President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev held a virtual meeting with UN Secretary-General António Guterres to discuss priority areas of cooperation between Kazakhstan and the United Nations on June 4. They focused on the joint efforts to counteract the pandemic, tackle climate change, and ensure regional security and stability.

The President and the UN Secretary-General discussed in detail the issues of ensuring regional security and stability in the context of Afghanistan. The Head of State expressed Kazakhstan’s readiness to continue providing assistance to Afghanistan and to participate in international efforts aimed at restoring stability in this country. In this regard, António Guterres noted the exceptional role of the Central Asian states, including Kazakhstan in promoting this process.

Secretary-General Guterres spoke positively about Kazakhstan’s initiatives aimed at protecting the interests of LLDCs Group, which is of a great importance amid the crisis caused by the pandemic.

President Tokayev announced his intention to take part in 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in the coming November, during which updated national measures to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060 will be presented.

António Guterres highly praised Kazakhstan’s leadership in promoting the global anti-nuclear agenda. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev invited the UN Secretary-General to participate in an international conference dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site to be held in Kazakhstan in August 2021.
On June 4, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting with Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Maulen Ashimbayev, who arrived in Uzbekistan on a working visit.

The parties discussed issues of joint actions against the coronavirus, and also talked about further steps to develop and deepen the multifaceted partnership between the two related countries.

It was noted that in order to jointly overcome the consequences of the viral pandemic, the countries continue active exchanges at the level of governments, regions and businesses. Since the beginning of this year, mutual trade has increased by 40%. It was emphasized that the relevant departments of both republics are working on the implementation of large-scale projects in mechanical engineering, light industry, transport, tourism and other economic sectors. Programs in the cultural and humanitarian field have also been activated.

The parties emphasized the importance of the active participation of the parliaments of the two Turkic states in creating a promising agenda for bilateral cooperation, developing and promoting new proposals and specific projects, with the broad involvement of regional authorities and business circles, as well as strengthening coordinated cooperation on topical regional and international issues.
Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced the discovery of new natural gas deposits in the Black Sea, where Turkey plans to start production in 2023.

State energy company Tpao found 135 billion cubic meters of gas at the Amasra-1 offshore well, bringing the total amount of deposits discovered over the past year to 540 billion cubic meters, Erdogan said in televised remarks from the Black Sea coastal city of Zonguldak.

“Our Fatih drill ship made a discovery of 135 billion cubic metres of natural gas in the Amasra-1 borehole in the Sakarya gas field,” Erdogan told.

President Erdogan also noted that it is planned to deliver natural gas from the sea to the land in three stages.

According to him, at the first stage, natural gas production systems will be installed on the seabed, and at the second stage, it is planned to launch a plant that will process natural gas on land and prepare it for use.

“The third stage is a pipeline that will provide a link between the system at sea and the object on land,” the Turkish head of state said.

The Turkish President also noted that the country’s success in the field of energy is not limited to natural gas. According to him, three wells in the south-eastern and north-western provinces of Diyarbakir and Kyrklareli are capable of producing 6,800 barrels of oil per day.
The ruling parties of Azerbaijan and Turkey signed a Protocol of Intent on Cooperation. The protocol was signed by the deputy chairman of the ruling New Azerbaijan Party (YAP) Tair Budagov and the first deputy chairman of the Justice and Development Party of Turkey, Numan Kurtulush.

The letter of intent was signed during the visit of the YAP delegation to Turkey.

At the meeting held at the central headquarters of the Justice and Development Party in Ankara, the real situation was highly assessed and prospects for ties and cooperation between the ruling political parties of the two fraternal countries were discussed.

After the signing ceremony, Budagov and Kurtulus held a joint press conference.

It should be noted that within the framework of the visit, which will last until June 3, other meetings of party delegations will be held, as well as issues of cooperation between youth associations and audit commissions of the YAP and the Justice and Development Party of Turkey will be discussed.
COOPERATION BETWEEN KYRGYZSTAN AND THE EU REACHES A NEW LEVEL

Kyrgyzstan has a strong and stable ally and partner in addressing many issues and challenges, represented in the European Union, EU Special Representative for Central Asia, Ambassador Peter Burian, who arrived in Kyrgyzstan as part of his final visit to the region on occasion of the completion of his mission.

According to him, the process of finalizing the Agreement on Expanded Partnership and Cooperation is underway. This is a priority document. «This agreement raises our cooperation to a new level. Reflects the achievements of the reforms in your country. This process of negotiations began three years ago and was quite a complex process, where commitments are reflected in many areas. It provides for the principles of cooperation in all key areas: political relations, economic relations, human rights and cooperation at the level of international organizations. And just like that, it increases attention to the issues of democracy, human rights, and common values. This is a fairly large document,» Burian said.

In addition, the Ambassador noted that the process of preparing a multi-year cooperation program is now being completed, which provides for the provision of grants for the implementation of reforms.

«In addition, at the initiative of Kyrgyzstan, we are preparing to hold an Economic Forum in Central Asia. At the moment, preparations are underway, perhaps it will be the end of October or the beginning of November this year. Through this new platform, we want to encourage better conditions for business, strengthen regional cooperation to create a broader market in Central Asia for investors by harmonizing rules and laws,» Burian said.
TURKMENISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN DISCUSS COOPERATION ISSUES

On June 5-6, the government delegation of Turkmenistan visited the city of Herat in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

During the two days summit, top diplomats from the two nations are set to discuss five mega projects between the two countries, including developments on Afghanistan’s peace process. The parties also focused on the transfer of electricity from Uzbekistan to Herat, as well as the progress on the Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India Pipeline (TAPI), the establishment of railway project between the two countries, export of marbles from Herat to Turkmenistan and bilateral trades through Lapis Lazuli Corridor.

The parties agreed that the above-mentioned projects will contribute to economic prosperity and strengthen ties between South and Central Asia. Following the meetings, the Foreign Ministers of the two neighboring countries spoke, stating the effectiveness of the negotiations.
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