

## Digital Achievements of the Organization of Turkic States

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**Abstract:** The idea of creating the Turkic Council was to deepen cooperation between Turkic-speaking countries, contribute to regional peace and stability. The basis of cooperation between the Turkic-speaking countries is a common historical and cultural heritage, a common language. This organization was established on the initiative of Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on October 3, 2009, in the city of Nakhchivan (Azerbaijan), within the framework of which the Nakhichevan Agreement was signed on the establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States. The main goal of the organization is to strengthen trust and ties between fraternal countries, develop cooperation in trade, economy, transport, energy, tourism and the cultural and humanitarian sphere, coordinate efforts to ensure peace and security in the region.

**Keywords:** summit, organization, Turks, digitalization, transformation, memorandum.

At the VII Summit of the organization in Baku in October 2019, Uzbekistan became a full member of the organization. Thus, the number of members increased to five. After joining Uzbekistan, it became the second country after Turkey in terms of population in this organization.

At the summit in Cholpan-Ata in September 2018, Hungary received observer status. After Hungary received the observer status in Budapest, the European representation of the UTC was opened. The European office not only strengthens relations between the UTC and Hungary, but also promotes the expansion of cooperation with the EU and European institutions.

In November 2021 at the VIII Summit of the Leaders of the Turkic Council, the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (CCTS, Turkic Council) was renamed the Organization of Turkic States. (OTG)

The main goal of the organization is to strengthen trust and ties between fraternal countries, develop cooperation in trade, economy, transport, energy, tourism and the cultural and humanitarian sphere, coordinate efforts to ensure peace and security in the region.

According to the agreement, countries should adhere to a common position on foreign policy issues, coordinate actions to combat terrorism and crime, create a favorable environment for trade and investment, ensure comprehensive economic development, and expand cooperation in the fields of science, technology, education and culture.

Over the past 13 years, important steps have been taken to develop cooperation between Turkic-speaking countries and strengthen the organization, the Council of Presidents, the Council of Foreign Ministers, the Council of Elders, the Committee of Senior Officials have been established, and six summits of the organization have been held.

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At the eighth summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States, in his speech, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that the theme of the summit - "Green" technologies and "smart" cities in the age of digitalization - is important for the cooperation of Turkic-speaking states. At this summit, more than 10 documents were adopted, including the Final Declaration of the Summit and the Vision of the Turkic World-2040.

Also, President Sh. Mirziyoyev took the initiative at this summit to create a permanent platform of experts and IT specialists for the exchange of experience and the transfer of innovations in the creation of smart cities. As a first step, an expert conference was held in September 2022 in order to strengthen industrial cooperation and create, on the basis of specialized organizations of the Member States, Engineering and Technology Centers for the development of joint projects in this direction.

On September 25, 2022, the ceremony of signing the Memorandum between the technoparks of the UTC member states took place. The participants of the agreement are Sabah Lab (Azerbaijan), HTP (Kyrgyzstan), Bilisim Vadisi (Turkey), Bilkent Cyberpark (Turkey), IT Park Uzbekistan (Uzbekistan). Our country is represented by the international technopark of IT start-ups Astana Hub. [1]

According to the CEO of Astana Hub Magzhan Madiev, "In the future, the possibility of creating the Association of Modern Technoparks of the Organization in the region and integrating IT platforms of key IT technoparks of the UTC countries will be considered. And the implementation of the Digital Nomad IT residency program, which is aimed at increasing the mobility of IT start-ups among the member states of the Organization, will be discussed.

According to Chubak Temirov, director of the High-Tech Park of Kyrgyzstan, "The digital platform is one of the best initiatives that unites the countries of Central Asia. For the global market, our countries are very small, but together, as Turkic-speaking countries, we can reach a higher level. We do not compete here, we just complement and improve each other – each country has its own unique qualities and technologies."

Also, within the framework of the forum, an exhibition of technoparks was held, with the participation of 13 technoparks of the main OPG countries, such as Turkey, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan. Further, on September 29, 2022, the leaders of technology parks held a panel discussion on initiatives and projects as part of the development of an innovation ecosystem in their countries. They discussed international cooperation in order to create favorable conditions for entrepreneurs and IT specialists from the ATC member states.

The business program of the forum included 45 panel sessions. There was a presentation of an exhibition of technoparks, an alley of IT startups, an exhibition of IT schools, an IT job fair, and the Astana Hub Battle competition.

