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Special Edition



20th Anniversary of Neutrality of
Turkmenistan

2015 - the year of Neutrality & Peace

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HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO
HIS EXCELLENCY
Mr. GURBANGULY BERDIMUHAMEDOV,
THE HONOURABLE PRESIDENT OF
TURKMENISTAN AND THE PEOPLE OF
TURKMENISTAN
ON THIS AUSPICIOUS
OCCASION OF 20th ANNIVERSARY OF
NEUTRALITY OF TURKMENISTAN

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Mian Fazal Elahi

Editorial

The international community perceives the foreign policy strategy of neutral Turkmenistan with great respect and support, because Turkmenistan consistently strengthen its position in the world as a stable, peaceful, open and dynamically developing democratic country. The adoption of the second resolution 69/285 "Permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan" by the United Nations General Assembly on 3th June 2015 is a high level assessment of the foreign policy strategy of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, established in Ashgabat in December 2007 plays an important role in assisting the Central Asian States in addressing regional challenges by encouraging and facilitating closer cooperation among them, identifying and tackling potential sources of tension before possible escalation and responding to domestic and transnational challenges and threats to peace and security by supporting the sustainable development of the region. Turkmenistan is feeling the need to take concrete and targeted measures to support the states and regions where, for various reasons, sustainable development issues are particularly acute. With regard to Central Asia today, it is about creating the conditions for its successful integration into modern global processes, the revival of the region as a strong and stable level of intercontinental partnership. It is this focus the main efforts of Turkmenistan, the projects and initiatives that are implementing, and which offer to join the international community through the United Nations. One of them is the idea of establishing in Central Asia UN Regional Centre for technologies related to climate change. Turkmenistan is ready to provide all the necessary infrastructure on its territory. The practical activity and concrete steps of Turkmen diplomacy, in accordance with the long-term interests of the international community demonstrates the effectiveness of neutral foreign policy of country.

Important Announcement



Mian Assad Ullah

It has been announced for the general information that Mr. Mian Assad Ullah has been appointed as Editor in Chief of the Monthly "Diplomatic Focus" for the UK/EU Edition. He is entitled to participate official /non-officials diplomatic engagements, events, national days, social evenings/gatherings, press conferences/interviews and can be contacted for all kinds of stuff including articles, supplements and advertisements etc). It is requested to all Diplomatic missions and government high officials of UK, please contact with Mr. Mian Assad Ullah on His mailing address, 4 Ipswich Road, SW17 9RH, London. Cell number: +44-7961005954/ 2087694850, Email: uk.diplomaticfocus@gmail.com, assadmian1@gmail.com

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Contents



20th Anniversary of Neutrality of Turkmenistan

Statement, President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov at the 70th Session of the UNGA	04
Full-Scale and purposeful cooperation with the United Nations Organization is strategic choice of Turkmenistan	08
Geopolitics of Turkmenistan's Neutrality: Strategy of peace and security	12
Turkmenistan, Pakistan committed to strengthen bilateral ties	18
President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov participated in the OCA General Assembly meeting	22
TAPI-mean of friendship & good-neighborliness	30
A meeting of the Elders Council in Avaza	36
Turkmenistan's energy strategy	40
Turkmenistan following the path of growth	44
Development of International Transportation and Infrastructure of transit corridors: New Horizons of fruitful partnership	50
President of Turkmenistan inaugurates new facilities of healthcare	54
The International Conference, The policy of Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan	60
Children Painting Competition "Neutrality and Peace" in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of Permanent Neutrality Status of Turkmenistan	62



04



08



12



18



22



30



36



40



44



50



54



62



Statement, President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov at the 70th Session of the UNGA



Esteemed Mr. President!, Esteemed Mr. Secretary General!, Esteemed Head and Members of the Delegations!

The present Summit on Sustainable Development is taking place in the year of the seventieth anniversary since the establishment of the United Nations Organization which gives it a special significance.

15 years have passed since the world leaders have for the first time determined the international agenda in the sphere of development and created an international mechanism of interaction aimed at solving the most pressing issues of the modern time.

1. Today we can state with confidence that the achievement in implementing the Millennium Development Goals will serve

as a solid basis for our joint actions in the coming 15 years. In addition to this we must achieve the goals that are still pending.

In this context, the world community of nations needs a new global strategy based on present day realities and oriented towards long-term prospects. Post-2015 Development Agenda presented for approval at the present Summit is indeed a strategy of this kind.

Turkmenistan fully supports this document and calls for its adoption.

2. It is our firm belief that the new agenda set out in 17 global objectives and 169 tasks reflects the main approaches to the solution of development challenges that are facing mankind today. Its main feature is the expressed determination of the international community to achieve

sustainable development in a balanced and complex manner in all of its three components: economic, social and environmental.

I am convinced that in view of the above mentioned factors precise and concerted work of the international community in implementing the economic component of sustainable development will facilitate in many ways the achievement of such goals as universal access to cheap, reliable and modern energy supply, stable economic growth and full employment, creation of flexible infrastructure and promotion of innovation.

All this will eventually enable us to provide sustainable models of production and consumption and reduce inequalities within and among countries.

There is no doubt that achievement of



those goals is linked to further improvement of the existing partnership mechanism.

3. In this connection I believe that it would be advisable to consider at one of the forthcoming meetings of the UN Economic and Social Council the establishment of a new global coordination mechanism for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. Turkmenistan stands ready to submit appropriate specific proposals.

4. I also believe that in the context of the implementation of Development Goals it would be proper to invigorate the work of UN regional commissions in this regard.

Esteemed ladies and gentlemen!

One of the main features of the Post-2015 Agenda is its strong social orientation. It is not accidental that social issues stand at the forefront of the Sustainable Development Goals. Their practical implementation is linked to the enhancement of the effectiveness of targeted and substantive work of UN member states as well as international structures that are directly responsible for the achievement of global objectives.

5. Thus, it will be necessary to harmonize joint actions of countries with the work of such entities as the United Nations Development Programme, Food and Agricultural Organization and World Food Organization in order to achieve the goals of eliminating poverty and combatting hunger, ensuring food security and improving nutrition.

6. In this connection we propose that the 70-th session of the General Assembly consider the possibility of convening a high-level Food Forum. We express our readiness to work with all interested parties to this end.

7. Problems concerning a healthy way of life occupy a most important place among social issues. In this connection building closer partnerships between UN member states and the World Health Organization and other international organizations will become the foundation for achieving high results in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.

8. The new international Agenda should include issues of comprehensive, just and quality education among its top priorities.

It is our profound conviction that the United Nations should actively promote the implementation process by developing a broad international dialogue, introducing new national, regional and global programmes in the field of education.

Turkmenistan is prepared – in close cooperation with appropriate UN structures – to develop most active and constructive cooperation in the field of

education. We consider UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF as our major partners.

9. Gender equality is the key element of the global development strategy. We set a lofty goal before ourselves – to achieve full gender equality and empower all women and girls. Fulfilment of this goal is our common duty and shared responsibility.

In this connection we welcome the initiative of the UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon to hold a summit of world leaders on gender equality in New York on September 27 this year.

Esteemed Heads and Members of the Delegations!

10. By adopting the Sustainable Development Goals as a programme of our joint efforts for the forthcoming 15 years

Gender equality is the key element of the global development strategy. The year 2015 is a special year in the life of Turkmenistan and its people. This year we mark the 20-th anniversary since the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution on the international recognition of Turkmenistan's Permanent Neutrality.

we are aware that social and economic development of states and peoples of the planet cannot be achieved without solving the climate change and environment problems.

In this context we welcome the efforts of the United Nations and its Secretary General aimed at finding effective measures for reducing global environmental risks/ UN Summits and international conferences convened over the past few years have made a substantial contribution to the solution of the problems relating to the protection of the environment in the world.

11. In early December this year we will have to adopt important decisions that will have momentous significance for the entire world at the Conference of the

Parties of the Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Paris.

Turkmenistan stands ready to support the signing of an International agreement on climate issues and will actively advance this idea during the time left before the Conference. Furthermore I would like to recall that our country officially stated its concept with respect to the strengthening of international environmental cooperation and has submitted a number of specific proposals at various conferences. .

12. The initiative regarding the establishment - in cooperation with the United Nations - of a Regional Climate Change Center for Central Asian states is among those initiatives. Being committed to the implementation of this idea, Turkmenistan is ready to undertake together with UNDP steps towards the establishment of this Center in Ashgabat.

Esteemed Mr. President!

Esteemed Heads and members of the delegations!

13. The year 2015 is a special year in the life of Turkmenistan and its people. This year we mark the 20-th anniversary since the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution on the international recognition of Turkmenistan's permanent neutrality. The past period has most vividly demonstrated the effectiveness of foreign policy of neutrality pursued by our country and its correspondence to the long-term interests of the international community. This is confirmed by the fact that on June 3 2015 the General Assembly adopted a new resolution dedicated to Turkmenistan's permanent neutrality.

Availing of this opportunity I would like to express on behalf of the people of Turkmenistan our profound gratitude to all member states of the United Nation for the firm and unwavering support of our country's neutral status.

14. An International Forum dedicated to the issues of neutrality, peace and development will be held in the capital of Turkmenistan, the City of Ashgabat, on December 12 2015.

Allow me to renew from this high podium an invitation to the heads of state or government of UN member states to visit our country during this period and take part in the celebrations on the occasion of Turkmenistan's permanent neutrality.

