

# OTS Summit Special

PUBLICITY

## Summit of Organization of Turkic States held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan

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The summit of the leaders of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was held on Nov. 11 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

The presidents of Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkiye, the prime minister of Hungary and the head of the upper house of the Parliament of Turkmenistan participated in the event.

The summit took place under the slogan "A new era of Turkic civilization: On the way to common development and prosperity."

The Organization of Turkic States is an interstate bloc, established with the aim of expanding cooperation among Turkish-speaking countries in the fields of politics, economics, science, education, transport and tourism.

At the beginning of the summit, the Republic of Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said that while preparing for the Summit, Uzbekistan thoroughly analyzed the activities of the organization.

The president emphasized that it should be recognized that significant work has been accomplished to develop multilateral relations among the Turkic states. "Meanwhile, it is also very true that our great potential and vast opportunities are not being fully exploited," the president said.

The president accented that first of all, it is necessary to strengthen the trade and economic pillar of cooperation among the Turkic states.

Mutual trade among member countries constitutes only 4% of their total foreign trade, while the rest of it corresponds to the share of



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third countries, the president said.

"In order to fundamentally change the situation in this strategic direction, to ensure free movement of trade, investment and services, member countries put forward the initiative on the establishment of a 'space of new economic opportunities' within the organization," the president said.

To implement this plan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev proposed to hold an annual **International Turkic Economic Forum** involving the member and observer states of the organization as well as leading world business representatives.

The president said that another urgent issue of strategic importance on the agenda is strengthening **transport connectivity**.

In this regard, based on the program adopted in Samarkand on Nov. 11, the president suggested that transport ministers of member countries develop a clear plan and effective mechanisms for joint cooperation by the end of the year.

The president emphasized that members states should focus on increasing the competitiveness of transit corridors in the region of Turkic states, introducing the most favorable tariffs for business and

creating modern transport infrastructure.

In this regard, Uzbekistan called on the states of the organization to join the system of electronic transport permits exchange recently introduced between Turkiye and Uzbekistan.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev mentioned that the First Turkic Agricultural Forum held this year in Tashkent clearly showed that Turkic states have great potential in ensuring **food security**.

"We should strengthen our practical steps in this direction and deepen our cooperation based on specif-

ic projects," the president said.

In particular, the president proposed the following:

**First**, it is high time to adopt a multilateral agreement within the organization to create an effective system of food supply based on the needs of global and domestic markets and production capacities of member countries.

**Second**, it is important to establish a comprehensive partnership between the Organization of Turkic States and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to accelerate innovation, modern knowledge and advanced technology in the industry.

**Third**, it is essential to hold the Turkic Agricultural Forum on a regular basis and organize an international **smart** agricultural exhibition at its second conference.

As proposed by Uzbekistan, 2022 was declared the Year of Support for Youth Initiatives within the Organization of Turkic States. As a part of this, the city of Bukhara received the status of the youth capital of the Turkic world.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev also proposed to hold next year the International Congress of Science and Innovation of Youth of the Turkic World in Uzbekistan.

Within its framework, the government of Uzbekistan plans to organize extensive meetings of ministers of innovation and education, rectors of universities and young leaders, talented youth and elders of the organization.

"In order to render a systematic tone to our work and ensure effectiveness, it would be appropriate to introduce the position of the Deputy Secretary General of the Organization for Youth Affairs," Shavkat

Mirziyoyev said.

The president emphasized that another priority direction is ensuring robust security in our region.

In such a complex situation, the law enforcement agencies and security services of member states of the organization should be in constant contact and strengthen cooperation in the areas of combating terrorism, extremism, radicalization of youth, human and drug trafficking and ensuring public and cyber security, the president said.

Along with this, Uzbekistan expresses its readiness to organize the next meeting of the Secretaries of the Security Council of the states of our organization in Uzbekistan.

"Today, the complex situation in neighboring Afghanistan is certainly a source of great concern to all of us," Shavkat Mirziyoyev said. "We should never forget about turning the situation in this country [Afghanistan] to a positive direction. We encourage regular dialogue among our foreign ministers to develop a common approach to the Afghan issue."

The president added: "Our Turkic world has an enviable great history, great ancestors and incomparable wealth. And I believe that the Turkic world has a great future. No doubt, we shall create this future together with our hardworking, magnanimous and noble people. Our summit in the ancient city of Samarkand shall usher in a new stage of growth in the modern history of civilization of the Turkic world. Today, the **Samarkand Declaration**, which expresses such a noble idea, shall be adopted. I would like to thank you for your support of our proposal to declare 2023 as the Year of the Rise of Turkic Civilization within our organization."