildings of the Broadcasting Center of Turkmenistan, buildings of the Turkmen State Institute of Culture, the Institute of Economics and Management of Turkmenistan

in the capital, as well as in various regions of the country. In those years, our foreign economic and cultural ties also reached a new level. Trade relations have been established with several countries and large companies around the world. The holding of Days of Culture of Turkmenistan in neighboring countries and Days of Culture of different Peoples in our country has once again proved the effectiveness of this work.

This year, "Turkmenistan is the

motherland of peace and trust", can be considered a year rich in historical dates for the entire Turkmen people. From 1991 to 2021, during these years, Turkmenistan managed to spread its name all over the world. The evidence of this is that in 2017 the V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games were held in the capital, and the 2018 World Weightlifting Championship was held in the capital, where our compatriot Yulduz Dzhumabayeva also won a gold medal. Today, Turkmenistan, together with the UN, takes an active part in all humanitarian issues. Its UNESCO list of intangible cultural values includes the Turkmen dance program "Kushtdepdi", the epic "Gorogly", which is now in full swing. This is a vivid proof that our country is growing day by day with the help of our esteemed President.

As they say, "every flower has its own fragrance", each of our years has its own name and its own content. This custom, which has existed for many years, has been reflected this year. As we mentioned, this year "Turkmenistan-the Homeland of peace and Trust" should become one of the richest in historical events. In fact, this year marks the 140th anniversary of the founding of our white marble capital of Ashgabat and the 30th anniversary of the founding of our sacred Independence. This year's naming also describes the efforts of the Turkmen people to achieve peace only through development.

May our esteemed President, who develops our Homeland day by day and leads us from success to success, live a long life and achieve success further!





## THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATIONAL CULTURE AND HERITAGE DURING THE PERIOD OF INDEPENDENCE

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With the initiatives of our President, in the prosperous epoch of the powerful State, great attention is paid to our national culture and cultural heritage, including folklore works, ethnographic information. Regarding the study of our national culture in the modern era of prosperity, our esteemed President noted in his book "Turkmen Culture": As a result of the cultural policy successfully implemented in our state, the range of systematic

and continuous works on the in-depth study of material and non-material wealth is extended, major achievements are succeeded, and impetus is given to carry out very important cultural programs for our present epoch". At the same time, our esteemed President set the study of spiritual-cultural heritage of Turkmen nation in accordance with the requirements of the prosperous epoch of the powerful state and spreading it to the nation as the main task before the scientists.

On the eve of the 30th anniversary of independence, there have been many changes in Turkmenistan's economy, domestic and foreign policy, literature, art, and in short, its culture. Every day, every month, every year of the Holy Independence delivers to the Turkmen people a lot of big improvements. Such a revival, renewal has been further developed and brought to a new meaning by the transfer of our President to the head of state. Under the

wise leadership of our esteemed President, Turkmenistan is known to the world today, and not only as a home for underground and over ground raw materials, but also as civilized people who preserve and develop the developed economy, the traditions and heritage of the ancestors.

Turkmen culture is currently encourages the mutual interaction of all other sectors, and it is actively developed concerning the international relations. Cultural and artistic masters of Independent Permanently Neutral Turkmenistan successfully perform in different countries of the world, bring people closer together and create a spiritual foundation for interstate relations in politics and economics, and widely promote national culture, art, and unique traditions around the world. The Days of Culture of Turkmenistan in different parts of the world and the Days of Culture of the world in Turkmenistan are exemplary cultural exchanges of interest. At the same time, the internal dynamics of its internal cultural structures are maintained. All this has contributed to the re-development of Turkmen culture in the prosperous epoch of the powerful state. At present, no solemn event is held in our country without performances by artists, music and folklore groups. They express the bright colors of our national culture in all important events in the life of the Turkmen state, including international occasions. The celebrations in our country have national colors, which symbolize the well-being of our people, the sustainable development of Turkmenistan, its aspiration

to the heights of development. In fact, the national holidays, which have been considered an integral part of the spiritual heritage of the Turkmen people for centuries, have been celebrated on a large scale.

Our national art and spiritual culture have made it clear to the world that the Turkmen people are indeed a people who have made a significant contribution to world civilization. These words are not only words spoken, but also words that are scientifically based on truth, on historical sources.