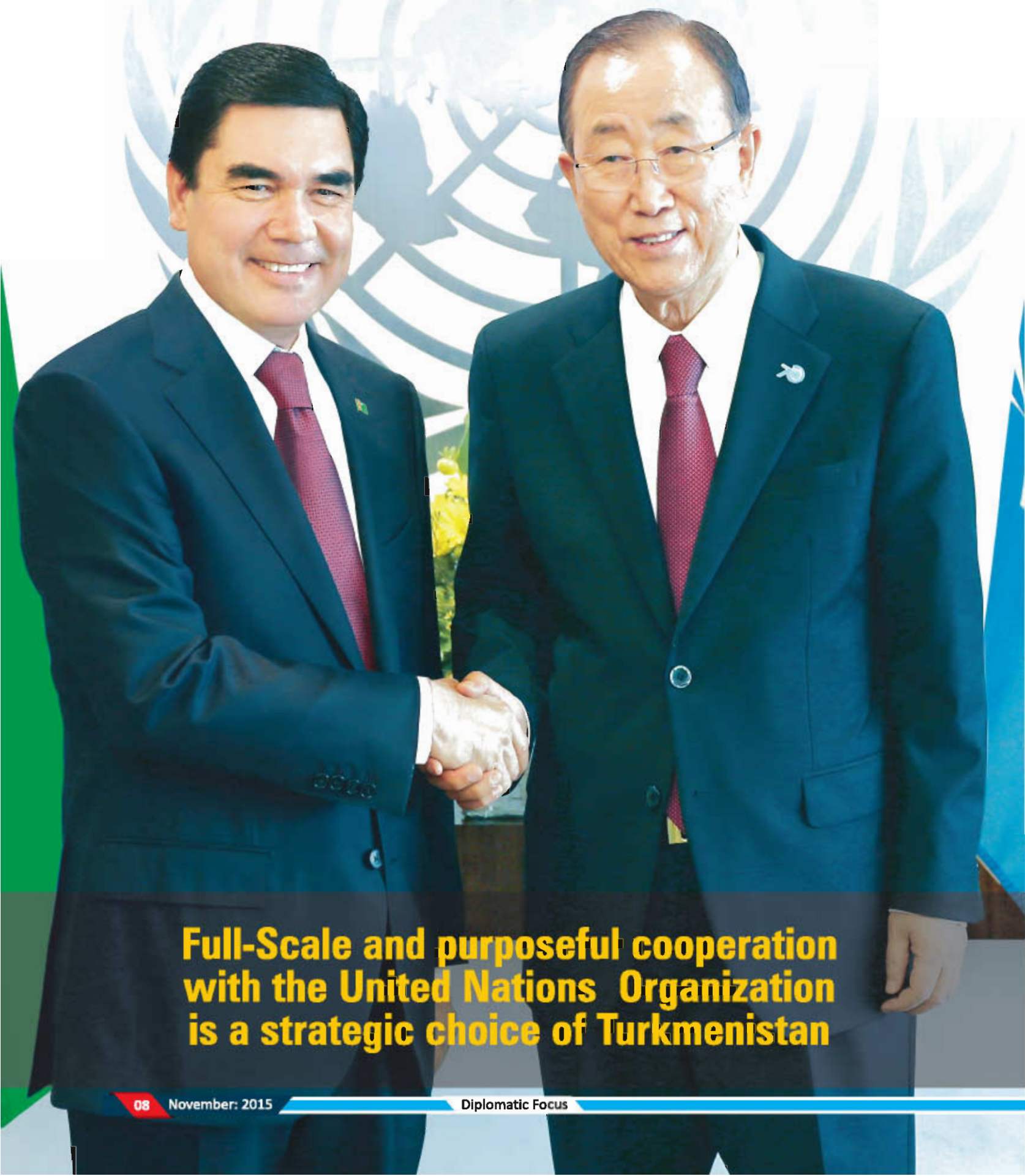
15. In conclusion, I would like to specially emphasize that Turkmenistan will continue to develop close international cooperation in the name of upholding the lofty ideals of peace and justice and fulfilment of the goals and purposes of the United Nations Organization.

Thank you!



BITARAPLYK WE PARAHATÇYLYK ÝYLY





**Full-Scale and purposeful cooperation
with the United Nations Organization
is a strategic choice of Turkmenistan**



On September 24-27, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov paid a working visit to New York City, United States of America to participate at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Leader of the Nation took part in the high level meeting held in the framework of the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly dedicated to the post-2015 period. That meeting was attended by the world leaders, heads of governments, and high ranking officials of UN member states.

Participation of honorable President at the world forum is another evidence of the aspiration of Turkmenistan to expand many-sided efficient cooperation with United Nations. This is one of the major priorities of the foreign policy strategy of Turkmenistan that stays firmly committed to the Neutrality status.

Adoption of the post-2015 agenda on Sustainable Development, particularly working out of the comprehensive, complex plan of the actions aimed at addressing the challenges on the way - has become the main outcome of this large forum. In this connection, it is worth mentioning the direct involvement of Turkmenistan in working out this new global strategy. As we know, Turkmenistan was included in the list of the states on the UN level to conduct the corresponding national consultations.

At this high level meeting President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov was among the first who delivered statement as the distinguished leader who has deserved a huge authority in the world community. Turkmen leader put forward specific proposals aimed at achieving even better international cooperation in the interests of ensuring universal wellbeing and prosperity for

Turkmenistan.

Leader of the Nation emphasized that new, universal strategy of cooperation is needed by the world community. It has to rely on the real situation of the present time and must be targeted at long term prospects. President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov expressed full support of the document and advocated the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Since the document submitted for approval on the highest level is that very strategy according to Leader of the Nation.

The President of Turkmenistan noted that the new development agenda, including 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets, reflected the main approaches in addressing development challenges. These are the main challenges facing the humanity today. The distinctive feature is that the challenges provide for achievement of sustainable development by the international community in its three dimensions: economic, social and environmental, basing on comprehensive and complex approach.

The President of Turkmenistan focused on reasonability of considering the issues on establishment of a new global coordination mechanism for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at the next meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, emphasizing that Turkmenistan stands ready to submit concrete proposals in this regard.

According to Head of the state, it would be timely to boost the activities of the regional groups under United Nations in this direction for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

According to esteemed President, a characteristic feature of the post-2015 Development Agenda is that huge special attention given to the social and living

matters. It is not a mere coincidence that social and living matters are prioritized among the Sustainable development goals. Practical realization of these tasks is directly related to increasing the efficiency of the specific-goal oriented actions taken by the UN member states and the international organizations straightforward charged with their implementation.

In particular, Leader of the Nation Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov proposed to consider the possibility of convening the High-Level Food Forum in the framework of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly. Head of state expressed the readiness of Turkmenistan to carry out effective work on these issues with all parties concerned.

Observing the principles of healthy way of life takes a prominent place among the social issues. In this regard, there is a need for enhancement of close partnership of UN Member States and the World Health Organization and other international organizations.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that gender equality is the core element of the global development strategy. We set ourselves the high goal in this area. It is to promote gender equality and empowering women and girls.

Honorable President stated that Turkmen side welcomes the initiative of Ban Ki Moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations to hold the World Leaders Conference on gender equality in New York on September 27, this year.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized that sustainable development goals regarded as the program of the joint action for the next 15 years. We realize that the social and economic development of nations and peoples on the planet is impossible without addressing climate



change and environmental challenges. "In this context, we welcome the efforts of the United Nations and the Secretary-General towards developing effective measures to reduce global environmental risks," the Turkmen leader said.

In early December this year, we all are to adopt major decisions of crucial importance to the world at the session of

the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris, the Turkmen leader continued. Esteemed President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov stated that Turkmenistan supports the signing of the international climate change agreement and will contribute to promoting this idea in the remaining period before the

Conference.

The Turkmen leader reminded that at various conferences Turkmenistan had officially presented its concept on strengthening international environmental cooperation and put forward a number of concrete proposals. These include the initiative to establish jointly with the United Nations the Regional Centre for Climate Change for Central Asia. Turkmenistan continues to be committed the idea and stands ready to take steps jointly with the UN Development Programme to establish this Centre in Ashgabat in 2016.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized that Ashgabat will host the international forum on neutrality, peace and development on December 12, 2015. From the high UN tribune, the Turkmen national leader again extended the invitation to heads of state and Governments, UN Member States to visit our country in this period and participate in the anniversary celebrations in honor of the permanent Neutrality status of Turkmenistan.

At the end of his statement, President of Turkmenistan assured that Independent, Neutral Turkmenistan will conduct all necessary works to carry on and develop close international cooperation for the purpose of achieving high goals of peace and justice and for implementation of the UNO programs and objectives.

At the UN headquarters there was a meeting of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

During the meeting the sides exchanged views on the current state and prospects of cooperation between Turkmenistan and the UN, in an asset of which is a positive experience of partnership and a number of completed and current joint projects in various fields.

The UN Secretary-General emphasized Turkmenistan's contribution to peaceful development and the restoration of social and economic infrastructure of neighboring Afghanistan, which, in turn, has a positive impact on the situation in the region as a whole.

The UN Secretary-General praised the character of the democratic processes and socio-economic changes in Turkmenistan that have affected primarily education, health and social sector.

Noting that the goals and objectives of Turkmenistan's domestic and foreign policy are in tune with the aims and objectives of the United Nations, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov reaffirmed Turkmenistan's fruitful cooperation with the community of nations.







GEOPOLITICS OF TURKMENISTAN'S NEUTRALITY: STRATEGY OF PEACE AND SECURITY



The substantial and innovative speech of the President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on the 70th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and his initiatives indicated, that nowadays Turkmenistan and United Nations entered to the new stage of interaction, that directed to

consolidation of global efforts on strengthening peace, security and sustainable development.

The international community perceives the foreign policy strategy of neutral Turkmenistan with great respect and support, because Turkmenistan consistently strengthen its position in the world as a stable, peaceful, open and dynamically developing democratic country. The adoption of the second resolution 69/285 "Permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan" by the United Nations General Assembly on 3rd June 2015 is a high level assessment of the foreign policy strategy of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

As it's known, in this important international document, the General Assembly:

Recognized that the status of Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan

contributes to the strengthening of peace and security in the region, and the active and positive role that Turkmenistan plays in developing peaceful, friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the countries of the region and other

States of the world,

General Assembly also welcomed the initiatives of neutral Turkmenistan directed at further strengthening economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation in Central Asia and the Caspian Sea region,

General Assembly underlined the contribution of neutral Turkmenistan in the United Nations led inter-Tajik talks, through the initiative to host a continuous round of inter-Tajik talks in Ashgabat in 1995 and 1996, and in addressing conflict in Afghanistan by hosting inter-Afghan talks and an international forum on Afghanistan in 1997 and continuing to offer the territory of Turkmenistan for further inclusive, Afghan-led dialogue on reconciliation,

Also Resolution recognizes, that the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, established in Ashgabat in December 2007 plays an important role in





assisting the Central Asian States in addressing regional challenges by encouraging and facilitating closer cooperation among them, identifying and tackling potential sources of tension before possible escalation and responding to domestic and transnational challenges and threats to peace and security by supporting the sustainable development of the region.

The practical activity and concrete steps of Turkmen diplomacy, in accordance with the long-term interests of the international community demonstrates the effectiveness of neutral foreign policy of our country.

President of Turkmenistan, putting forward the international initiatives and constructive proposals, underlines the strategic importance of partnership and open dialogue with the United Nations and within its framework. The Leader of our

Nation announced: "A new global strategy of partnership, grounded on the contemporary realities and oriented for the long term perspectives is necessary for the International community. This strategy is the for the post-2015 development agenda, including 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets, reflecting the main approaches to address development challenges facing humanity today."

Key factor of the sustainable development is the guarantee of peace and security on global, regional and national scales. Therefore, important initiatives of the President of Turkmenistan are deeply grounded in the context of the future development prospects of the world, where the global changes closely connected with regional processes, and they increase the importance of an

effective partnership between the countries.

