

The Organization Of Turkic States- From Past To Present

Çağlar ÖZER¹

¹Dr. Kent Üniversitesi, caglarozzer_62@hotmail.com, ORCID: 0000-0003-3090-4740

Abstract: With the Turkic States that gained their independence with the end of the Cold War, the ways of a new formation and integration in the Turkic world were opened. In this process, especially in which neoliberal policies gained weight, international organizations came to the fore as the new powerful actors of the international system. Although the efforts to organize in the Turkic world are based on 1992, it took 2021 for the process that started with the summits to become institutionalized and become a full international organization. The Organization Of Turkic States (OTS) was established in order to manage this transition and member states to this organization are Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, while Turkmenistan, Hungary and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) have observer status. If its significant power potential is managed effectively, it is considered that OTS will become an important organization that shapes international politics in the upcoming period. In addition, with the synergy created by the member countries and the cooperation between them, the Turkic States will be able to become stronger politically and economically. In this study, the establishment process and activities of OTS from past to present are discussed.

Key words: Turkic World, Turkic Council, Turkic Kenesh, International Organizations, Turkish Foreign Policy.

Kuruluşundan Günümüze Türk Devletleri Teşkilatı

Özet: Soğuk Savaş'ın sona ermesiyle birlikte bağımsızlıklarını kazanan Türk Devletleri ile Türk dünyasında yeni bir oluşumun ve bütünleşmenin yolları açılmıştır. Özellikle neoliberal politikaların ağırlık kazandığı bu süreçte uluslararası örgütler, uluslararası sistemin yeni güçlü aktörleri olarak ön plana çıkmışlardır. Türk dünyasında örgütlenme çabaları 1992 yılını temel alsa da zirvelerle başlayan sürecin, kurumsallaşarak tam bir uluslararası örgüt haline gelmesi 2021 yılını bulmuştur. Türk Devletleri Teşkilatı (TDT) üye ülkeleri Türkiye, Azerbaycan, Kırgızistan, Kazakistan ve Özbekistan olup Türkmenistan, Macaristan ve Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyeti (KKTC) ise gözlemci statüsündedir. Sahip olduğu önemli güç potansiyeli etkin bir şekilde yönetildiği takdirde önümüzdeki süreçte TDT'nin uluslararası siyasete yön veren önemli bir örgüt haline geleceği değerlendirilmektedir. Ayrıca üye ülkelerin ortaya çıkardığı sinerji ve ülkeler arasındaki iş birliği ile Türk Devletleri siyasi ve ekonomik açıdan da daha güçlü hale gelebileceklerdir. Bu çalışmada TDT'nin geçmişten günümüze kuruluş süreci ve faaliyetleri ele alınmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Türk Dünyası, Türk konseyi, Türk Keneşi, Uluslararası Örgüt

1. INTRODUCTION

In the 1990s, when the importance of cooperation in international relations was discussed more, the international system experienced one of the most important turning points. The period called the Cold War, characterized by the bipolar system that emerged after the Second World War, ended with the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). This development has provided new facts, parameters and possibilities to the international system as a whole and the Turkic world in particular. With the evolution of the international system into a new structure, the geopolitics of the Turkic world got rid of the shackles of Soviet hegemony and the Turkic state, which declared its independence in the region, became a part of the international system. After their independence, these countries, which were ruled by the USSR for many years, entered the nation-state building process on the one hand, and on the other hand sought ways to cooperate with each other (Erol ve Çelik, 2017: 16).

OST, which was established as the The Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States with the "Nakhchivan Agreement" dated October 3, 2009, was held at the 8th Summit of the Organization of Turkic States on November 12, 2021, with the Istanbul Declaration of the Heads of State and The Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States. Council/Turkic Council) was then changed to "Organization of Turkic States". As of today, the member countries of OST are Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, while Turkmenistan, Hungary and TRNC are observer states (Erkiner and Eray, 2022: 226).

Samuel Huntington, American political scientist, stated that after the end of the Cold War, states began to establish relations with countries with similar cultural characteristics, because the politicians and well-known figures of these countries shared values such as language and religion, and their closeness and kinship established trust between each other. The institutionalized

nature of cooperation between Turkic countries during the Cold War shows that Huntington's theory is correct and predicts the future organization of intergovernmental behavior. In this context, the Organization of Turkic States emerged as the last of a series of organizations embodying the synergy between the Turkic States and the ideal of "a Turkic world between the Adriatic Sea and the Great Wall of China" with the influence of all these intellectual, theoretical and ideological foundations (Demir, 2022: 719).

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In the bipolar international system that was developed after the Second World War, the Turkic Republics were left under the dominance of USSR, the leader of the Eastern bloc while Türkiye was in the Western bloc. This situation prevented Türkiye and Turkic states from communicating directly with each other. After the Cold War, dramatic changes have occurred in international relations. The collapse of the Soviet Union caused the Central Asian region to be the most adversely affected by this transition. In the former Soviet lands, the Turkic Republics declared their independence separately and later became independent actors.

