



**O‘ZBEKISTON VA OZARBAYJONNING TURK DAVLATLARI  
TASHKILOTIDAGI FAOLIYATI: UMUMIY MAQSADLAR VA STRATEGIK  
HAMKORLIK**

**Jovhar Museyibzada**

*Tayanch doktorant va bosh mutaxassis*

*Farg‘ona davlat universiteti*

[jovharmuseyibzada@pf.fdu.uz](mailto:jovharmuseyibzada@pf.fdu.uz)

+998991277112

ORCID: 0009-0001-6059-2613

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqola O‘zbekiston va Ozarbayjonning Turkiy Davlatlar Tashkilotiga (TDT) qo‘shilishining tarixiy ahamiyatini va kontekstini o‘rganadi. 2009 yilda tashkil etilgan TDT, turkiyzabon davlatlar o‘rtasida siyosiy, iqtisodiy va madaniy sohalarda hamkorlikni rivojlantirishni maqsad qiladi. O‘zbekiston 2019 yilda tashkilotga qo‘shilib, turkiy xalqlar o‘rtasidagi hamkorlikni mustahkamladi. Maqolada O‘zbekiston va Ozarbayjonning TDT maqsadlarini ilgari surishdagi roli tahlil qilinib, ularning faoliyatining mintaqaviy integratsiya uchun ahamiyati o‘rganilgan. Natijada, turkiyzabon davlatlar o‘rtasida siyosiy va iqtisodiy birlashishni kuchaytirishda TDT muhim omil deb topilgan.

**Kalit so‘zlar:** Turkiy Davlatlar Tashkiloti, O‘zbekiston, Ozarbayjon, Mintaqaviy Hamkorlik, Turkiy Dunyo

**UZBEKISTAN AND AZERBAIJAN IN THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC  
STATES: SHARED GOALS AND STRATEGIC COOPERATION**

**Abstract:** This paper examines the historical context and significance of Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan’s participation in the Organization of Turkic States (OTS). The OTS, formed in 2009, aims to foster cooperation among Turkic-speaking countries across a range of political, economic, and cultural areas. Uzbekistan rejoined the organization in 2019, strengthening the collaboration between the Turkic nations. The paper analyzes the role of Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan in advancing OTS objectives and explores the implications of their cooperation for regional integration and international influence. The findings highlight the strategic importance of the OTS in enhancing the political and economic cohesion of Turkic-speaking countries.

**Key words:** Organization of Turkic States; Uzbekistan; Azerbaijan; Regional Cooperation; Turkic World

## УЗБЕКИСТАН И АЗЕРБАЙДЖАН В ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ТЮРКСКИХ ГОСУДАРСТВ: ОБЩИЕ ЦЕЛИ И СТРАТЕГИЧЕСКОЕ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО

**Аннотация:** Статья исследует исторический контекст и значение участия Узбекистана и Азербайджана в Организации тюркских государств (ОТГ). ОТГ, основанная в 2009 году, направлена на развитие сотрудничества между тюркоязычными странами в различных политических, экономических и культурных сферах. Участие Узбекистана в организации, возобновленное в 2019 году, укрепило сотрудничество между тюркскими государствами. В статье анализируется роль Узбекистана и Азербайджана в продвижении целей ОТГ и рассматриваются последствия их сотрудничества для региональной интеграции и международного влияния. Результаты подчеркивают стратегическое значение ОТГ для усиления политической и экономической сплоченности тюркоязычных стран.

**Ключевые слова:** Организация тюркских государств, Узбекистан, Азербайджан, Региональное сотрудничество, Тюркский мир

### INTRODUCTION

The Organization of Turkic States (OTS), known as the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States or Turkic Council until November 2021, was established in 2009 as an intergovernmental organization with the main objective of fostering comprehensive cooperation among Turkic-speaking countries. The Turkic Council was created based on the Nakhchivan Agreement signed during a summit held in Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan, in October 2009.

The organization tries to achieve cooperation among Turkic-speaking countries in various areas. Efforts are being made “to strengthen mutual confidence, friendship and good neighborhood among the Parties; maintain peace, strengthen security and confidence in the region and in the world as a whole; [the most importantly] search for common positions on foreign policy issues of mutual interest, including those in the framework of international organizations and at international fora; ... promote effective regional and bilateral cooperation in political, trade and economic, law enforcement, environmental, cultural, scientific-technical, military-technical, educational, energy, transportation, credit and finance areas and other areas of common interest... [6]”

Extensive cooperation across multiple fields within the OTS is reflected in various summits and initiatives. At the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summit in Astana, in November 2023, under the theme “TURKTIME” the organization put forward a unified vision for the Turkic World, with its guiding principles being encoded using the initial letters of ‘Traditions, Unification, Reforms, Knowledge, Trust, Investment, Mediation, and Energy [7]’. The “Turkic World Vision – 2040” document sets long-term goals for enhanced political, economic, and social cooperation, solidarity and integration, ensuring the region’s prosperity through shared projects, intellectual resources, and intergovernmental support [11].