Geographical and geopolitical position of Turkmenistan, its role as a neutral peace-loving state makes the country a kind of bridge between the East and the West. Turkmenistan doesn't promote clashes, but on the contrary it promotes cooperation between civilizations and continents. Moreover, without exaggeration, it can be noted that Turkmenistan has become recognized negotiating platform on contemporary issues. As an example we can mention the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia acting in Ashgabat.

The President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov put forward a conceptual idea of global security as an entity, based on the integrated system.





This approach is based on a deep and comprehensive understanding of ideals of world peace, which can and should be provided at the trinity of its foundations - security, cooperation and development.

Based on this fundamental thesis, the comprehensive strengthening of peace, stability and security in the global and regional scales has been and remains as a key objective of foreign policy strategy of Turkmenistan.

The implementation of this objective is based on a strategic choice in favor of cooperation with the United Nations, which Turkmenistan considers as the pillars of the entire modern system of global cooperation, the guarantor of the preservation and maintenance of peace and balance of interests in the international arena.

Turkmenistan actively continues supporting the efforts of the international

community in ensuring a lasting and durable peace, strategic stability and security on the basis of universally recognized norms of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

As mentioned, the President of Turkmenistan has consistently put forward major international initiatives on important areas of international and regional politics.

In this regard, the Turkmen diplomacy focuses on the implementation of important international security initiatives of the President of Turkmenistan, especially:

- Development and adoption of the Declaration by the international community on the priority use of political and diplomatic means to resolve international issues;
- Development of a universal political and

legal document of the UN, which would regulate the activities of states and companies in the international energy markets to ensure reliable and safe operation of the international energy supply infrastructure, its access and effective use;





- Formation of a mechanism for multilateral political dialogue for Peace and Cooperation in Central Asia on the permanent platform with the participation of the regional and neighboring countries, concerned international organizations to develop a mutually acceptable approaches to the most important issues of the present and future development.

The priorities of our country build largely due to visioning the regions of Central Asia and the Caspian basin as a strong bond of strategic stability in Eurasia, promising "win-win" cooperation for the European and Asian countries, especially on the security, sustainable development and growing trade and economic relations.

The basis of cooperation of Turkmenistan with the UN, particularly in the context of

building harmonious and stable international relations in the regions of Central Asia and Caspian basin, the creation of strong mechanisms for the maintenance of regional peace and security as a basic condition for sustainable economic, social and humanitarian development.

The priority objectives of the partnership with the UN and other international organisations are the establishment of effective mechanisms to prevent and neutralize international conflicts, countering political and religious extremism, terrorist threats, drug trafficking and cross-border crime, the development of modern models of international cooperation in the economic, energy and environmental sectors.

In this terms, Turkmenistan in accordance with its neutral status also provides the fruitful and constructive dialogue, taking active part in the OSCE, Non-Alignment Movement, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and other authoritative international and regional organizations.

The importance of Turkmenistan in international system of coordinates is now more evident thanks to the energetic creative activities of the Leader of the country, that help to detect new horizons and scope of partnership in the global political arena. Constructivism and consistent position of Turkmenistan on the various priority issues of sustainable





development determining a high grade of actualization is its consonance with modern global trends.

Turkmenistan considers the energy security as one of the strategic components of the global security system. Turkmenistan's position on this issue reflects the general trend in world politics, which clearly shows the key role of energy security as one of the main factors of ensuring international peace, stability and development.

An important factor of the active integration of Turkmenistan into the world and regional policy is possession of enormous energy potential, especially hydrocarbons. Turkmenistan now rightly called as the leading energy power in the world, which occupies one of the top lines in the list of countries exporting natural gas.

The Goal 7 in a new sustainable development goals runs as follows:

"Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all". Energy is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today. Be it for jobs, security, climate change, food production or increasing incomes, access to energy for all is essential.

Sustainable energy is opportunity – it transforms lives, economies and the planet. As known, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is leading a Sustainable Energy for All initiative to ensure universal access to modern energy services, improve efficiency and increase use of renewable sources.

In conclusion, I would like to note, that, the foreign policy of Turkmenistan, consistently implemented under the leadership of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, finds its practical expression in major steps aimed at the effective participation of the country in the international system, in addressing issues of concern to modern society, especially in the maintenance and strengthening of global peace and security, in ensuring sustainable development.

by Begench Karayev





By Mian Fazal Elahi

Turkmenistan, Pakistan

committed to strengthen bilateral ties

On May 20-21, on President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov's invitation Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif paid official visit to Turkmenistan.

In the course of the negotiations, which took place in the atmosphere of mutual understanding, reciprocal respect and equal partnership the leaders of the two states discussed a wide range of areas and among the priority areas the parties highlighted trade and economic sphere, fuel and energy complex, transport and transit sectors, agriculture, textile and light industries, science and education.

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov warmly welcomed high ranking guest Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on the hospitable Turkmen land. Turkmen

Pakistan pays
big attention to
enhancement of
the cooperation
with
Turkmenistan:
PM Nawaz

leader emphasized that Turkmenistan attaches big importance to the cooperation with Pakistan. Esteemed President was pleased to note that Turkmen-Pakistani friendly and brotherly relations are developed on the principles of mutual respect and with due regard for the interests of the two nations.

Touching upon the interstate relations in political area, Turkmen state leader stressed that the views of the sides in terms of ensuring peace on the global and regional scales, and in providing universal security are coinciding.

Leader of the nation invited high ranking guest to take part at the International Conference of High level «Policy of neutrality: international cooperation for peace, security and development» to be held on the 12th of December 2015 in



Ashgabat city in honor of the 20th anniversary of the recognition of the legal status of Turkmenistan's Permanent Neutrality by the world community. Prime Minister was also invited to join the festivities dedicated to this event.

Honored guest Muhammad Nawaz Sharif stated that Pakistan pays big attention to enhancement of the cooperation with Turkmenistan. Prime minister pointed to the cultural and geographic closeness of two states. According to high ranking guest, it is necessary to carry on consolidation of the joint efforts for building up effective economic cooperation. In this connection, special part is assigned to the Joint Intergovernmental Turkmen-Pakistani commission in implementation of these tasks.

Pakistani side confirmed huge interest in intensification of the international energy projects, especially implementation of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-

Pakistan-India gas pipeline project within short term. High ranking guest underlined special importance of the

project for all participating states.

Leaders stated that both Turkmenistan and Pakistan are

applying the common efforts for stepping up the international cooperation in the region. The parties are





cooperating in the framework of the International organizations, first of all, UN, Islamic Cooperation Organization and Economic Cooperation Organization. Regional matters, first of all, strengthening of peace and security are in top priority list.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said that relations of the two states are built on the basis of mutual support and expressed readiness to support all initiatives of Turkmenistan.

Turkmen leader pointed out that growth of mutually beneficial trade-economic relations stand as a priority area of the bilateral cooperation. Turkmenistan regards Pakistan as a strategic and reliable partner in implementation of the large international projects meant to deliver Turkmen energy resources to the world markets.

Turkmenistan is able to provide Pakistan with its energy resources to complete the energy shortage of the country. Sides agreed to carry on the regional and trans-regional cooperation. In this connection, the parties emphasized the significance of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project. The work is well under way for realization of this key regional project.

The parties agreed on development of the transport infrastructure through creation of the transport and communications system. Taking into account geoeconomic and geopolitical advantage of the two states, Turkmenistan and Pakistan included establishment of air, motor and railway communications in the priority list.

In addition, Leader of the Turkmen nation marked the role of Turkmenbashi and Gwadar ports in creation of the

International trade corridors. According to Turkmen leader, realization of contemporary projects will provide

opportunities for new transport and passenger routes by the route of Asia-Europe.

Leaders agreed on further intensification of the bilateral cooperation in culture, art, tourism and sports.

The parties are eager to interact closely for successful holding of the V Asian Indoors Games and Martial Arts due in 2017 in Ashgabat city. High ranking guest supported the proposal of honorable Turkmen leader that concerns the interaction and exchange of experience in sports.

Upon completion of the talks there was a signing ceremony of bilateral documents that follows as: Joint Communiqué of

Turkmenistan regards Pakistan as a strategic and reliable partner in implementation of the large international projects





President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif; Memorandum of understanding between the Chamber of

Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan and Trade Development Authority of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Islamic

Republic of Pakistan on the Joint Intergovernmental Turkmen-Pakistan commission on economic cooperation.





President

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov

participated in the OCA General Assembly meeting



On September 15, the Turkmen capital hosted a ceremonious opening of the Olympic Council of Asia General Assembly and its plenary meeting with participation of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

The 34th OCA General Assembly (the Council's supreme governing body), that brought together over 600 representatives from 80 countries, was forestalled by the OCA Executive Board meeting which was held in the new "Olympia" Hotel inaugurated in the Olympic Village the day before.





Along with the NOCs of Asia and Oceania, the 34th General Assembly was attended by representatives of the International Federations of sport disciplines included in the program of the V Asian Games, such as: cycling, swimming, belt wrestling, wrestling (free-style wrestling and Greco-Roman wrestling), athletics, kick boxing, show jumping competition, basketball, tennis, chess, and others. Among the forum participants were also representatives of the International Olympic Committee, the Organizing Committees of the bygone and upcoming summer and winter Asian Games (the

Republic of Korea, Japan and Indonesia), the 2015 First European Games (Azerbaijan), and the XXXI Summer Olympic Games in Brazil in 2016. All in all, the heads of the National Olympic Committees from 62 countries took part in the forum.

The General Assembly's session in the hall of the sport complex was forestalled by the welcoming speech of the President of Turkmenistan.

Addressing the greeting "Welcome to hospitable Turkmenistan!" to country's guests, President Gurbanguly

Berdimuhamedov expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the OCA leadership for holding that large international event in Turkmenistan.

I am confident that the important event held in Turkmenistan for the first time is of immense significance for developing sports in the entire Asian region, the head of state said.

We consider hosting the 34th OCA General Assembly by Turkmenistan in 2015 as a clear evidence of high respect shown to our independent neutral country in the international sport world, as a token of





international recognition of our country's sports achievements, the leader of nation stressed.

The event is also an excellent opportunity to its participants to become closely acquainted with Turkmenistan and its beautiful capital, to see our achievements in the field of sports with their own eyes, the head of state said, having extended his warm congratulations and wishes of fruitful work to the attendees of the 34th OCA General Assembly.