The Turkic states, which were ruled by the Soviet regime for decades, entered the nation-state formation process in which Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan declared their independence. Türkiye was the first country to recognize their independence. Until the Russian Tsardom took full control of Central Asia in the 1880s, the regional states ruled by Russia were incapable of direct political, economic and cultural interaction with each other or with Türkiye. After 1991, Türkiye took action to re-establish its ties with these countries that declared their independence and to restructure its economic, political and cultural ties strongly (Kaygusuz, 2021: 203).

However, due to the fact that the communication infrastructure, economy, industry, transportation and even education systems of these countries have been shaped under the domination of the USSR for more than half a century, these countries could not eliminate the effects of the Soviet Union despite their independence (Bircan, 2021: 30). Russia has implemented strategies that will make these states in the Caucasus and Central Asia dependent on it. Professor of Russian origin, Boris Z. Rumer, in his book "Soviet Central Asia: A Tragic Experiment", explained how the USSR turned Central Asia into a colony. He stated that although all of the cotton produced in the USSR was produced in Central Asia, there was not a single textile production facility in

the region. According to Rumer, Central Asia, the extracted minerals, oil and gas were instead transferred to European Russia and Central Asia was used as a source for raw materials only (Rumer, 1989).

Being one of the first countries to officially recognize the Turkic Republics that declared their independence after the collapse of the USSR, Türkiye followed a policy aimed at weakening Russia's influence in the region between 1991 and 1993 with its efforts to become an exemplary role model country in the region. In this process, Türkiye has made an effort to influence the newly independent countries in the Caspian Region and Central Asia unplanned and unprepared. This process was perceived as a period when Russia did not attempt to prevent Türkiye's foreign policy towards the region.

On the other hand, the USA and other Western countries, who were worried about the acceleration of Iranian influence in the region, supported Türkiye to increase its influence by positioning it to the forefront as a model. Western countries that did not approve the establishment of pro-Iranian governments in the region supported Türkiye. Russia also abstained from this policy of Türkiye for similar reasons, and the newly independent Turkic Republics tried to get closer to Türkiye in order to consolidate their independence and adapt to the outside World (Erol, 2012: 6).

The Turkic States, which have just gained their independence, have tried to establish bilateral and multi-actor relations with each other while trying to build their nation-states with the environment of meeting and reunion for the Turkic World. In this context, in 1992, under the name of the Summit of Heads of State of Turkic Speaking States, hosted by the President of the Republic of Türkiye Turgut Özal, President of Azerbaijan Elçibey, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic Askar Akayev, President of Uzbekistan Islam Kerimov and State of Turkmenistan, the first meeting took place in Ankara with the participation of President Saparmurat Niyazov.

The summit concluded with the signing of the Ankara Declaration, deciding to establish a free trade regime, by harmonizing customs legislation among the Turkish republics, enabling the free movement of people, goods and services, and establishing common trade agreements. Investment and development policy focuses on the development of railway, road and air connections and telecommunications possibilities, the transfer of the natural resources of the Turkic Republic to

Europe through Turkey, and the development of coordination and cooperation possibilities in economic affairs to integrate European countries (Erol ve Çelik, 2017: 21).

The sequence of summits starting with this one are 1994 Istanbul Summit, 1995 Bishkek Summit, 1996 Tashkent Summit, 1998 Astana Summit, 2000 Baku Summit, 2001 Istanbul Summit, 2006 Antalya Summit, 2009 Nakhchivan Summit, 2010 Istanbul Summit (Akçapa, 2023: 477).

Table 1. Turkish/ Turkic Speaking Countries Heads of State Summits Process

| | Date and Place | Participating States |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1st Summit | 30-31.10. 1992 Ankara/Türkiye | Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan |
| 2nd Summit | 18-19.10.1994 İstanbul/Türkiye | Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan |
| 3rd Summit | 27-29.08.1995 Bishkek/Kyrgyzstan | Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan |
| 4th Summit | 21.10.1996 Tashkent/Uzbekistan | Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan |
| 5th Summit | 09.06.1998 Astana/Kazakhstan | Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan (President of the Assembly), Türkiye, Uzbekistan |
| 6th Summit | 08.04.2000 Baku/Azerbaijan | Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan Türkiye, Uzbekistan (President of the Assembly) |
| 7th Summit | 08.04.2000 Baku/Azerbaijan | Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan Türkiye, Uzbekistan (President of the Assembly) |
| 8th Summit | 17.11.2006 Antalya/Türkiye | Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan (Ambassador) Türkiye, Uzbekistan |
| 9th Summit | 2-3.10.2009 Nakhchivan/Azerbaijan | Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye |
| 10th Summit | 16.09.2010 İstanbul/Türkiye | Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan (Guest), Türkiye |

Source: Şahin, 2015: 1169.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the four Turkic countries began to organize high-level representative summits to institutionalize joint mechanisms. The first summit (1992-2001) focuses on education, culture, economy, energy, information, etc. evaluated the possibilities of cooperation in the fields. In this respect, the first summit can be seen as a meeting for the feasibility study of the potential of the organization and the expression of the objectives. 2006 Antalya Summit was held after 5.5 years. The summit, where the importance of international security threats and the potential for cooperation in the fields of energy and transportation was emphasized, consisted of a

meeting where wishes and aspirations were expressed rather than concrete steps (Antalya, 2006) although the summit was not realized for three years (Aydilek, 2022: 720).