Founding members of the OTS are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Türkiye. Relations of these countries go beyond political and economic cooperation and are determined by shared roots, religion, history, culture, and values [4]. To achieve abovementioned objectives, the organization operates related/affiliated organizations such as TURKSOY, Turkic Academy, TURKPA (Parliamentary Assembly), Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, the Union of Turkic Chamber of Commerce and Industry. For instance, TURKSOY engages in various activities, including implementing joint programs and projects to encompass cooperation in the fields of science and education; preserving, researching and popularizing shared cultural values; and promoting cultural exchanges to deepen ties amongst the Turkic Speaking people.

## **RESULTS: THE ROLE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF UZBEKISTAN AND AZERBAIJAN**

The Organization of Turkic States is built on strong and unique foundations that set it apart from many other international organizations. Javanshir Feyziyev, member of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan, in his book draws comparison between European Union – one of the most robust organizations with supranational elements. He argues that Europe has been primarily united by the stimulus to prevent future conflicts, while the OTS emerges from a deep-rooted ethno-political and cultural unity among Turkic nations. This unity is capable of fostering a powerful alliance and ‘political will’, one that may even surpass the cohesion seen in other international unions, positioning the OTS as a significant force, with the potential to drive globalization through internal integration [12].

Actually, the history of the OTS begins in the early 1990s. The meeting of Heads of Turkic Speaking States in Ankara in 1992, which brought together leaders from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Türkiye, is considered the inaugural summit and marked the beginning of multilateral cooperation among newly independent Turkic states. Subsequent summits were held in cities like Istanbul (in 1994), Bishkek (in 1995), and Tashkent (in 1996). The Tashkent Summit in 1996, hosted by Uzbekistan, was a key milestone where leaders emphasized the importance of regular multilateral consultations and the creation of a permanent Secretariat, which was later formally decided to be based in Türkiye following the Baku Summit in 2000.

However, in the first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century, under President Islam Karimov, Uzbekistan's participation in the format of Turkic cooperation became more restrained, as the country adopted a cautious and inward-looking policies, causing it to disengage from many subsequent summits and initiatives. Despite being active and playing decisive role in the early stages of the organization's formation, Uzbekistan's withdrawal later slowed down the process of establishing the Secretariat, thereby the organization itself [8].

Institutionalization of the OTS, in 2009, was “overshadowed by the absence of Uzbekistan [3]” when leaders from Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan met in Nakhchivan to formalize the organization. Uzbekistan's shift in foreign policy came under President Shavkat

Mirziyoyev, who signaled the country's renewed interest in the OTS. In September 2019, Uzbekistan ratified the Nakhchivan Agreement, marking its formal accession to the organization. This came after several diplomatic engagements, including Mirziyoyev's participation as a guest of honor for the first time at the 2018 summit, receiving official invitation from the council and subsequent meetings with OTS officials [2]. In October 2019, Uzbekistan officially joined the OTS as a full member during the 7<sup>th</sup> summit in Baku, ushering in a new era of mutual cooperation and integration among Turkic-speaking states, and enhancing the international prestige of the organization.

Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan share a strong determination to advance the goals of the Organization of Turkic States. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan has highlighted the growing importance of the Turkic world in the evolving global order, underscoring the shared heritage and close views of OTS member states on key issues, which create opportunities for integration and cooperation in regions spanning Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Middle East, and Europe [9].

Azerbaijani leadership has long promoted the unification of Turkic states. Ilham Aliyev stated that their collective economic potential will enhance political influence and establish the region as a central power also adding that "the stronger our unity, the more successfully each individual country will be able to defend its national interests [12]." As an example step to this unity was the celebration of Azerbaijan's victory in the "44-day Patriotic War," in the 2021 Istanbul Summit, with OTS members offering their unwavering support at the political level for Azerbaijan's efforts to liberate its territories and committing to assist in post-conflict reconstruction [1].

Institutionalization and structuralization of political and economic relations among Turkic-speaking states have been a priority in Azerbaijan's foreign policy. Therefore, Azerbaijan already hosts some OTS agencies, while Uzbekistan's active participation will likely lead to it hosting related institutions in the future, further cementing its commitment to the organization and strengthening "the international authority and status of the country as one of the centers of the Turkic-Islamic civilization [5]."

## **CONCLUSION**

Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan have evolved into active contributors in the Organization of Turkic States. Uzbekistan's re-engagement, beginning in 2018 under President Mirziyoyev, marked a turning point for the OTS, enhancing its cohesion and regional influence. The shared cultural, political, and economic values between the two countries have fostered stronger cooperation, positioning the OTS as a significant force in regional and global politics.

The future of the Organization of Turkic States lies in the continued integration of its members, particularly with Uzbekistan's full membership. The organization's potential to drive regional development and influence international affairs grows as its political and economic framework solidifies. By capitalizing on the mutual interests of its member states, the OTS can significantly shape the geopolitical landscape of the region.

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