As a full member of the Olympic Council of Asia since 1993, our country advances successfully cooperation with the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Council of Asia, and renders all-round assistance to the organizations' activity aimed at tackling the tasks of the Olympic Movement and sports. Therefore, the Agreement for holding in 2017 in Ashgabat the V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games was signed between the Olympic Council of Asia and the National Olympic Committee of Turkmenistan, the President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov reminded, having expressed strong belief that the forum would contribute to holding the Games in the Turkmen capital at high organizational level.

In our country, development of physical education and sports is one of the priority trends of state policy. In this regard, the nation's leader made reference to such large target-oriented projects, as "The 2011-2020 National Program for Promoting Physical Education and Sports in Turkmenistan", "The 2012-2016 National Program for Training Professional Sportsmen in Turkmenistan".

At present, "The 2012-2016 Program of the President of Turkmenistan for socio-economic development of the country", the revised National Program on improving social conditions of the population of villages, settlements, etrap towns and etrap centers till 2020" are being successfully implemented. Great importance is attached in those documents to further strengthening of the sport sector's material-technical base. In accordance with the plans outlined, modern stadiums, sport complexes and schools, many other sport facilities are being built and put into operation in our country.

The state invests considerably to fund construction of the up-to-date facilities with sports and health centers, children's health centers in the "Avaza" National Tourist Zone.





Every year, sports competitions are held in our independent country among schoolchildren, students, employees of institutions and organizations under the slogan "Turkmenistan - the country of high spirit and health". By well-established tradition, mass sports and cultural-recreation action - "Health and Happiness", is annually organized in April, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov continued.

Moreover, various national and international sport competitions and other events are regularly held in our neutral state. Young Turkmen masters of sports in the national teams participate in the prestigious international events and take prize-winning places, holding aloft the State Flag of our independent country.

The present representative forum is taking place in the Olympic Village, which is specially being built in Ashgabat for hosting V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in 2017. The historically significant General Assembly is an original prologue to the large international sporting holiday to be held in our country in two years.

While building the 157-hectare Olympic Village (about US \$5 billion project), which includes 30 sports, social and cultural facilities with the state-of-the-art systems, all international standards and requirements were fully observed, the nation's leader stressed. Construction of the unique sport complex is being accomplished in three phases. The first phase of construction is now completed; the second and third phases are 95 and 40 percent completed respectively.

Today, construction of the Olympic Village is on a fast track. The second-stage facilities are scheduled to be completed and put into operation in the running year's December, and the third-stage objects – in March 2017.

The head of Turkmen state Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov invited the 34th OCA General Assembly participants to become acquainted with the facilities, having assured that all their comments and proposals on the issue would be, undoubtedly, taken into consideration.

Along with the Olympic Village construction, we are carrying out large-scale organizational work to ensure high level of V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in 2017, the nation's leader continued, having highlighted that Turkmenistan actively collaborates with the Olympic Council of Asia in this field, and regularly holds various international events.

Established in January 2013, the Organizing Committee of V Asian Games has already conducted several meetings.

At the closing ceremony of IV Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in the Republic of





Korea (June 29-July 6, 2013), the flag of the Olympic Council of Asia was handed over to the city of Ashgabat by the city of Incheon. The flag was ceremonially delivered to our country's capital. The Executive Committee of V Asian Games was set up in December of that same year.

Under a contract made between the Committee and "CSM Sport & Entertainment LLP trading as CSM Strategic" (the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the V Asian Games Master Plan was developed last year and fully approved by the Olympic Council of Asia.

A ceremony of signing the Memorandum between the Organizing Committee of V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, the Olympic Council of Asia, and the Oceania National Olympic Committees was held on November 28 last year. The document envisages that along with 45 National Olympic Committees (members of the Olympic Council of Asia), 17 National Olympic Committees from Oceania will take part in V Asian Games for the first time.

The Program of V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games includes 21 sport disciplines: athletics, swimming, basketball, futsal, tennis, cycling, wrestling, chess, ice dancing, weightlifting (powerlifting),

kickboxing, Thai boxing, sambo, kurash (a form of wrestling), belt wrestling, jiu-jitsu, taekwondo (WTF), bowling, billiards, goresh (Turkmen national wrestling), and show jumping (equestrian sport).

To popularize and publicize the V Asian Games, a variety of events have successfully been holding since 2013. In this regard, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov made reference to the international sports media forums, the

international sports exhibition "Ashgabat – the capital of Asiad-2017", a special seminar – "Dishes of Asiad-2017", the International Conference "Asiad-2017 – Turkmenistan's Role in Sports for the Benefit of Development and Peace". Our capital hosted also the World Belt Wrestling Championship and the World Goresh Wrestling Championship in last year's November. And the first meeting of the OCA Coordination Committee was convened in the running year's February.





Taking advantage of the opportunity, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov invited the leaders of the Olympic Council of Asia to participate in the high-level international conference to be held in Ashgabat in the running year's December in honor of the glorious holiday – 20th anniversary of Turkmenistan's permanent neutrality.

Closing his speech, the nation's leader expressed firm belief that the issues to be considered and resolutions to be adopted at the 34th OCA General Assembly would encourage further development of sports and high sport achievements, create ample opportunities for achieving success and the goals set in this field.

Then, the President of Turkmenistan gave the floor to President of the Olympic Council of Asia Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah.

Expressing total support for the principles and attitudes specified by the President of Turkmenistan in his speech, the Sheikh stressed that they had found visible embodiment in all the within-said aspects of life of the Turkmen society and state.

Having highlighted that Turkmenistan was entrusted by the Olympic Council of Asia to host the Asian Games in the light of the country's impressive fast-track development, including in the sports, construction, transport-communications sectors, the OCA President said that while preparing for the landmark sport event, our country had demonstrated the most responsible approach and proved that Ashgabat was a worthy host city of the V Asian Games.

The OCA's head congratulated the President and the entire Turkmen people on this year's 20th anniversary of

neutrality, having once again appraised highly the role of the head of state in the sport sector development and high-standard preparations for the Games, in which Asia and Oceania are first-ever represented together.

Then, Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah announced a decision of the Association of National Olympic Committees on awarding the head of Turkmen state Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for his outstanding contribution to the sports movement development and cooperation in this field.

Presenting the honorary award to the Turkmen leader, the head of Association expressed sincere gratitude to President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on behalf of the meeting participants and his personal behalf for the opportunity to host the forum and excellent conditions created for its constructive and fruitful work.

Deeply honored, the head of state said that he regarded the award as a token of respect for independent neutral Turkmenistan, recognition of our country's contribution to the international sports movement, and as a symbol of cooperation and mutual understanding in achieving common objectives.

We consider building of modern sport infrastructure not only in terms of high-achievement sport advancement. We also regard the work as a foundation for upbringing physically strong generations, for introducing principles of active and healthy lifestyle to the society, the head of state highlighted. The work accomplished in this direction is interconnected with development and wide popularization of sports.

Our countries, which are actively participating in the world sports

movement, are linked with common values and responsibilities. Today we are united by the understanding of issues and goals set to the international community of nations, by adherence to lofty aims of the Olympic movement. Our views on further advance in this direction coincide, the nation's leader noted.

After thanking Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah for his informative speech, the head of state gave the floor to President of the Oceania National Olympic Committee Robin Mitchell.

Having expressed readiness for closer cooperation with Turkmenistan on behalf of the Oceania National Olympic Committee – an international organization that now includes 17 National Olympic Committees from this part of the world, the guest has emphasized that they were deeply honored to take part in the OCA forum devoted to the 2017 Asia Games in the Turkmen capital.

14 of the 17 National Olympic Committees and 4 of our 7 Associate members in Oceania together with Secretary General Ricardo Blas are here, in Ashgabat, to marvel at the wonderful facilities that are nearing completion well in advance of the 2017 Games, Mr. Mitchell said.

Truly grateful to the host country for its kind hospitality, the President of the Oceania National Olympic Committee congratulated the hosts of Asiad-2017 on the magnificent facilities that will host the Games. On behalf of all his colleagues, Robin Mitchell expressed profound gratitude to President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and the people of Ashgabat, to the OCA leadership and members. He also extended wishes of success to our countries' national teams at



the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

Appreciative of the guest's speech, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlighted that active participation in the world Olympic movement, as well as in the activity of the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Council of Asia, was and remains for Turkmenistan one of the priority areas of international cooperation in the field of sports and physical education.

Speaking of the successes achieved, the President of Turkmenistan stressed that the Memorandum signed last year's November between the Organizing Committee of V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, the Olympic Council of Asia and the Oceania National Olympic Committees on the participation of 17 Oceania countries in the upcoming Games in Ashgabat, had raised cooperation in this

area to a new level.

We are firmly convinced, the nation's leader said, that V Asian Games to be held in 2017 will go down the history as a sport bridge that linked the two regions!

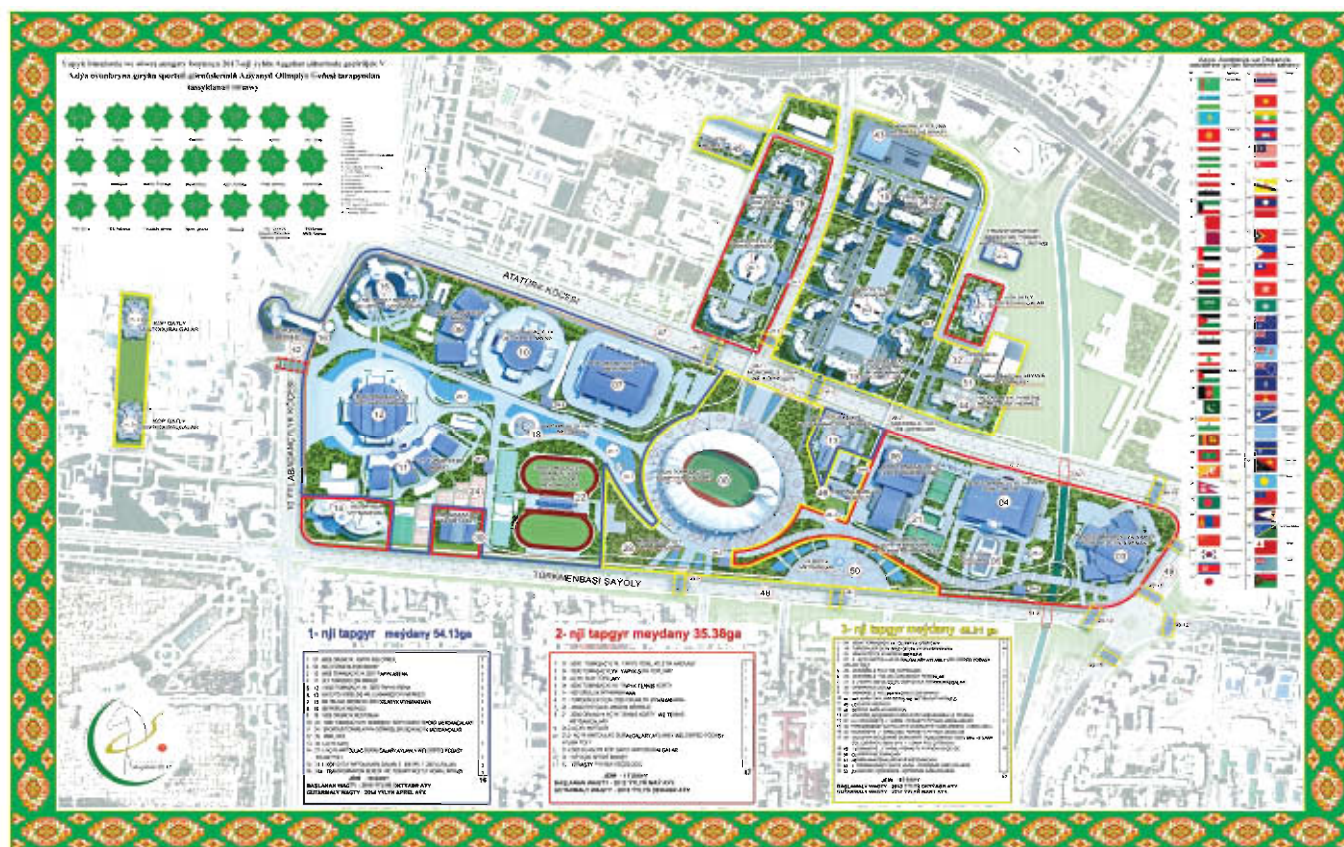
In the context of international partnership in sports, we recognize the advisability of active and in-depth discussion of the issues related to active involvement of young people in physical education and sport activities, the head of state emphasized. We support the mass Olympic, Paralympics and sport movements, broad healthy-life propaganda, and efficient use of new sports facilities built in the frames of interaction between the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Council of Asia.