Within the framework of the forum, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the analytical centers of the UTC countries, which is aimed at developing further mechanisms for interaction and deepening the process of expert support for the activities of the organization.

The next event is that the capital of Uzbekistan hosted the VIII Meeting of official centers for foreign policy studies of member countries and observers of the Organization of Turkic States (OTG), where experts exchanged views.

The expert meeting on the digital transformation of economic sectors, organized for the first time in Uzbekistan by the Institute for Strategic and Interregional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, brought together over 60 prominent representatives of leading think tanks from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Hungary, as well as the UTC Secretariat. The expert

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meeting brought together over 60 prominent representatives of the leading analytical centers of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Hungary, Turkmenistan, the Turkic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as well as the UTC Secretariat.

According to the Deputy Director of KazISS Sanat Kushkumbaev, the digital transformation of supply chains will allow building a communication network and efficient functioning of the transport and logistics infrastructure within the organization of the Turkic countries.

He stressed the relevance of discussing the development of transit corridors, digital technologies that will accelerate economic cooperation between the UTC countries, especially during the observed geopolitical turbulence.

According to experts, these areas will enhance the economic growth of the UTC countries by 15-18%, with the simultaneous implementation of reforms and changes. There is a mutual understanding between data experts on how and how to move.

The tasks of our think tanks are to form an agenda for our governments for further discussion,” said Sanat Kushkumbaev.

Further, the expert identified a number of key digital technologies, the demand for which in the field of logistics and supply chain management will only increase in the near future. [2]

First, as a result of applying the solution to the problem of information transfer, the recurrence of financial flows, and the spread of chain tracing, the scope of detection technology will increase.

Second, to solve the problem of business logistics and search and investigation of the decision-making process on the age of the destination of the use of artificial intelligence and Internet of things technologies.

Thirdly, the massive use of cloud technologies in logistics will ensure high reliability and efficiency, as well as reduce costs. In addition, "cloud technologies" are protected by new services for processing, storing and transferring data.

Fourthly, the use of autonomous vehicles (unmanned vehicles) provides transportation costs by at least 15%, which absorbs the decrease in the final cost of the goods.

For example, the share of member countries of the Organization of Turkic Speaking States in the total trade turnover of Uzbekistan is 17%, Kazakhstan - 8.1%, Azerbaijan - 14.5%. At the same time, according to the special total volume of trade with the participating countries, Turkey accounts for almost 10 billion dollars. This is a shock caused by the fact that the trade of the Turkic states is mainly focused on their latitude.

In general, according to representatives of KazISS, the introduction of innovations in logistics becomes more profitable than the productivity of the transport and communication system of the UTC member countries. At the same time, this process requires harmonization and taking into account the interests of all participants in transportation, including business circles and coverage.

**Table 1. UTC countries in the e-government development rating [3]**

country	position (2022)	score (2022)	position (2020)	score (2020)
Kazakhstan	28	0,8628	29	0,8375
Uzbekistan	69	0,7265	87	0,6665
Kyrgyzstan	81	0,6977	83	0,6749
Azerbaijan	83	0,6937	70	0,7100
Tajikistan	129	0,5039	133	0,4649
Turkmenistan	137	0,4808	158	0,4034

According to the WIPO report "Global Index (GNII)" for 2022, from the advanced innovative points of view related to the economics of the economy in the context of the regions of Uzbekistan, are important in Central Asia. And Turkey in South Africa and Asia, which entered the world top 40 (37th).

According to the results of March 2020, our country is ahead of countries such as Georgia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan in terms of fixed Internet speed. In 2022, many countries are experiencing a decline in this indicator due to the pandemic, but nevertheless, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are in the lead. (Table 1)

Of no small importance are promising areas of cooperation in the digitalization of transport and logistics systems of the UTC countries. The desire of the UTC countries to expand the introduction of digital technologies creates conditions for combining efforts to further increase practical cooperation in the field of digitalization, including the joint development of electronic interregional trade and commodity exchange.

The importance of practical cooperation between the Turkic countries in the transport and logistics sector occupies a special place in the strategic document "Vision of the Turkic World - 2040" adopted by the UTC countries. Moreover, the focus is on ensuring the transport connectivity of countries, simplifying customs and transport procedures, including through digitalization.

The main attention is focused on facilitating transport and transit procedures in the ATC member states through the use of modern digital tools. These are, first of all, eTIR, ePermit and eCMR.