At the 2010 summit, it was not clearly stated that the aim of the process was to create an international organization. However, the decisions taken at the previous summits and the steps taken in the inter-summit period showed that the ultimate goal is not to maintain cooperation, but to institutionalize it. The decisions taken at the second summit held in Istanbul on 18-19 October 1994 are an example of these steps. Article 23 of the

declaration signed at the end of the summit foresees the establishment of a “consultation mechanism”. It was clear that the consultation mechanism was to be established with the statement of “The Heads of State have agreed that the Ministers of Foreign Affairs or other high officials as they deem fit should consult at appropriate times to review the implementation of the Summit Meeting resolutions and to make preparations for the next Summit Meeting.” (1994 İstanbul Summit). The follow-up function for summits declared continuity indicates a secretariat-like structure (Çiğdem, 2015: 1169).

2.1.Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking Countries (Turkic Council/Türk Keneşi)

The Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking (Dildesh) Countries (Turkic Council or Turkic Keneş), which is open to the participation of Turkic Speaking Countries, as an international organization formed in 2009 by the states of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Türkiye, to bring closer and deepen the relations between Turkic-speaking countries, was established to ensure permanent harmony with efficient and effective communication. The establishment of the Turkic Council was born out of the common political will of

the "Turkic-Speaking Heads of State Summits", the first of which was held in Ankara in 1992 and has been convened since 1992. With the establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking Countries dated 3 October 2009 and the Istanbul Declaration of 16 September 2010, which was its tenth and final summit, priorities and action plan were revealed. With the establishment of the Turkic Council as a permanent structure, the name of the summits was changed to Turkic Council Summits (Bıyıklı, 2018: 23). This organization, which was first established as the Turkic Council, was later named "Turkic Keneş" by choosing the word "Keneş" in Divan-ı Lügat' ü Türk as the equivalent of the Council (Başbuğ ve Sivrikaya, 2018:154).

2.2.The Turkic Speaking States Summits

The Turkic Speaking States Summits Process, which held the last summit meeting in 2010, continued with the previous 10 Turkic Speaking States Heads of State Summits under the umbrella of the Turkic Council after the Turkic Council Secretariat was established. This process, which confirmed their agreement with the provisions of the declarations accepted at the new summit meetings, progressed as the Turkic Council Summits (Bıyıklı, 2018: 1).

Table 2. Turkic Council Summits

| | Theme | Place/Date | Summit Declaration |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1st Summit | Economic Cooperation | Almaty/Kazakhstan 21.10.2011 | 1st Summit Declaration 21.10.2011 |
| 2nd Summit | Education, Science and Cultural Cooperation | Bishkek/Kyrgyzstan 23.8.2012 | 2nd Summit Declaration 23.8.2012 |
| 3rd Summit | Transport and Connectivity | Gebela/Azerbaijan15- 16.8.2013 | 3rd Summit Declaration 16.8.2013 |
| 4th Summit | Cooperation in Tourism | Bodrum/Türkiye 5.6.2014 | 4th Summit Declaration 5.6.2014 |
| 5th Summit | Media and Information Cooperation | Astana/Kazakhstan 11.9.2015 | 5th Summit Declaration 11.9.2015 |
| 6th Summit | Youth and National Sports Cooperation | Cholpan- Ata/Kyrgyzstan 03.09.2018 | 6th Summit Declaration 03.09.2018 |
| 7th Summit | Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) | Baku/Azerbaijan 15.10.2019 | 7th Summit Declaration 15.10.2019 |
| 1st Extraordinary Summit | Solidarity and Cooperation in Combating the COVID-19 Global Pandemic | Online/10.04.2020 | 1st Extraordinary Summit Declaration 10.04.2020 |
| Unofficial Summit | Turkistan: One of the Spiritual Capitals of the Turkic World | Online/31.03.2021 | Unofficial Summit Declaration 31.03.2021 |

Source: <https://www.turkicstates.org/tr/zirveler>

The first summit meeting was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in 2011, with the theme of economy and trade. The second of the summits, which were

planned to be held in different cities of different countries every year without interruption, was completed in 2012 with sessions on science and

culture in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. In 2013, a summit was held in the city of Gabala, Azerbaijan, where the transportation issue was discussed. The summit held in Türkiye in 2014 was held with the theme of tourism in Bodrum, the pearl of Muğla, which is world-renowned in terms of tourism. In 2015, a summit was held in Nur Sultan, the capital of Kazakhstan, in which studies on press, broadcasting and media were discussed. After the coup attempt that Türkiye was exposed to in 2016, summits could not be held for two years.