Representatives of International Federations of sport disciplines which are included in the V Asian Games program

also attended the 34th General Assembly. Among the forum participants were President of the International Cycling Union (ICU) Brian Cookson and a member of the ICU Steering Committee Igor Makarov. They approached President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov with a proposal to hold the world indoor cycling championship in the Ashgabat Olympic Village.

Appreciative of the proposal, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has noted that Turkmenistan is seeking to make its considerable contribution to the Olympic movement through developing the sports of records and amateur sports in the country. The proposal to hold the world indoor cycling championship in our country meets in full the objectives set.

At the same time, it testifies to the trust shown to Turkmenistan by the





international sports community, regarding the country as a reliable and promising partner.

The nation's leader has also underlined that our country has everything necessary for successful holding of the largest competitions in different sports. To achieve the objectives and goals in the name of peace and development, we are ready for close interaction with partner nations and international organizations, the President of Turkmenistan said.

Then, the forum attendees were shown a video film devoted to the Olympic Village of Asiad-2017, its infrastructure facilities both completed now, and nearing completion.

Summing up the meeting, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has said that the General Assembly clearly demonstrated that our interaction was well-coordinated, we understand each other well and closely cooperate. This is a reliable guarantee of our common success and achievements.

I feel pretty certain that together we'll cope with the work aimed to successfully host the V Asian Games, make them a truly impressive sport event and a symbol of friendship and concord of nations at the continent and in the whole world, the head of state said.

Once again, having extended heartfelt gratitude to President of the Olympic Council of Asia Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah for the high award, the nation's leader wished everyone good health and

prosperity, great achievements in the important activity on popularizing sports which significantly contributes to strengthening friendship, fraternity, peace and

International Federations, and Organizing Committees of the previous and upcoming Asian Games presented their reports. In his report, Chairman of the V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts

Asian Games in 2022 was also chosen. As many analysts had forecasted, the Chinese city of Hangzhou (Zhejiang Province) became the host city of the pre-anniversary classical Asian Games.

Upon completion of the OCA General Assembly meetings, on behalf of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, for a large group of forum delegates a get-acquainted trip was organized to the National Sports and Tourism Institute of Turkmenistan, the Specialized Chess and Draughts School of the Ashgabat Sports Committee, the Winter Sports Complex of the State Sports Committee of Turkmenistan, the Olympic Village, and other sport facilities.

In the framework of the 34th OCA General Assembly, the Turkmen capital also hosted the 2nd meeting of the OCA Coordinating Committee and a meeting of the OCA Finance Committee attended by representatives of the National Olympic Committee of Turkmenistan, the State Sports Committee of Turkmenistan, the Executive and Organizing Committees of the V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games.

The meetings were focused on the issues related to the preparations for the Asiad-2017 to be held in Ashgabat. The participants also outlined future plans for organizing and holding of the upcoming sport competitions, as well as gave consideration to the OCA budget issues.

Games Executive Committee Dayanch Gulgeldiev said that given the accumulated experience, further preparations for the Asiad-2017 would be considerably accelerated to make the grandiose sport forum an unforgettable event for numerous fans from different countries.

The country to host the XXIX



cooperation between the nations.

Then, the President of Turkmenistan thanked all the meeting participants for their attention and departed from the Olympic Village.

On the final day of the 34th OCA General Assembly, representatives of the International Olympic Committee, Presidents of the





TAPI-

mean of friendship & good-neighborliness





The construction of the Turkmen section of the interstate pipeline with the capacity of 33 billion cubic meters of commercial gas per year of 1800 kilometers (1420 mm pipe diameter) Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline will be carried out by the domestic energy sector. By decision of the Steering Committee for the TAPI project, which held its 22nd meeting in Ashgabat, the State Concern "Turkmengaz" was unanimously elected as the leader of the consortium «TAPI Ltd». As the leader, the experts group will lead interaction in the matters of construction, financing, ownership and operation of the pipeline.

Professional skills and logistical capacity of oil and gas complex of Turkmenistan, the capacities of the Turkmen builders of gas mains to implement major projects at the international level, have long been known. The rich experience they have gained in the construction of gas pipelines Malay – Bagtyyarlyk, Turkmenistan-China, Dovletabad - Sarahs - Hangeran - the second pipeline to Iran, a regional East-West pipeline stretching over 800 kilometers. This experience should become

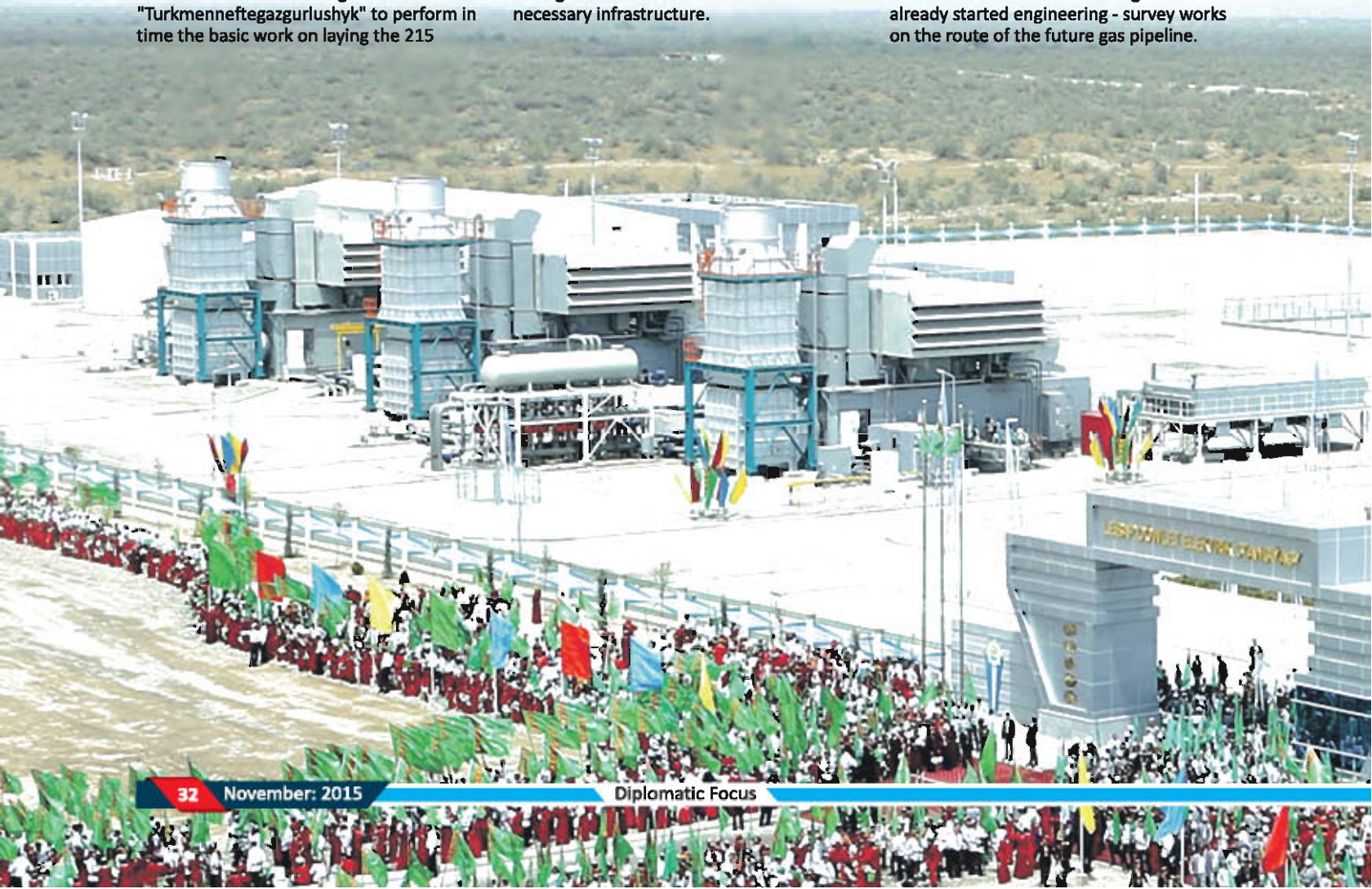




a reliable guarantee for the experts of State Concerns "Turkmengaz" and "Turkmenneftegazgurlushyk" to perform in time the basic work on laying the 215

kilometer stretch of the pipeline, its arrangement and establishment of the necessary infrastructure.

Now experts of the Institute of oil and gas under state concern "Turkmengaz" have already started engineering - survey works on the route of the future gas pipeline.