For many centuries, the Turkmen people have been engaged in animal husbandry, farming, and crafts. Wild animals have been domesticated and widely used in household chores. Creating a harmonious life with nature, flora and fauna has spurred a prosperous and blessed life. Thus, the Turkmen people bred a wonderful specimen of Akhal-Teke horses, arwana camel, saryja sheep, alabay dog, and the world-famous carpets achieved global glory.

As in all nations of the world, the Turkmen people have passed down their cultural treasures for millennia and passed them down to the present generation. It has contributed to the spiritual and cultural treasures of every century, developed and improved it. The hereditary capacity of the people is of great importance in the transmission of spiritual cultural heritage from generation to generation. As the saying goes, "If you have no history, you won't have a future." The Turkmen people care to make efficient use of the cultural riches which are inherited from the forefathers, sources of music and

song traditions, written literature, folklore, history, architectural monuments, archeological findings and to develop, to make them perfect and pass them on to their descendants. As the nation, we have a very rich cultural heritage to pass on to generations.

In the book "Culture is the heart of the people", our hero President says: "The inclusion of three cultural and historical monuments in the territory of Turkmenistan in the UNESCO World Heritage List - Ancient Merv, Koneurgench and Nisa is the recognition of humane importance of our national values".

Nisa, the capital of the ancient Parthian state located in the west of Ashgabat, the ruins of the ancient city of Merv in the north of the city of Bayramali, which is one of the most famous historical and architectural monuments of Turkmenistan, the mausoleum of Sultan Sanjar, Urgench (Koneurgench) the city of the North Khorezm state have been attracting the attention of scientists.

The prosperous epoch of the powerful state presents new creative challenges to Turkmen writers and publicists, artists and composers, stage masters and other representatives of the culture and arts. We wish sound health to our President for his paternal concern for encouraging and supporting young creative talents and enhancing the prestige of creative workers! May him long live! May the work of universal importance prosper!



## DRASTIC STEPS OF INDEPENDENCE

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As a result of the farsighted policy implemented by our esteemed President, there are many glorious events in our Independent Motherland that make our people proud and prosperous, that raise the prestige of our state. Our esteemed President restores the best wise qualities of our forefathers, which have been passed down to us for centuries, from generation to generation, and puts them at the heart of the state policy in the prosperous epoch of the powerful state and implants it in the minds of the society. The adoption of decisive

decrees that are important for the Motherland and for the good of the people and the country gives a solid basis for the modernization of the country and the daily improvement of society. The decrees adopted by the President to radically transform agriculture and revitalize the rural population and raise their living standards are of particular importance.

In the prosperous epoch of the powerful state, taking lead from the wise and human policy of our esteemed President, great opportunities have been created

to improve the scientific and educational system. Our esteemed President performs great deeds in developing the science and education system in our country and bringing it to the world level. The reforms pursued by our Leader in this area are recognized not only by our people, but also by the world scientific community. This is because our esteemed President emphasizes that the reforms must be based on in-depth scientific doctrine and that high-level modern professionals should play a key role in the carried out works. Those



issues find their rightful place in the profound and comprehensive speeches of our National Leader.

Creating food abundance in our country and ensuring food security of the nation is one of the main goals of our Esteemed President. Livestock plays a key role in addressing these issues. Creating a healthy breed of high-yielding livestock and poultry remains the core of the modern challenges of people working in the field and animal husbandry professionals. To this end, the decrees of our President to establish livestock, poultry and equestrian complexes equipped with the latest achievements of scientific and technological progress in each province of the country opened a memorable new page for the stock-raising society, scientists, experts and professors-lectures and students of our university and gave a great impetus to the scientific modernization of work in every sector of the economy of our country. At our Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, our students in the field of veterinary medicine,

under the guidance of tutor teachers, take up scientific projects in the creation of new, high-yielding breeds of cattle, in improving their supply of high-quality fodder, and preventing diseases. They have been given ample opportunity to study the agricultural sciences of the developed countries of the world and to exchange experiences with foreign scientists-experts. The educational and experimental society of our university has the full opportunity to combine production with scientific work. Every opportunity is afforded for our talented student youth to boldly apply the achievements of world science to production, improve the quality of animal products, increase the quantity, prevent various diseases, organize measures to fight them and create appropriate measures in accordance with local conditions. Great conditions have been created for our students to get acquainted with the experience gained and accumulated in the developed countries of the world in their chosen professions. They,

under the guidance of our professors, test their own scientific proposals in our own local environment and implement the most effective of them in the livestock sector of agricultural production.