At the 2018 summit, youth and sports issues were discussed in Cholpan Ata, Kyrgyzstan. At the 7th summit held in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, on October 15, 2019, the theme of supporting small and medium-sized companies was discussed. In addition, with the Nakhchivan Agreement approved by the Uzbekistan Senate at the 7th summit, Uzbekistan became a member of the Organization of Turkic States.

Against the COVID-19 epidemic that emerged in China at the beginning of 2020 and spread rapidly all over the world, a summit was held with the heads of member states of Türkiye to combat the global epidemic on April 10, 2020. Speaking at the summit, President of the Republic of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan explained the activities of OTS, a powerful organization that can help the World Health Organization that could not adequately support the world order during the epidemic, to overcome the socio-economic crisis.

The participation of the Director-General of the World Health Organization in the summit, where it was stated that member states should develop solutions for transportation and customs clearance after the economic crisis brought on by the epidemic, was welcomed in terms of reflecting the active role of OTS in the fight against the epidemic as an international organization to the public (Işıldak, 2022: 32-33).

Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking Countries held a summit meeting on April 31, 2021 with the theme of "Turkistan: One of the Spiritual Capitals of the Turkic World". The meeting was chaired by the President of Kazakhstan Kasım Tokayev, the first President of Kazakhstan and Honorary President of the Turkic Council Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev, President of Kyrgyzstan Sadi Japarov, President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of Uzbekistan Mirziyoyev President of Turkmenistan Gurbangul Berdimuhamedov, Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orbán and Baghdad Amreyev, Secretary General of

the Turkic Council. At the summit, the city of Turkestan was declared one of the spiritual capitals of the Turkic world. The initiative of the honorary chairman of the Turkic Council, Nursultan Nazarbayev, to change the name of the Council was supported by the member states (Mammadlı, 2022: 141).

2.3. Organization of Turkic States Summits

The 8th summit, held in Istanbul on 12 November 2021, was held with the intense participation of all member states' heads of state and their accompanying delegations, with the theme of "Green Technologies and Smart Cities in the Digital Age". The most important feature of this summit and previous summits is that the name of the Turkic Council was changed to " Organization of Turkic States Summits ", according to the decision of the heads of state.

Although the name change seems like a simple development, this alteration was of great importance. With this progress, it can be said that OTS has reached the stage of directing the world order. The eighth summit is a milestone in terms of the full participation of the member states and the decisions taken. At the summit, OTS published a 121-item final statement and the decisions taken based on these articles made an important breakthrough in the union of the Turkic world and the policies of the member states (Işıldak, 2022: 33-34).

In the final declaration of the Summit, the 44-day Homeland War, in which Azerbaijan won the victory against Armenia, was congratulated, and the statements that they recognized the demand of the Turkish Cypriot People to be invited to participate in the activities of the Organization of Turkic States signaled that the TRNC would soon be recognized by the member states of the Organization (Declaration of the Eighth Summit of the Organization of Turkish States, 2021).

Summits carried out under the name of the Turkic Council continued to be held under the name of OTS. After the first final declaration as OTS was published on 12.11.2021, in 2022, the ninth summit themed "New Era for Turkic Civilization: Towards Joint Development and Prosperity" in Samarkand city of Uzbekistan, and finally the "Disaster" on 16.03.2023 due to the earthquakes in Türkiye. An extraordinary summit was held in Ankara with the theme "Emergency Management and Humanitarian Aid".

Table 3. Organization of Turkic States Summits as a Continuation of Turkic Council Summits

| | Theme | Place/Date | Summit Declaration Statement |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| 8th Summit | Green Technologies and Smart Cities in the Digital Age | İstanbul/Türkiye 12.11.2021 | 8th Summit Declaration 12.11.2021 |
| 9th Summit | A New Era for Turkic Civilization: Towards Common Development and Prosperity | Samarkand/Uzbekistan 11.11.2022 | 9th Summit Declaration 11.11.2022 |
| 2nd Extraordinary Summit | Disaster-Emergency Management and Humanitarian Help | Ankara/Türkiye 16.03.2023 | 2nd Extraordinary Summit Declaration 16.03.2023 |

Source: <https://www.turkicstates.org/tr/zirveler>

3. ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES

At first glance, the founding purpose of the Organization can be defined as strengthening the relations between the Turkic states. Türkiye ranks first among the founding members of the organization, along with Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Uzbekistan joined the organization in 2019. Hungary and Turkmenistan are among the countries participating in the meeting as observers. Therefore, the group currently consists of Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. It is foreseen that Hungary and Turkmenistan may become members of the organization in the future by participating in the organization's meeting as observers.

3.1. Institutional Structure of OTS

The institutional structure of OTS as an international organization has been determined by its founding documents. The Council of Heads of State is the main decision-making body of the structure and consists of the heads of state of the member states. Currently, the heads of state of Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and other member states are members of the organization. Based on the principle of fair administration, the term of office of the President of the Council of Heads of State is carried out respectively by the heads of state of the member states (Mammadlı, 2022: 145-146).

According to the Nakhchivan Agreement, which is the founding contract of the organization, the main organs of the organization are: Council of Heads of State, Council of Foreign Ministers, Senior Officials Committee, Aksakallar Council and the Secretariat.