They conduct a set of technical and geological studies on the 215-kilometer stretch in the south-east of the country - from the super-giant field "Galkynysh" to the border with Afghanistan. In preparing a new gas route, engineers and workers with extensive experience in the creation of such routes are involved. Experts of Shatlyk comprehensive development department conducted topographical survey on a 160 km section of the future strategic main of TAPI. Engineering and geological surveys are carried out on a 50-kilometer stretch. In the near future field work will be completed in the hilly area of the Karakum Desert and will begin in the highlands. At the same time, as per the order of the Department belonging State concern "Turkmengaz", which engaged in development of gas fields and construction of pipelines, the main contractor of the TAPI gas pipeline – state company "Turkmenneftegazgurlushyk" is laying the road, which will run along the future route. It will





enable to make effective of modern technology and mechanisms in the difficult areas during the construction of the century. At the same time work is for the analysis and sampling of equipment required for installation and usage on the linear part of the strategic pipeline and its' supporting ground stations. Thus, the participants of this project have come close to the start of its implementation - the laying of the pipeline.

An important component of cooperation

Today, while maintaining traditionally strategic partnerships in the energy sector, our country has significantly expanded its direct energy dialogue on the European, Asian, Far Eastern and south-eastern areas, has established close contacts with leading oil and gas companies in the world. The result is a series of international agreements and treaties with foreign investors, providing for the implementation of projects in the field of exploration, production and processing of hydrocarbons, as well as the development of transport infrastructure.

The interest in the implementation of the largest project of the century - the TAPI gas pipeline – was shown not only by the participants in this project, but also many

international companies. Recently, experts of the State Concern "Turkmengaz" met with representatives of Japanese corporations - «Mitsubishi», «Chiyoda», «Sojits», «Itochu» and «JGC». It was a key factor in the diversification of supplies and, in particular, the expansion of gas production and processing in the super-giant oilfield "Galkynysh" enormous reserves, which will be the main resource

base of the supplies to the member countries of the international project TAPI. The theme of the Turkmen-Japanese negotiations is the development of economic partnership, implementation of joint projects in the gas sector. First of all, it was a third stage of development of the super-giant field "Galkynysh", the possibility of using advanced technologies in the primary treatment of produced





natural gas and the construction of a modern gas-cleaning plant, as well as the preparation of feasibility study of the project. In order to ensure the necessary volumes of natural gas for TAPI gas pipeline, there was signed a framework agreement with a consortium of several leading Japanese companies in the improvement of the field "Galkynysh", intended for the production, processing and export of natural gas. Now Turkmenistan takes concrete measures for the construction of large industrial facilities, specialized in the processing of natural gas. State Concern "Turkmengaz" is already implementing two projects for gas chemistry, one - for the production of polyethylene and polypropylene with the installation of an ethane cracker and the second - for the production of gasoline from natural gas. In accordance with the development plan of the oil and gas industry of Turkmenistan, Turkmen side signed a framework agreement with a consortium of Korean and Japanese companies in the construction of a plant for the production of synthetic liquid fuels from natural gas.

Asian Development Bank - the financial coordinator of the project

One of the promising directions of development of the industry is to diversify

the supply of Turkmen natural gas and the Turkmen energy resources to new global markets. Laying transnational gas pipeline TAPI, as President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said, has regional and international significance. Its construction is the most important part of the internal and foreign policy of the country.

Matters of financing the construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India and the expansion of cooperation between Turkmenistan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) were the subject of talks of the delegation of our country that paid a working visit to the Republic of the Philippines in Manila. During the dialogue, further action on the draft had been agreed with the Asian Development Bank, which has successfully completed the job as the Transaction Advisor, and is now ready to make every effort to fully implement the project. According to our correspondent, the delegation members, senior executives of the largest financial institution appreciated the economic development of Turkmenistan. Parties expressed assurances in further active participation in the implementation of the TAPI project.

During the meeting it was confirmed that the Bank will not be limited to the

financing of the construction, but also will help to attract other loans, as well as take part in coordinating the work of all interested parties and investors, financiers, will perform in front of them as a guarantor.

Agreeing on further action on the draft, negotiators expressed confidence and hope that the implementation of these agreements will open new perspectives in the implementation of the enormous potential of long-term and mutually beneficial cooperation and will assist in strengthening the interaction between the leader of the consortium «TAPI Ltd» - State Concern "Turkmengaz" and the Asian Development Bank.

The upcoming construction of a new transnational energy mean, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said, to be regarded as a real contribution to the establishment of international energy cooperation, effective stabilizing factor that can have a positive impact on the process of strengthening the social and political stability, but the main thing - to give additional stability to the entire system of political and economic relationships on a global dimension.

by Vladimir Komarov



A meeting of the Elders Council in Avaza



The Elders Council of Turkmenistan held its regular meeting at the Congress Centre in the Avaza national tourism zone. President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov chaired the meeting. The agenda of the national forum was focused on the development priorities of the country and the major objectives of the social and economic and democratic reforms.

The participants included the cabinet ministers, the heads of Mejlis, ministries and departments, political parties and public organisations, the hyakims of velayats, towns and etraps, deputies of the Parliament, specialists of enterprises and institutions, the elders and young citizens of our country. The ambassadors of Turkmenistan in foreign countries, the heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Turkmenistan and Turkmen and foreign

journalists were invited to attend the meeting.

Addressing those present with a keynote speech, the President of Turkmenistan identified the main areas of the foreign and domestic policies and specified the objectives to be achieved in 2016, dwelling on some important provisions of the new Basic Law of our country.

The decision on the improvement of the Basic Law of Turkmenistan was adopted in May last year. For this purpose the Constitutional Commission was established, under which the commission, responsible for considering and systematising the petitions and proposals submitted, was created at Mejlis. The content of the Basic Law was updated and its structure was fundamentally revised. The Turkmen leader suggested incorporating the provision on the

protection of state sovereignty of Turkmenistan which embodies the aspiration of the people to live in peace, unity and political stability, into Section I of the Basic Law that sets forth the foundations of the constitutional system of our country.

The President dwelt on the two fundamentally new constitutional provisions incorporated into the Basic Law. The first one states that "the ultimate goal of the bodies of state power is to protect, support and serve an individual". The second one states that "Turkmenistan is the country that guarantees social protection to everyone".

The Constitutional Commission suggested incorporating the new article that would state that "Turkmenistan shall recognize political diversity and multiplicity of parties. The state shall facilitate the

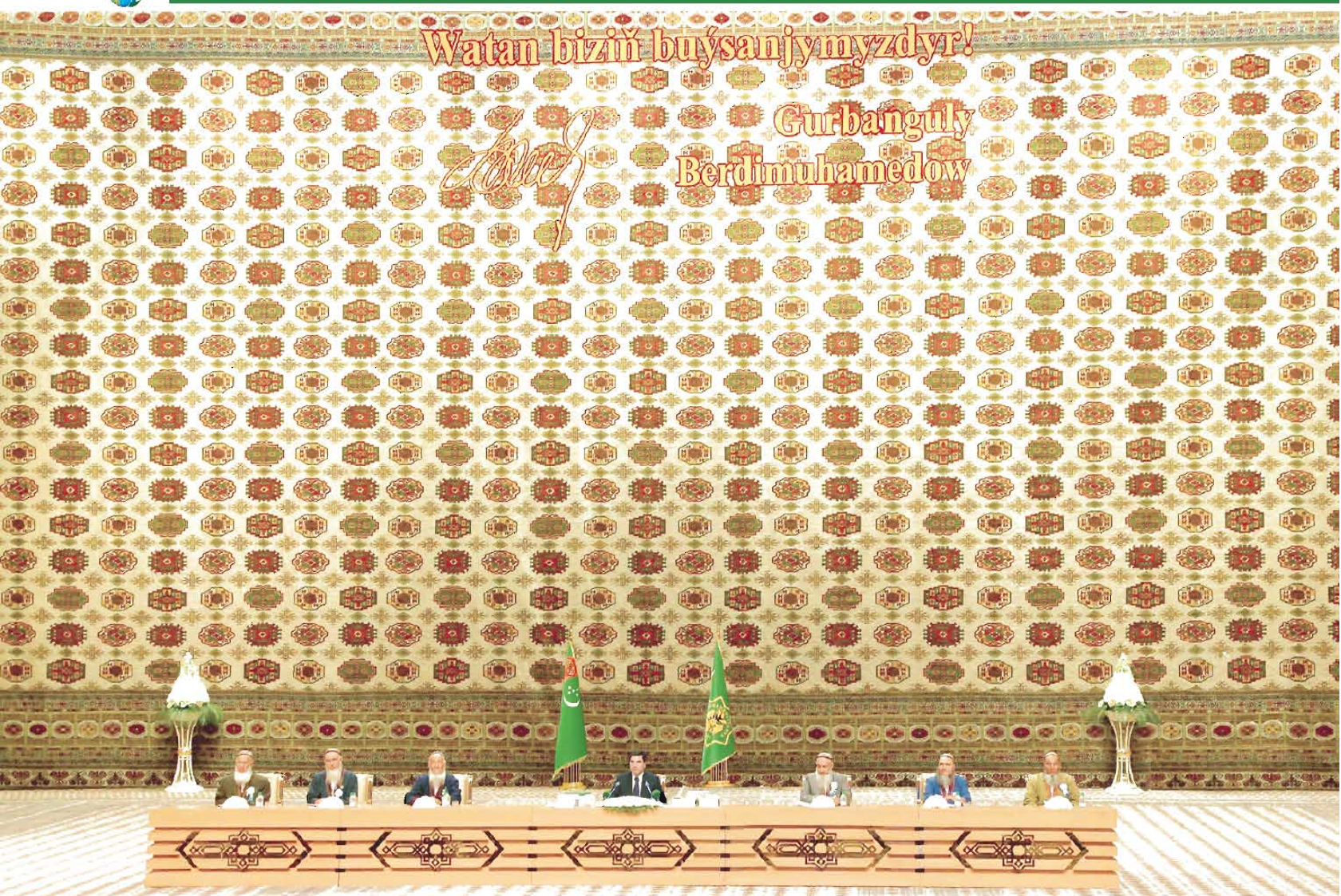




Watan biziň buýsanjymyzdyr!

Gurbanguly

Gurbanguly
Berdimuhamedow



development of civil society.” into the new Constitution. Another new provision submitted for consideration deals with the state policy aimed at the exercise and support of the rights and freedoms of youth.

The Constitution contains the provision on the separation of powers into three branches. The relevant section of the Constitution contains the provisions on the President of Turkmenistan, the Mejlis of Turkmenistan, the Cabinet of Ministers and the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan.

The Turkmen leader suggested reviewing in detail the proposals that would be submitted after the publication of the draft Constitution proposed by the Constitutional Commission. After serious consideration of all the issues, the final document will be submitted to the deputies of Mejlis for consideration and adopted at the meeting of the Elders Council which will take place next year.





