CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIAN STATES

On November 29, 2019, Tashkent hosted a consultative meeting of the heads of Central Asian states with participation of President of the Kyrgyz Republic, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, President of Turkmenistan, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Elbasy.

Peoples of Central Asia are united by centuries-old bonds of brotherhood, common history, spiritual and cultural values, and similar mentality. In other words, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan always lived side by side, supported each other. Sustainable development and bright future of our peoples, who have common historical heritage, cannot be represented separately from each other.

Main events of the summit took place at the Kuksaroi residence on November 29. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held bilateral meetings with guests of the summit, after which a consultative meeting of the heads Central Asian states in a narrow format took place.

The meeting participants discussed following relevant issues:
- Cooperation in agricultural machinery, automotive, electrical, textile industry, agricultural sector;
- Strengthening transport connectivity and expanding the transit potential of the region;
- Expansion of cooperation in the energy sector, taking into account the long-term interests of the region;
- Realization of huge tourism potential of Central Asian countries;
- Development of coordinated approaches to solving water use problems based on common long-term interests.
In addition, during the meeting, parties agreed to maintain active exchanges and cooperation at regional level of Central Asian countries, and to regularly conduct joint activities in the field of science, education, tourism, culture and sports. Following the summit, a Joint Statement was adopted and the Rules for preparation and conduct of consultative meetings were approved.

At the proposal of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the heads of state unanimously elected the First President of Kazakhstan, Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev as Honorary Chairman of the Consultative Meeting of Heads Central Asia States.

After productive negotiations, the heads of state of Central Asia planted seedlings of trees on the Alley of honored guests at the Kuksaroy residence. These trees will grow and become stronger, symbolizing strong friendship and cooperation of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

In the afternoon, the heads of state visited the Islam Karimov Scientific and Educational Memorial Complex, where they laid a wreath at the monument to the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The next Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asian States will be held in Kyrgyzstan in 2020.
On November 27, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev paid a state visit to Kyrgyzstan at the invitation of President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sooronbay Jeenbekov.

During the meeting, they discussed development of trade and economic relations and creation of favorable conditions for both Kyrgyz investors and entrepreneurs in Kazakhstan and Kazakhstani businessmen in Kyrgyzstan.

Regarding the topic of cooperation on cross-border issues, K. Tokayev proposed to create a logistics center at the border for design and processing of goods to support and stimulate export-import operations.

The issues of sharing Transboundary Rivers were also discussed, as the fate of millions of people, stability and well-being of the entire region depend on their effective use.

“The interaction of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on the Shu-Talas river basins today is a positive example for many countries of the world. We have a joint commission on the use of interstate water management facilities,” K. Tokayev said.

Kazakhstan annually takes part in shared financing, repair and maintenance of these facilities.

The parties discussed possibility of creating a special program for budget education of students from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, including for Kazakh diasporas in Kyrgyzstan and Kyrgyz - in Kazakhstan.

And we agreed on the need for cultural days in each country.

Presidents of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan held negotiations in a narrow format and took part in a meeting of the Supreme Interstate Council of two countries. “We discussed a number of important issues. We agreed on key issues of our interaction and identified practical mechanisms for their implementation,” S. Jeenbekov commented on the results of negotiations in a narrow format.

Following the meeting of the leaders of two fraternal countries, the following documents were signed:
Joint Declaration of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the President of the Kyrgyz Republic;
Comprehensive Program of Cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic for 2020-2022;
Package of Decisions of the Supreme Interstate Council;
Agreement between the governments of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on Cooperation in the field of migration;
Agreement between governments of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan “On Joint Actions for the construction of a new bridge and the reconstruction of existing bridge between the checkpoints Karasu road and Ak-Tilek road;
Agreement on Cooperation in the fight against economic and financial crimes between the Ministry of Finance of Kazakhstan and the State Service for Combating Economic Crimes under the Government of Kyrgyzstan;
Agreement between the Ministry of Defense of Kazakhstan and the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Kyrgyzstan on the organization of reception, aerodrome-technical support and protection of military aircraft at military airfields of two countries;
Agreement on Cooperation between Ministries of health of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan;
Memorandum “On Cooperation and mutual understanding between the Ministry of Trade and Integration of Kazakhstan and the State Inspectorate for Environmental and Technical Safety under the Government of Kyrgyzstan”;
Agreement on joint activities to promote and implement investment projects in two countries.