Council of Heads of State: The council meets once a year. It is also possible to hold extraordinary meetings of the Council of Heads of State with the approval of the parties. As a rule, the place of the

meeting is determined in a systematic way according to the alphabetical order of the English names of the states. The location of the Extraordinary Council of Heads of State is determined by the consensus of the states. Following the Summit, the host country holds the term presidency of OTS until the next Council of Heads of State meeting (Nakhchivan Agreement, Article 8).

The Council of Heads of State continues its activities with regular meetings within the scope of the following topics (Nakhchivan Agreement, Article 5):

- Evaluation of the interaction between the parties for the resolution of existing international problems,
- Determining the priority cooperation issues of OTS,
- Evaluation of the annual activities of OTS.

Council of Foreign Ministers: Meetings of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs are held, as a rule, at the place where the Council of Heads of State meeting is held and before the meeting. The place and time of the extraordinary meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers shall be determined following the approval of the member states. The Council of Foreign Ministers considers issues related to the work on the agenda of the OTS. It determines the agenda of the meetings of the Council of Heads of State, the international issues to be discussed at the meeting and the issues of interest to the member states. It also approves the staff structure and financial report of the Secretariat (Nakhchivan Agreement, Article 6).

Senior Officers Committee: The Senior Officials Committee has at least one representative of the member states. The task of coordinating the activities of the Secretariat is the responsibility of the Senior Officials Committee. It evaluates and approves the draft documents prepared by the

Secretariat prior to submission to the Council of Foreign Ministers for approval by the Council of Heads of State. The Meeting of the Senior Officials Committee is held, as a rule, immediately before the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Nakhchivan Agreement, Article 7).

Council of Elders: Council of Elders is the permanent consultation body of the Organization of Turkic States. The legal basis for the activities of the Council of Elders, including financial matters, is the regulation adopted by the Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Almaty on 20 October 2011, as well as Article 9 of the Nakhchivan Agreement. Council of Elders carries out its activities in the context of common history, language, culture and traditions, based on the Turkic World (Nakhchivan Agreement, Article 9).

Council of Elders representatives are chosen for four years by the member states from respected and well-known people who have devoted themselves to the Turkic World. Each elected representative has equal representation. As a rule, the Council of Elders convenes in sessions, twice a year, in Turkic Language Centers or in a meeting room agreed by the parties. The head of state of the country where the meeting is held presides over these sessions. Council of Elders resolutions and recommendations are an advisory to the Council of Heads of State and the OTS Council of Foreign Ministers. (Host Country Agreement).

The Secretariat: The Secretariat has been established as the permanent executive body in order to fulfill the purposes and duties of OTS. The parties decided to establish the headquarters of the OTS Secretariat in Istanbul permanently, in accordance with the Host Country agreement signed in Ankara on 27 December 2011. The building allocated by the Republic of Türkiye in Beşiktaş Balmumcu district has immunity and carries out the activities of OTS (Nakhchivan Agreement, Article 10).

3.2. Cooperation Activities of OTS

With globalization, it became more complicated for countries to survive on their own and to transfer their cultural and social values to future generations by preserving them. Political developments in the last century have caused great changes in the borders of the countries and reshaped the world map. In the midst of this wave of change, the Turkic Republics declared their independence and took their place in the new world order. This difficult process has made cooperation and joint action among the Turkic aristocratic community a

necessity rather than a choice in many areas (Mert, 2015: 274). In order to fulfill this obligation, adapt to the new world order and act together, the Turkic Republics signed bilateral cooperation agreements in various fields Canuzakov, Geri and Demirhan 2018: 201).

Another important document in this regard is the "Turkic World 2040 Vision" document approved at the eighth summit. The document states that a strategic perspective is necessary to mitigate the effects of global trends on countries. The Turkic World 2040 Vision document's vision is based on the needs of regional communities while taking into account the evolving nature of the international system. The letter states that the organization's resilience is derived from the country's common language, culture and history as a whole.

The vision document, which aims to develop Turkic cooperation, offers political and strategic benefits to member states. Strategic interests arising from joint projects brings citizens of member states closer. On the other hand, political interests can be interpreted as the contributions of member states to the solution of regional and global problems they face for cooperation. One of the aims of the organization is to strengthen and develop cooperation within the framework of trust and respect, to create areas of solidarity and to build the organization by linking common interests and brotherhood among member states.

The vision document is a joint statement of heads of state and contains an action plan. In the 2040 Vision Paper, Heads of State declared their continued commitment to OTS to ensure its success. While the document emphasizes political and security cooperation, political consultations on foreign policy issues among member states, increased cooperation and coordination with institutions operating in this direction are envisaged.

Issues related to the development of economic cooperation are also included in the vision document, "to carry out studies to provide capital, services, technology and free movement among member states, to develop economic growth policies, to create joint infrastructure projects and to assist in their financing, to encourage investments in the region, to encourage young people and supporting women entrepreneurs".