The President of Turkmenistan focused on the immediate objectives of the country's economic and social development. The issues relating to the administrative territorial structure, the industrial development programme for the period till 2030, hydrocarbon export diversification, exploration of other mineral resources, establishment of the national electronic industry, the transport and communications sector, investment and construction activities were raised. In 2016, it is planned to implement 428 large scale projects amounting to over US\$ 9.7 billion and launch the construction on over 220 facilities amounting to about US\$ 18 billion. It is planned to use investment amounting to over US\$ 7.5 billion in rural areas.

The issues put on the agenda of the national forum were discussed; the participants, including religious figures, specialists of education and science, agriculture and other sectors of the national economy and the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, military servants and students, addressed the

meeting. UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative in Turkmenistan Jacinta Barrins addressed the meeting. Those speaking at the meeting expressed their opinion on the provisions incorporated into the draft Constitution and relating to the development of science, introduction of innovative technologies for sustainable use of land, water and other natural resources, etc. It was also noted that the transition of Turkmen economy to market relations required the most effective and efficient use of national resources. In this context and based on the fact that the standard of living of citizens has increased significantly, the opinion was expressed that the time to introduce water and gas usage charges had come.

Summing up the discussions, the President thanked all the speakers at the national forum, noting that all the proposals put forward at the meeting would be taken into consideration. The President signed the Decrees on the conferment of state awards and honorary titles in honour of the 24th anniversary of Independence of

Turkmenistan, the conferment of the Zenan kalby Order of Turkmenistan and the conferment of the title of the Honorary Elder of Turkmenistan.

The Turkmen leader presented the awards for the conscientious work of many years to citizens of Turkmenistan who had made a worthy contribution to strengthen independence and sovereignty of the motherland, enhance its economic capacity, develop various sectors of the national economy and the social sphere, preserve and maintain national traditions and had performed special services to the state and the people and the delegates of the meeting who had received the title of the Honorary Elder of Turkmenistan. The decision to hold the next meeting of the Elders Council in Ashgabat in 2016, when the country would be celebrating the 25th anniversary of independence, was adopted.

The Vice-Chairman of the Elders Council was elected. The participants adopted the Address of the Elders Council to the Turkmen people.



Turkmenistan's energy strategy

On the background discussions reviving in recent years in the media and expert community about the configuration of the energy flows in the Eurasian region, as well as in the context of the prospects for the gas pipeline "Turkish Stream", Turkmenistan is increasingly

mentioned as one of the most important suppliers of natural gas to the international markets. There are a variety of estimates and forecasts with respect to the Turkmen resource and export opportunities, outlining complicated, sometimes very diverse geopolitical schemes, that generate



all sorts of thoughts about the real objectives of Ashgabat. All of them must have the right to exist, but when analyzing the prospects of Turkmenistan as a serious player in the global gas market one should base on real indicators of hydrocarbon reserves and true picture of how and on what principles the country builds its international energy strategy.

Following the independent international audit of two fields in Eastern Turkmenistan - "Galkynysh" and "Yashlar" with total volumes estimated at 26.2 trillion cubic meters of gas, Turkmenistan's hydrocarbon resources are estimated by now in the amount of 71.2 billion tons of oil equivalent, including 20.86 billion tons of oil and 50.34 trillion cubic meters of gas. At the same time the reserves "Galkynysh" (21.2 trillion. cub. meters of gas), recognized as the second in the world after

the Iranian 'South Pars'. Thus, at the moment in terms of natural gas reserves, Turkmenistan ranks fourth in the world.

According to the estimates, the resources in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea amount to 12.1 billion tons of oil and 8.76 trillion cubic meters of gas. Correspondingly, the assessment on the land is 6.1 bln. tons of oil and 44.24 trillion. cub. meters of gas. Both on land and within the national sector of the Caspian Sea, seismic survey opened about one thousand prospective oil and gas structures, about 180 fields discovered, with one-third under development.

It is clear that the availability of hydrocarbon reserves has enabled Turkmenistan on reasonable grounds to launch a multi-variant scheme of its exports to international markets. The

direction number one and by far the most significant is China.

At present Turkmenistan exports natural gas through transnational pipeline Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan-China, commissioned in December 2009. The pipeline consists of three threads (A, B, C) with a total capacity of 55 billion cub. meters and is designed to supply gas to China in the amount of 40 bn. cub. meters per year. In 2014, it exported a total of 23.8 billion. cub. meters of natural gas.

Construction of the fourth line of (D) pipeline to China through Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan is under development, which will increase annual transportation of Turkmen gas by extra 25 billion. cub. meters and thus will increase the total volume of gas exports to China in 2021 by 65 billion. cub. meters per year.





The second of the completed projects - supplies of Turkmen gas to Iran by two new routes: first is Korpheje (Turkmenistan) - Kurtkui (Iran) and second is Dovletabat (Turkmenistan) - Sarakhs (Turkmen-Iranian border) - Hangeran (Iran). In 2014, these pipelines to the Islamic Republic supplied 5.9 bln. cubic meters of Turkmen natural gas. The total design capacity of the pipeline makes it possible to supply up to 20 bln. cub. meters per year.

Many suppositions existed as regards the prospect of Afghanistan-Turkmenistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) before December 2010 when parties signed a quadripartite inter-governmental agreement on its implementation. Over the years, sides managed to agree on the main issues, and today all the preliminary work on the TAPI project is completed - contracts for the sale and purchase of Turkmen natural gas concluded, and "TAPI - Limited" consortium registered, the leader of the consortium State Concern "Turkmengaz" was elected and feasibility works conducted.

During the visit to Ashgabat, Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, President of Turkmenistan in talks with him said "Good progress made towards implementation of the TAPI, connected with the upcoming practical implementation of this important, major international project."

The total length of the TAPI gas pipeline, which will start from the mentioned field "Galkynysh" and reach Fazilka settlement on the Pakistani-Indian border, will stretch for 1,800 km. The capacity of the main is 33 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year. The project has received the approval of a number of states, including Russia, the US and the EU, as well as international financial institutions, in particular the Asian Development Bank, which is the most active supporter TAPI. Turkmenistan has decided to begin construction in 2015. According to estimates of The





Turkmen side, laying of the gas pipeline can take from 3.5 to 4 years.

Thus, diversification of Turkmen gas supply routes to international markets becomes a reality. Turkmenistan has not any geopolitical preferences. The country during 20 years has the internationally recognized neutral status and therefore does not need them, keeping the absolutely sovereign line on this issue and giving priority to primarily economic feasibility as compared to the configuration of the pipeline routes. The fundamental principle of Turkmenistan's energy strategy for many years, also remains unchanged - Ashgabat sells its gas at the border at a reasonable price, calculated according to the international formula. The future of gas is in the hands of consumers. Political considerations if they are exist, they consist in the fact that the construction of multiple pipeline infrastructure is regarded by Turkmenistan as an effective positive factor in the development of interstate and regional cooperation, an important condition to maintain the balance of interests in the Eurasian energy space on the basis of giving to the partners an equal access to the sources of Turkmen hydrocarbons and their means of delivery. Proceeding from this and basing on the real assessment of its own resource base and its possible opportunities for the use in the future, Turkmenistan made choice not to replace one energy supplies with others, not change the geography of routes, but through expansion and completion via entering new promising markets, in addition to traditional ones - Russia and Iran, and now also include China, and the European direction.

Recently, the issue of accession of Turkmenistan to energy supplies from the Caspian region to Europe lead to the substantive interaction between Ashgabat, Baku and Ankara. In early May of this year, there was a quadrilateral meeting of heads of energy departments of Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and representatives of the European Commission, devoted to the discussion of the matters of the supplies of Turkmen gas to Europe, providing for the creation of a joint multi-variant pipeline infrastructure.

In general, experience of international cooperation gained in recent years by Turkmenistan proves the reasonability of the chosen strategy meant to diversify its energy supplies to the foreign markets. The country is making the maximum use of its existing powerful resource potential, showing flexibility and commitment and at the same time, based on its neutral status, does not enter into the confrontation with anyone and is not involved in the geopolitical maneuvering on the world energy markets.

Speaking at the forum of the Energy Charter, held last December in Ashgabat, President H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov formulated the credo of his country as regards the international cooperation in the energy sector: "It is clear that the vision of the global energy market as an arena of rivalry and struggle for the sphere of influence has to remain in the past. This approach no longer comply with the current geopolitical, economic and social realities, the criteria

of post-industrial technological structure. Today the agenda covers development of fundamentally new models designed to transform the global energy dialogue into the driving force of global development based on the balance of interests of all its members, responsible and careful about natural resources, the environment, taking into account a broad public opinion based on a fair distribution of the benefits given by energy and its consumption".





Turkmenistan

following the path of growth



It has been 24 years since Turkmenistan declared its Independence on October 24, 2015. Our country determined its way and moves on along the way of unity. This unity, peace, cohesion, and target-oriented growth is not just a mere coincidence. As the Leader of the nation says, "The accomplishments and achievements we made became real thanks to the eager support of the policy by our people".

The policy of "Open Doors" pursued by Turkmenistan creates favorable conditions for equal and mutually beneficial cooperation with all states of the world. As a result, Turkmenistan integrated into the world affairs.

Independent, Neutral Turkmenistan implements great transformations in all areas of economy and society, and confidently goes forward. Turkmenistan joins the fast growing states and successfully addresses the related challenges. Turkmenistan is actively cooperating with UN,



OSCE, EU, SCO, CIS and ECO and other organizations, which remains as the main direction of the good-willing foreign policy of Turkmenistan.

Neutrality of Turkmenistan is inseparably connected with

Independence of Turkmenistan, because the Turkmen statehood gave the opportunity to our country to put into reality the sovereign policy of our state in the world arena. From the other hand, Neutrality status of Turkmenistan has strengthened

the Independence of Turkmenistan. Therefore, Independence and Neutrality of Turkmenistan are two strong supports of Turkmenistan. The foreign policy priority of Turkmenistan is peace, cooperation in the region and





beyond the region, basing on wisdom and mutual benefit, which stand as the main ways of achieving the above said. Turkmenistan openly expresses its view on any international issue. President of Turkmenistan H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov firmly and persistently protects the nation interests of the country and the people. This well thought out and consequent foreign policy of esteemed President has won full support of the world society, universal recognition and deep respect.

Turkmen people carries on the state policy of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov with high inspiration and happily lives, creates, works and builds.