An example of this fact is the launch at the end of 2021 of the pilot project "Digital TIR" between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, and on March 18, 2022, the launch ceremony of the "DIGITAL TIR" project between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan was held in cooperation with the customs authorities of both countries and the International Automobile Union transport (IRU),

The Organization of Turkic States, for the first time in the world, entered into the implementation of the ePermit project between Uzbekistan and Turkey in a test mode, and at the next stage there is an agreement on the implementation of this project with Kazakhstan. In addition, work is underway to introduce the eCMR tool in the ATC countries together with the UN Economic Commission for Europe.

Experts and economists of Uzbekistan note that the basis of the above activities is the "New Uzbekistan" Strategy, which provides for the expansion of "digital corridors" and transit opportunities in the transport system for foreign trade, as well as an increase in the volume of transit cargo turnover, as well as an increase in the volume of transit cargo transportation up to 15 million tons in the implementation of the construction of railway lines "Termez - Mazar-i-Sharif - Kabul - Peshawar" and "China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan". At the present stage, the export-import and transit communication of Uzbekistan is carried out along 9 international transport corridors, 8 of which pass through at least one UTC member country. Thus, about 18% of regional railways pass through the territory of Uzbekistan, through which about 11% of all regional freight traffic passes.

The countries of Central Asia are key links in the Central Asian region as the main transport hub at the intersection of routes in the direction of North-South and East-West. In addition, all Central Asian countries do not have access to the oceans. And Uzbekistan is one of two countries in the world, twice remote from the oceans, which significantly increases transport costs. World studies confirm the fact that landlocked countries spend twice as much on transportation costs. For the countries of Central Asia, transport costs in many cases reach 60% of the cost of imported goods.

The result of all the above projects is the integration of digital solutions that will turn the countries of the Central Asian region into a bridge that will connect the countries of the UTC with China and South Asia, and will also ensure the integration of the countries of the region into global supply chains.

The continuation of active digital cooperation is the IX summit of the Organization of Turkic States (OTG) held in Samarkand - the first after the renaming of the Turkic Council into the UTC. [4]

In addition to the host in the person of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the heads of the countries participating in the UTC took part in the high-level event:

- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan,
- President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev,
- Presidents of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan Sadyr Japarov and Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.
- Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, observer country,
- Chairman of the Halk Maslakhaty Milli Gengesh (National Assembly), and former President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Turkmenistan. The main goal of the summit is to open up new prospects and opportunities for practical cooperation between the Turkic countries.

The chairmanship of Uzbekistan in the UTC gave a new impetus to the institutional and organizational development of the organization. According to UTC Secretary General Baghdad Amreev, the main issue of the summit was the creation of a joint investment fund, which all countries approved at the summit in Samarkand. "This is a huge step forward in our economic integration," he stressed.

A number of documents were signed regarding transport corridors, simplification of customs procedures, preferential trade.

The summit adopted the Documents signed during the summit, including:

- Samarkand Declaration
- UTC Strategy for 2022-2026 as part of the implementation of the concept "Vision of the Turkic world 2040"
- Protocol on Amendments to the Nakhchivan Agreement on the Establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States
- Decision on the adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the Organization of Turkic States
- Decision on the appointment of the Secretary General of the Organization of Turkic States and his deputies, as well as the President and Vice President of the Turkic Academy
- Decision on the establishment of the Turkic Investment Fund
- Decision on the "Trade Facilitation Strategy of the Organization of Turkic States"
- Decision on an agreement on international combined transport between the governments of the member states of the Organization of Turkic States
- Transport Connectivity Program
- Decision on an agreement on the simplification of the customs corridor between the governments of the member states of the Organization of Turkic States

"On the memorandum of understanding between the relevant institutions of the member states of the Organization of Turkic States on digital personnel management systems."

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Of no small importance is the fact that the UTG is not a political or military alliance. It is exclusively a platform for joint prosperity and development based on cooperation in all spheres of life and economy.

The development strategy of the Organization of Turkic States is based on further commitment to the principles of inclusiveness and openness.

All initiatives and reforms used by the Turkic states are very important and need to be implemented as soon as possible.

For effective cooperation, it is important that the interaction between countries is based on the use of advanced digital technologies.

In conclusion, one can note the desire of the UTC countries to introduce digital technologies creates conditions for further building up practical cooperation in the field of digitalization, including joint efforts to develop electronic interregional trade and commodity exchange. [5]

The integration of digital solutions will make it possible to turn the countries of the Central Asian region into a bridge that will connect the countries of the UTC with China and South Asia, and will also ensure even deeper integration of the countries of the region into global supply chains and international transit cargo transportation.

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