According to the vision document, the future goals of the member states are to coordinate policies in the field of ICT (information and communication technology), to formulate plans and projects in the field of e-government and e-services, to establish

and strengthen cooperation in the field of research, trade, transport, health and education, etc. . giving importance to space cooperation and encouraging scientific cooperation. The Vision 2040 document also envisages cooperation with international organizations, humanitarian aid and development cooperation, and cooperation with third parties (Türk Dünyası 2040 Vizyonu, 2022).

3.2.1. Political and Military Cooperation

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, six independent heads of state of the Turkic Republics came together and fully expressed their desire to form a union similar to the European Union. However, although the process was interrupted by wrong steps taken or not, the fact that the goals and targets set in 1992 were achieved in 2021 is an indication of the continuation of the cooperation (Zorlu, 2019: 29).

This process, which started with the Turkic speaking heads of state summit in 1992, was continued by foundations, associations and international organizations. In 2009, the umbrella organization of the Turkic Council made a breakthrough and finally, solid foundations for institutionalization were laid at the OTS Summit in 2021. The importance and necessity of this umbrella organization has been revealed with three important decisions taken in the process that started with the 1992 Summit.

1. Free movement of persons, goods and services,
2. Establishment of a joint bank,
3. Shipment of all natural resources to Europe via Türkiye (Işıldak, 2022: 41).

Established as a part of multidimensional activities aimed at integrating the countries of the Turkic world politically, economically, culturally with each other and with the world, OTS prioritizes the values, principles, interests of the region and all these functions. In this context, the integration efforts of the Turkic world reveal the ancient importance of this geography. Thus, OTS paves the way for being a stable and developed center in and around itself (Amreyev, 2022: 1-2).

OTS also offers important opportunities for military cooperation. Agreements signed between Türkiye and other Turkic Republics and bilateral agreements in the military field have rapidly increased their influence in various fields. While the alliances established by many nations based on ethnic and religious partnerships gained ground in the world public opinion, Türkiye could not fully utilize the opportunities to form alliances with the Central Asian Turkic states, which have ancient histories

and religious values. However, in recent years, it has emerged as a model country that stands out with its effective foreign policy, especially in the Caucasus and Central Asia (Işıldak, 2022: 42).

International security policy is one of the important issues of the new world order. Intelligence and defense studies have recently started to take place in world academic life. Traditional security strategies have now begun to evolve into hybrid security and hybrid intelligence strategies. The traditional war mode has started to emerge with a new war mode and Türkiye has begun to shape and manage this new system. In this context, the development of new security and intelligence policies and partnerships among the countries of the region are of great importance. In particular, common security based on intelligence will be able to bring important solutions to the border and internal diplomatic security problems of the countries in the region. (Sezgin, Gök and Aksu, 2022: 234).

It is possible to see the most important examples of this military cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye. Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) donated by Türkiye to Azerbaijan can be given as an example to this issue. Therefore, sharing military technology and creating military unity will change all balances both in the world and in Central Asia (Ertem, 2023: 91).

3.2.2. Language Unity

Considering that the creation of the organization is related to language, Turkic speaking countries can be shown as candidate members to this organization. But is speaking Turkish enough to become a member? The border of Turkic-speaking peoples stretches from Siberia to the South Pole, from China to the United States. It can even be mentioned as a language used all over the world. Language unity is an indispensable element of preserving and building national culture. Therefore, the Organization of Turkic States has laid the foundations of this consciousness. The name of the Organization of Turkic States is the name of the possibility of walking to the future with a common language union, a common historical consciousness (Ertem, 2023: 79-80).

A common language is important in this regard. It is necessary to establish a common technological language in the Asian countries of the Turkic geography, where the influence of Russian is high. It is thought that Türkiye-Azerbaijan media cooperation can set an example in this regard (Bıyıklı, 2018: 108).

3.2.3. Economic and Commercial Cooperation

Economic issues were brought to the fore within the framework of the themes determined at the first Turkic Council Summit held in Almaty with the theme of economic and commercial cooperation. In this context, the contract for the establishment of the Turkic Speaking Countries Mixed Trade Council was signed on 20 October 2011 for the re-establishment of economic and commercial relations and regional economic activities in the Turkic World (Terzioğlu, 2013: 70). The objectives of the council are to promote economic cooperation in general, to develop multilateral cooperation among the signatories of the Turkic council, and to carry out joint activities in the fields of trade, industry, investment and technology while protecting the interests of all parties (Bıyıklı, 2018: 67).

In order to increase mutual investments and improve relations between the private sectors of the member states, the "Joint Investment Portal" was put into operation under the leadership of the Turkic Council. The restructuring of the Turkish Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) as a strong mechanism for the development of cooperation in the field of trade and investment among member countries and the two general meetings of TCCI in 2017 were highly appreciated. The new Turkish Business Portal (www.turkicbusiness.com) was established by OTS to enable companies in Turkic-speaking countries to communicate and to establish faster partnerships while making investments (Bircan, 2021: 30).