President of Kazakhstan expressed satisfaction with the results of negotiations with the President of Kyrgyzstan and expressed gratitude for the hospitality and brilliant organization of the meeting.

In addition, K. Tokayev invited S. Jeenbekov to pay a visit to Kazakhstan in 2020.
At the end of the state visit, Presidents of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan visited the Ata Beyit memorial complex in Bishkek, where they laid flowers at the Memorial of victims of tragic events of 1916 and at the grave of Chyngyz Aitmatov.
On December 5, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev paid an official visit to Germany, where he held talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. The focus of the discussion was on enhancing bilateral relations and prospects for establishing a strategic economic partnership. The issues of interaction in the fields of education, science and culture were also considered.

The program of President’s visit to Berlin was continued by a series of meetings with representatives of German business. In particular, during a conversation with the chairman of the CLAAS Group supervisory board Katrina Claas-Muhlheiser, issues of implementing joint investment projects were discussed. To date, the CLAAS Group is represented in Kazakhstan by the CT Agro distribution network, which implements agricultural machinery and provides its after-sales service.

Christian Bruch, Executive Vice President of Linde AG, informed Kassym-Jomart Tokayev about the company's activities in Kazakhstan and plans for the coming period. C. Bruch said that his company launched the production of technical gas on the basis of Arcelor Mittal Temirtau JSC in 2013, investing about 95 million Euros in this project.

Prospects for mutual cooperation were examined at a meeting with Schaeffler Group CEO Klaus Rosenfeld. The head of the company, specializing in the production of components for the automotive industry and astronautics, told the President of Kazakhstan about his production and investment opportunities. Director General of Siemens Healthineers Bernd Montag presented to Kassym-Jomart Tokayev a project for construction of an oncology center based on the principles of public-private partnership.

Regarding economic cooperation between two countries, K. Tokayev said that Kazakhstan intended to make Germany its main strategic partner in terms of investment.

In addition, during a visit to Germany, the President of Kazakhstan made a statement on the situation in Ukraine. K. Tokayev noted that the settlement of the situation in the east of this country should take place in the Norman format. He stressed that Kazakhstan is also ready to act as an intermediary and provide a platform for solving the problem.
- Our First President expressed his goodwill, proposed mediation efforts on the territory of Kazakhstan, but of course, we believe that problems of Ukraine should be addressed primarily in the Norman format. ... We are very sympathetic to Ukrainian people, we believe that this people deserves a quiet, prosperous life,” K. Tokayev noted.

There is every reason to believe that the official visit of the President of Kazakhstan to Germany will give a new impetus to the development of bilateral cooperation between Kazakhstan and the largest state of the European Union.
The official opening ceremony of the Trans-Anatolian Gas Pipeline (TANAP) was held on November 30 in the city of Edirne, Turkey.

Presidents of Turkey and Azerbaijan Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Ilham Aliyev solemnly launched the gas pipeline, through which Azerbaijani gas will flow to Europe. Erdogan called TANAP, which is part of the Southern Gas Corridor (SGC), a symbol of many years of friendship between two countries.

“First of all, the gas pipeline is a symbol of historical friendship between Ankara and Baku. This is a project aimed at strengthening peace in the region. ... Azerbaijani gas will be delivered to Europe through 20 provinces, 67 regions and 600 villages. Thanks to TANAP, the supply of natural gas in the amount of 16 billion cubic meters from Azerbaijan to Turkey and Europe has ceased to be a dream and become a reality. 10 billion of 16 billion cubic meters of gas will be delivered to Europe, and six billion cubic meters to Turkey,” R.T. Erdogan said. According to him, TANAP is a clear example of Turkey’s peaceful aspirations.

“From June 2012 to present, we have made great efforts to implement the TANAP project. We completed the construction of TANAP in accordance with the plan, despite many obstacles, unstable situation in the region and armed conflicts,” R.T. Erdogan noted.

Azerbaijani leader agreed with his Turkish counterpart and noted the importance of this event not only for Baku and Ankara, but also for many people who live in neighboring countries.

In particular, I. Aliyev said: “The TANAP project will become a bridge between countries, will promote cooperation, job creation and the achievement of new long-term agreements. Do not consider our projects as energy projects only. We must remember that they paved the way for other energy projects.”

The initial throughput capacity of TANAP, which is considered as a possible competitor to Turkish Stream, will be 16 billion cubic meters of gas per year.
On November 26, the IV International Kazakh-Kyrgyz Forum of intelligentsia on “Strong fraternal relations” organized by the International Turkic Academy was held in Bishkek.