Today, great progress has been made in disease prevention and in the protection of livestock and poultry from disease. Preventive measures in livestock breeding and veterinary measures are always systematically implemented and improved. In carrying out and improving such measures at the modern level, Our Esteemed President is making unparalleled efforts for every animal husbandry scientist and specialists and creating comprehensive conditions. We will do our best to fully support and implement the exemplary work and foreign policy of our esteemed President on the prosperity of our Independent, Neutral Motherland, the well-being and education of our people, the maintenance of peace in the world.



## THIRTY YEARS OF PAKISTAN - TURKMENISTAN RELATIONS

**Muhammad Asif NOOR**

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Pakistan and Turkmenistan's time tested friendship is turning thirty years old with thousand splendid suns shining bright to reflect the sense of togetherness and support in rock solid way. Over the past three decades the robust relations continued to grow in diverse direction from policy levels to cultural cooperation, energy sector and trade, people to people ties, cooperation in education and research fields. With sharing of the similar insights on global and regional issues, Pakistan and Turkmenistan continuously

supported each other in building global peace through dialogue and diplomacy. Pakistan stood by Turkmenistan on its important foreign policy stance of permanent neutrality. On the other hand Turkmenistan supported Pakistan on not only global and regional issues but offered huge energy and connectivity projects that can change the fate of the country. As a result of the visionary leadership of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Turkmenistan is one of the most widely respected nations at the global stage for

promoting the values of peace, prosperity, and development.

Since establishment of diplomatic relations in 1992, Pakistan has supported Turkmenistan, its independence, sovereignty and the status of the Permanent Neutrality. Pakistan and Turkmenistan are members of important regional and international forums including United Nations, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Non-Aligned Movement. Over the course of three decades, there were several high level visits



from both sides including visits of Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers. There were several important joint ministerial commission's sessions held to move forward the ideals of cooperation in diverse sectors. Although trade volume is not encouraging nevertheless it is steadily growing through a strong will as there is huge potential for the promotion of trade between the two countries.

Turkmenistan offers Pakistan huge support in energy, electricity and communication sectors especially Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline is the hallmark of the joint cooperation. TAPI is also considered as the peace pipeline having potentials to extend peace, prosperity and development across the region. Galkynysh is the tipping point for the TAPI gas pipeline having an estimate of 27 trillion cubic meters. Gas from this field will be transported from Turkmenistan through 1840 km long pipeline. The pipeline is offering cheaper, safer and cleaner alternative to coal and diesel fired power generation hence creating less impact on environment and society. The project is based on

the World Bank EHS guidelines, ADB safeguard policies and IFC performance standards approved and vetted by the states engaged. This project is strategically important for the region and beyond as the execution will bring direct and indirect social, economic, political and environmental benefits to the entire region.

Turkmenistan is also offering Pakistan through TAPI pipeline a 1635 km fiber-optic line offering communication links across the pipeline. This optic-fiber will offer communication data of Europe, Asia, South East Asia with the 100 Gb/s speed with capacity to increase it to 6 Tb/s. TAPI will be supported by the electric power transmission line that will not only provide the pipeline the facility on the way but also help to export the energy of up to 3000 megawatt through Afghanistan to Pakistan. This again will help Pakistan for its energy needs and help run the industries with a reduced cost. As a result of TAPI, Pakistan will not only benefit from gas but at the same time energy, electricity and fiber-optic communications. Turkmenistan is also offering Pakistan to join an

important connectivity Railway line project that will be starting from Sarhadabad to Turgundi, Herat, Hilmand, Qandhar, Spinnoldak and Chaman. This is a 700 km long train track and is mostly having plain area across from Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and can arrive to Pakistan till Chaman border.

On the other hand, Pakistan is offering Turkmenistan to connect through China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and gain immense benefits under this fate changing flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). CPEC, a component of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), provides an opportunity to enhance bilateral cooperation and shift the focus of relationship to addressing socio-economic challenges, building economic linkages and enhancing bilateral trade. Gwadar seaport as a crown of BRI is offering immense opportunity for Turkmenistan to connect towards global market. CPEC is on its way to the second phase of development progress focusing on industrial cooperation, agriculture development and socio-economic prosperity.

With stronger ties between Pakistan and Turkmenistan are having lasting impacts on the regional peace, stability, prosperity and development. Partnership and collaboration in projects like TAPI and others will help Afghanistan to be stable as well. Peaceful Afghanistan will help bring prosperity and development for the countries and communities across and both Pakistan and Turkmenistan are standing shoulder to shoulder with each other in building peace in the region.

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