3.2.4. Cooperation in Culture and Education

The most important feature that distinguishes the Organization of Turkic States from other regional unions and organizations is the common historical and cultural unity of the states within it. In this context, OTS 2nd Summit was held with the theme of "Education, Science and Cultural Cooperation" (Işıldak, 2022: 50).

Since the independence process, two higher education institutions have attracted attention in the fields of education, culture and art. The first is the Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University, which was established by the Kyrgyz Republic and Türkiye in 1995 in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, in line with the joint will of the Kazakh-Turkish International Turkic Council members. The second, Hoca Ahmet Yesevi International Turkish-Kazakh University, is the joint state university of Türkiye and Kazakhstan with an international, autonomous status. These two higher education institutions, which are the most important, respected and

forward-thinking higher education institutions in Central Asia, continue to serve education and training activities in the field of culture and arts as well as in the international arena in accordance with their founding mission.

Apart from these higher education institutions, TÜRKSOY (International Organization of Turkic Culture), TİKA (Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency), TÜDEV (Turkish State and Communities Friendship, Brotherhood and Cooperation Foundation), TÜRKPA (Turkish States Parliamentary Assembly), TÜRKSAV (Turkish World Writers and Coordination Association Artists Foundation), Yunus Emre Institute, Turkish Academy, Turkish Culture and Heritage Foundation and similar institutions continue to provide great services to the culture and art of the Turkic World (Başbuğ ve Sivrikaya, 2018:155).

3.2.5. Cooperation in Tourism

It is very important for the citizens of the member countries of the Organization to get to know each other and the historical and cultural riches of other member countries through tourism. In order to share the unique values of the Turkic world with the whole world, the members of the alliance must know and understand their own values. The Modern Silk Road project, organized in line with this common purpose, will be valid for Türkiye located on the tourism route. Within this framework, two trips were organized in 2017, introducing the modern Silk Roads to the world, with the participation of 59 journalists, bloggers and regional guides (<http://www.modernsilkkroadtour.com>).

This area can be expanded through the signing of a comprehensive tourism cooperation agreement between the member states of the alliance. In this context, by matching the cities to be determined in various countries with the urban projects implemented, each country can choose its own citizens and establish a common tourism bridge with these cities. In this way, a cultural and tourism bridge is formed by combining the historical ties of the past. These studies and organizations will help bring together countries of the same origin that have been separated from each other for many years (Işıldak, 2022: 52).

4. ORGANIZATIONS RELATED TO OTS

After 1990, with the declaration of independence of the brotherly Turkic Republics one by one, a new area was opened in front of Turkic tribes and communities where different opportunities were presented. Institutions and organizations such as

TURKPA (Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries), TURKSOY, Turkic Speaking Countries Cooperation Council, Turkic Business Council, Turkic Academy, Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation for the development of cultural and economic relations with the Turkic world since 1990 Strategic cooperation agreements were signed with some Turkic Republics (Mert, 2015: 274).

4.1. International Organization of Turkic Culture (TÜRKSÖY)

The Turkish Cultural International Organization (TURKSOY), the UNESCO of the Turkish world, was established in 1993 after the founding agreement was signed by the Ministers of Culture of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Türkiye. These countries were followed by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Altai, Tuva, Saha, Khakassia and Gagauz joined the Turkish National Union as an observer member. TURKSOY carries out activities to strengthen the culture and sincere unity and brotherhood of the Turkic people, to transfer the common Turkic culture to future generations and to introduce it to the world. In this respect, it is the most important cultural diplomacy tool of OTS. For us, the activities of TURKSOY are decided by the permanent council of culture ministers of the member states. Decisions taken here are also carried out by the General Secretariat (Bıyıklı, 2018: 41-45). TURKSOY stands for "International Organization of Turkic Culture" at the 26th Term Meeting held in Baku on October 17, 2009 (Erkiner and Eray, 2022: 236).

The activities carried out by TURKSOY are as follows (TÜRKSÖY, 2023):

Permanent Council Meetings: Activities carried out by TURKSOY are determined by the Permanent Council of Ministers of Culture of Turkish-speaking Countries. The decisions of the Standing Council are carried out by the General Secretariat of TURKSOY.

Traditional Events: TURKSOY offers scientists and artists of the Turkic world the opportunity to exchange experiences through traditional events such as painters' conferences, opera days and literary conferences.

Nevruz Celebrations: Nevruz is a common tradition of the Turkic world and has been gifted to all humanity through the work of TURKSOY.

Scientific research: TURKSOY has carried out a series of scientific studies, including language, literature, culture and art, in order to pass on the

common history of the Turkic peoples, commemoration years, commemoration events and activities, and the cultural heritage left by the world's leading personalities in Türkiye to future generations.

Cultural Capital of the Turkic World: One of the innovations brought by TURKSOY, which constantly improves and renews itself, is the cultural capital of the Turkic world. Many cities in the Türkiye have been chosen as the cultural capitals of the Turkic world, adding color to the cultural and artistic life of our cities. It is an organization hosted by a city from the Turkic world, determined by TURKSOY every year. Bursa in 2022 and Shusha in 2023 were chosen as the Cultural Capital of the Turkic World.