Assistant to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Maulen Ashimbayev, President of the International Turkic Academy Darkhan Kydyrali, Advisor to the President of Kyrgyzstan Sultan Raev, Minister of Education and Science of Kyrgyzstan Kanybek Isakov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Kyrgyz Republic Kairat Nurpeisov, statesmen and public figures, prominent scientists from two countries, academics, heads of research institutes, intellectuals and journalists attended the meeting.

The forum hosted by the I. Arabayev Kyrgyz State University was dedicated to the Kazakh-Kyrgyz Brotherhood. During the meeting, Kazakh-Kyrgyz intelligentsia exchanged views on cooperation between the fraternal countries and common spiritual values. They also discussed the importance of literature, art and science exchange within the Turkic world and global cultural relations.

Assistant to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Maulen Ashimbayev noted that if in the past centuries national intellectuals were those who contributed a lot to cooperation between fraternal countries, in the new era of sovereignty strengthening of friendship between countries was promoted by the initiative of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.Nazarbayev to sign the Treaty on Eternal Friendship. He also emphasized the importance of cooperation and cultural communication between the intelligentsia and its promoting to younger generation.

In addition, three new books published by the International Turkic Academy were presented during the Forum. There were O.Karaev’s “Chagatai Khanate. The state of Kaidu. Moghulistan”,
the epos of Kyrgyz people translated into Kazakh for the first time “Er Yessim”, and Z.K. Kurmanov’s “Kyrgyz branch of Alash party: creation, activity, fate”.

At the end of the meeting, the forum delegates laid flowers at the Ata Beyit memorial complex, located in the village of Chon-Tash and dedicated to victims of repression of the 1930s.

It should be noted that the first meeting of the Kazakh and Kyrgyz intelligentsia took place in Nur-Sultan in April 2018 at the initiative of the Turkic Academy. The event had a special impact on cooperation between two countries and continued in Osh in October 2018.

The third forum dedicated to Manas epos – a common treasure of the Great Steppe and the outstanding scholar Shokan Ualikhanov was held in Taldykorgan, Zhetysu region, in June of this year.

The fourth meeting, organized in Bishkek within the framework of the official visit of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to Kyrgyz Republic, was devoted to brotherhood of two countries.
The Uzbek city of Khiva was declared the “Cultural Capital of the Turkic World” in 2020. The decision was made on December 1, at the 37th meeting of the Permanent Council of the International Organization of Turkic Culture (TURKSOY) in Osh (Kyrgyzstan).

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev came forward with the initiative to nominate Khiva for the “Cultural Capital of the Turkic World” at the 6th summit of the Turkic Council in Cholpon-Ata last September.

“Khiva is an amazing historical city, included in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list, where every stone and column tells about the richness of culture and the high level of art of our ancestors,” said Dusen Kaseinov, TURKSOY Secretary General. “As part of the organization’s activities, we intend to popularize the Open Air Museum project to the whole world and turn it into a real center of attraction.”

The tradition of TURKSOY to declare various cities as cultural capitals of the Turkic world started in 2012. The first city to receive this status was the capital of Kazakhstan, Astana (Nur-Sultan). In 2013, this status passed to the Turkish city of Eskisehir. The cultural capital of 2014 became Kazan (Tatarstan, Russia). In 2015, the Turkmen city of Mary, and then Azerbaijani Sheki became its successor. In 2017, Turkestan in Kazakhstan received this title, in 2018 - Kastamonu in Turkey. This year, the city of Osh (Kyrgyzstan) was the “Cultural Capital of the Turkic World”.
On December 3, a solemn ceremony of transferring artifacts, found during seasonal archaeological excavations carried out at the country's historical and cultural monuments in 2019, was held at the Ak Bugday National Museum of Turkmenistan.

To date, the Ak Bugday National Museum of Turkmenistan contains more than 200 ancient artifacts found during excavations in Altyn-Depe, Ulug-Depe, Namazga-Depe, Abiverd Fortress and other ancient monuments.

The museum received over 90 silver dirhams found in the mausoleum of famous thinker, the great elder Abu-Seit Abyl-haira Mehnei, the Sultan of all Sufis, known by the name of the Saint Myana Baba. The museum’s stands were replenished with 29 different ceramic products decorated with various patterns, including stone lamps and bronze ornaments.

The Ak Bugday National Museum of Turkmenistan is the only museum of white wheat in the world. There are collected and carefully stored exhibits testifying to the rich history of Turkmen people.