Special Projects: Opera, oratorio and concerts are some of the special projects realized by TURKSOY.

4.2. The Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA)

Today, parliamentary diplomacy is gaining more and more importance for the development of cooperation between states in the international arena. Due to the practice of parliamentary diplomacy in various countries, various parliamentary organizations have been established among them.

At the Seventh Turkic State Summit held in 2001, Kazakhstan expressed the need to establish such a parliamentary organization among the Turkic states. In this direction, Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan signed the Istanbul Agreement on November 21, 2008 and TÜRKPAA was established (Erkiner, and Eray, 2022: 234-235).

TURKPA is trying to fulfill its important mission as an important platform between the parliaments and peoples of the member states and tries to provide legal cooperation with international organizations as the representatives of the Turkic-speaking member states (Sarıaslan, 2015: 592).

4.3. International Turkic Academy (UTA)

At the Ninth Turkic-Speaking Heads of State Summit held in Nakhchivan on October 3, 2009, Kazakh President Nazarbayev proposed the establishment of an international scientific center dedicated to studying the Turkic world. As a result of the second summit held in Bishkek on August 23, 2012, International Turkic Academy was established in order to coordinate the joint science of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Türkiye in the fields of language, literature, culture and history. The foundation contract was signed in order to examine

and evaluate the contributions of the ancient Turkic civilization to humanity based on primary sources (Erkiner, and Eray, 2022: 234-235).

International Turkic Academy continues to work on terminology and a universal alphabet. The common Latin alphabet recognized by the International Turkic Academy is currently used on the official website. The International Turkic Academy also prepares the concept of the Türkiye harmonization/integration program. Publishing its first issue in 2014, GLOBAL-Türk continues its publication life as an international scientific journal that comprehensively covers issues such as social and economic processes related to the development of Turkic countries, international relations, formation of national identities, and language policies. It takes the scientific integration of Turkic-speaking countries and Eurasian countries and regions and the creation of a single information environment as a mission. The journal accepts articles in Kazakh, Turkish, Russian and English (www.twesco.org/tr/edition).

International Turkic Academy aims to be a science and information platform for the Turkic world. The Academy also has an open Turkic library containing more than 35,000 rare works and a mini Turkic museum. This website offers virtual tours of the museum and library with all the news and program information about the College. The site aims to be the only site for the exchange of scientific and cultural world information between Turkic-speaking peoples of the same origin (Bıyıklı, 2018: 80).

4.4. Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation

On August 23, 2012, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan signed the Charter of the Turkish Culture and Heritage Foundation at the Bishkek summit. The purpose of the foundation is to preserve, research and promote the culture and heritage of the Turkic-speaking communities by supporting their activities in culture, education, science, human rights, tourism, information, communication and other priority areas.

5. CONCLUSION

The formation under the name of the Organization of Turkic States is an international organization that emerged as a result of 30 years of efforts in the Turkic World. After the 1990s, especially neoliberal policies have made international organizations also important actors of the international system. International organizations are becoming a power by creating an important synergy with the states within their bodies. In this context, OTS member

countries have serious power potential in the fields of geopolitics, economy, national defense, energy and culture, and OTS has a tremendous potential for collective power.

OTS, which aims to develop multilateral cooperation between Turkic speaking countries by making maximum use of the historical and cultural riches of the member/observer states; It aimed to strengthen the environment of mutual friendship, brotherhood and trust among the states of the Turkic world, to strengthen political solidarity, and to increase cooperation opportunities in economic, social, cultural and technical fields.

Türkiye's general policy towards the OTS countries can be summarized as supporting these countries to maintain their existence as states that are politically and economically stable, in friendship and cooperation with each other and with their neighbors, in harmony with the international community and assimilating democratic values.

The revitalization of the strategic trade and energy routes in the east-west direction, the possibility of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus joining the organization as an independent state, and the development of global cooperation opportunities are important opportunities for the organization. In the long run, it is predicted that OTS will become an undeniable power in the vital interests of the Eurasian region and one of the dominant forces in the regional power balances.

How the development process of cooperation and integration between Turkic States will progress in the upcoming period is closely followed by regional and global actors. It is foreseen that the Organization of Turkic States can take its place in the international platform as a regional power if a realistic and sustainable cooperation and integration is ensured with the right strategies and policies to be applied in every field.

Operational partnerships and collaborations between Turkic states are shaped within the framework of both regional and global developments. OTS carries out its cooperation in the economic, cultural and political fields within the framework of the national interests of each country and in accordance with the international conjuncture within the scope of obligations arising from international law and UN General Principles. In this context, these states, which have historical ties of brotherhood and friendship, will continue to operate within the framework of basic foreign policy principles that respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of neighboring countries, do not interfere in their internal affairs, and are based on

the peaceful resolution of disputes. In this context, it is predicted that OTS will become an important actor in the cooperative development of Eurasia in the near future, with the strategies and policies it follows/will follow in line with common interests in the coming period.

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