Nowadays Turkmenistan has turned into a large construction site. As the clear evidence, 68 objects to the sum amount of 1,5 (one and a half) billion US dollars were built and put in operation by the September 2015. We can name the enterprise for raising the sturgeon and gas turbine electric power station with the 504 megawatt capacity, which is the largest in



the region. More than two thousand objects to the sum of 50 billion US dollars are under construction currently throughout the country. Among those objects we can mention 10 new hotels and new recreation complex in "Awaza" National tourist zone, complex of buildings of Awaza district, 25 secondary schools and 14 kindergartens for 2090 children. Enormous investments are allocated for construction of motor roads and rail ways. Those invested objects belonging to economic and transport fields began paying back the invested funds.

Over a historically short period of time, Turkmenistan created a powerful processing industry – a whole chain of enterprises were created for processing hydrocarbons, agricultural products, and cotton. As a result, Turkmenistan has turned from the country-seller of raw cotton into the

country-exporter of the ready textile output, cotton products, and ready to wear clothes. Now Turkmenistan is producing supreme quality products that

compete with US and European products and have a great demand among the customers all over the world.

Turkmenistan established the accurate





procedures that provide for granting material privileges and benefits for every family, especially for families with many children. The social security system, from the one hand it is general and includes all social groups, from the other hand, it takes into consideration the needs of every single human being. Provision of Turkmenistan population with free of charge natural gas, electricity, water and salt was recognized by the world community as a unique phenomenon.

Health protection and care – is one of the priority areas of the Turkmen state policy. On 21st July 2015, Turkmenistan marked the 20th anniversary of Health program. As a

result of the total care about the living and social conditions of the people, the demographic situation is improving. The number of population grows and life expectancy increases. Over 2009 – 2014 the cases of diseases decreased 4,1%, at the same time birth rate increased 22.8%, average life expectancy rose 3% or in other words from 69.2 to 71.3.

Independent and Neutral Turkmenistan under the wise, far-sighted leadership of honorable President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has stepped on the way of true economic and spiritual growth.

By **Dovlet Seyitmammedov**







Development of International Transportation & Infrastructure of transit corridors: New Horizons of fruitful partnership

The General Assembly of the United Nations on December 19, 2014, at its 69th session on the initiative of the President of Turkmenistan adopted by consensus resolution A / RES / 69/213 "The role of transport and transit corridors to ensure international cooperation for sustainable development."

The report, released by the UN News Centre said on December 19 that "The document was supported by all UN Member States and adopted by consensus." It is further noted that: "The document lays the foundation for the formation of transport networks that combine road, rail, sea and air routes through intermodal logistics centers and dry port. The provisions of the resolution reflect the key elements of the Ashgabat Declaration, adopted in September 2014, providing a comprehensive approach to the development of transport and transit communications."

The resolution calls on the Secretary-General, in consultation with the member states of the UN and relevant agencies of the UN system to prepare for the 70th session of the UN General Assembly in 2015, a report on ways to enhance international cooperation in this field.

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in his speech on video-teleconference workshop on December 22 this year, in this regard, stressed that "the adoption of the UN resolution, in fact, is a logical continuation of the great work that Turkmenistan has conducted over the years, creating conditions for the formation of international transport and transit corridors. In this regard, I sincerely thank the leadership of the United Nations, as well as management of all the countries, co-sponsored, for their support in promoting the initiative of Turkmenistan! "

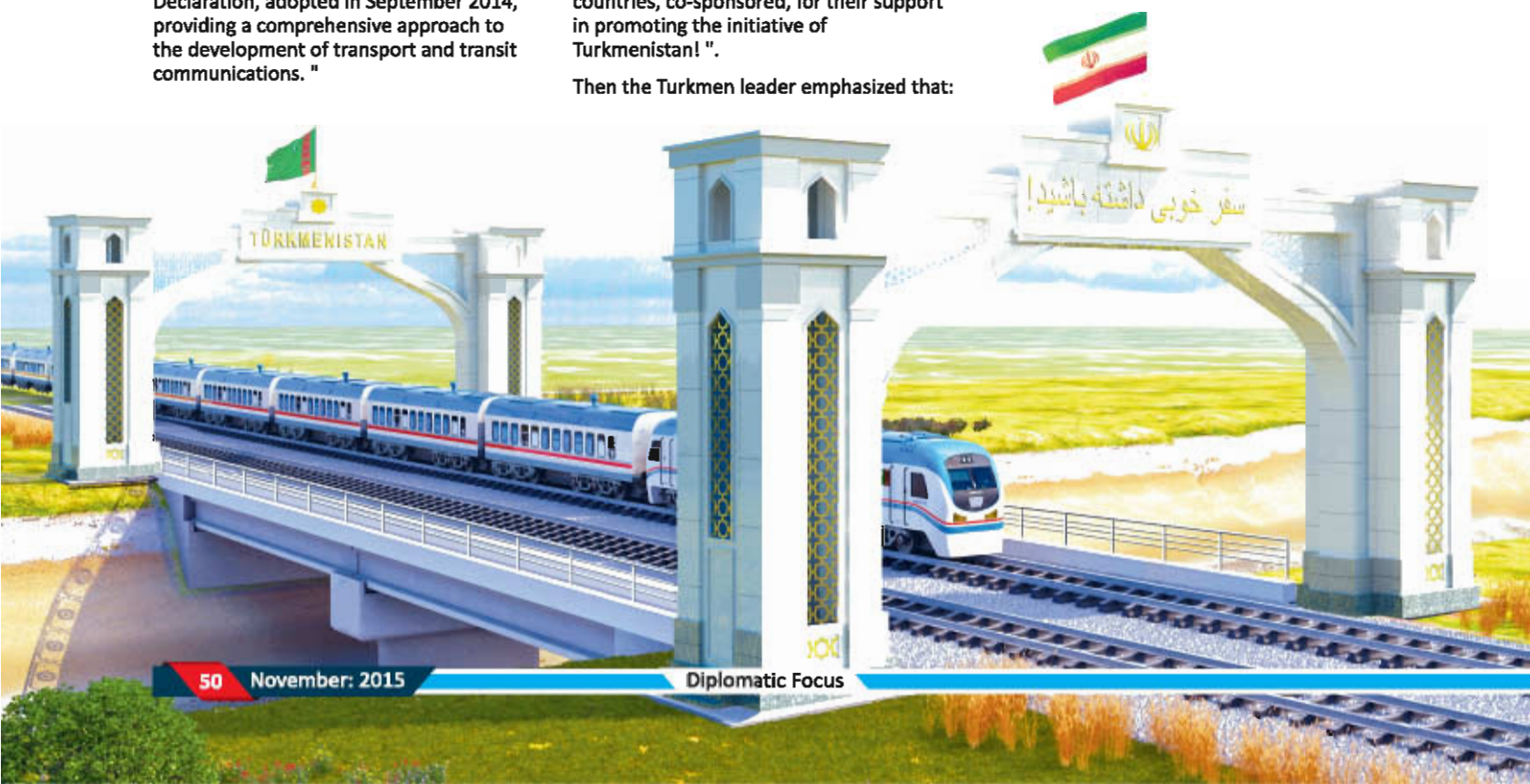
Then the Turkmen leader emphasized that:

"The adoption of this resolution, we see as another step towards the creation of an international regulatory framework for the subsequent formation of transport networks that combine road, rail, sea and air routes through intermodal logistics centers and dry ports, which serve economic growth at regional and international level."

Co-authors of Resolution A / RES / 69/213 "The role of transport and transit corridors to ensure international cooperation for sustainable development" made by 66 countries. In considering the draft resolution in the Second Committee

General Assembly he was supported by all members of the United Nations.

On 19 December the General Assembly at





its plenary meeting adopted the resolution by consensus. Broad support of the community of nations has become a sign of high respect to Turkmenistan and its leader, evidence of a deep understanding of the relevance and prospects of the development of international transport cooperation. This is no accident. As is known, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov conducted their public policy pays great attention to such strategically important areas as the development of transport and communications.

A striking evidence of this are taken and implemented at the present time under the leadership of the Turkmen leader's large-scale and long-term national programs aimed at strengthening the material-technical base of the transport industry of Turkmenistan, construction and modernization of the corresponding infrastructure, training and retraining. President of Turkmenistan emphasizes the importance of the systematic implementation of the adopted in the country programs of development of transport and communication sectors, and

elaborate, taking into account current trends, the approach to the solution of all problems to these areas.

Speaking of which, it should be noted that the carriers park Turkmenistan annually updated with modern appliances, including passenger and freight cars, railway locomotives and cars and other machinery. Turkmenistan actively develops its own sea passenger, commercial and tanker fleet, for which ordered the new naval vessels of various classes. There is increasing transport capacity of the national civil aviation through the purchase of the most modern ships.

At the same time, in our country there is an active construction of new roads, railways, bridges and other elements of road transport infrastructure. As you know, one of the initiatives of the President of Turkmenistan is the formation of large transport centers in our country. The practical implementation of these ideas is visible today in the construction of new airports, the international sea port, road and rail stations.

Of course, the effective operation of any industry is impossible without adequate

staffing. In this context, Turkmenistan created higher and secondary special educational institutions, which are on the systematic base training the staff for the transport sector, as well as for the sectors of construction and maintenance of road and communication facilities.

Naturally, the national transport development strategy is directly related to the expansion and strengthening of international cooperation of Turkmenistan in this area. And this, in turn, is caused by objective needs and trends of the modern geopolitical and geo-economic development.

Today, the state of the global economy depends on a combination of factors significantly affect the stability of the global economic system. The main ones, in our opinion, are the following:

Firstly, it is reliable and stable energy supply;

Secondly, it is the ongoing development of the production of industrial, consumer, agricultural and other goods and products; Thirdly, it is a well-functioning system of cargo transportation;





Fourth, a balanced international trade. As can be seen, the transport component in this scheme occupies a key position. Life confirms the validity of this thesis. Issues of timely and reliable supply of goods and services to the world markets today become paramount, providing ever-increasing influence on the nature and direction of international cooperation. In addition, the development of national transport infrastructure, their integration into the international transport and communications networks greatly enhances the degree of involvement of certain states in the processes of global development.

Based on these basic provisions, Turkmenistan at the present stage formed his own concept of cooperation with the international community in the field of transport. Its main objective is to promote the international arena of science-based and effective in practical terms, models of multilateral partnerships in the transport sector. The essence of this approach is clear: Turkmenistan is moving towards the creation of complex legal, economic, technical and other conditions necessary to intensify and improve international transit transport and communications. In this context, in recent years, Turkmenistan has made a number of important proposals. The most significant of these are the initiatives taken by the President of Turkmenistan at the 66th session of the UN General Assembly in 2011. As is known, the Turkmen leader, speaking from the rostrum of the Community of Nations, noted the need for a systematic approach to the problem of international cooperation in the field of transport.

In this regard, it was proposed to prepare a special program of the United Nations inter-regional transport development. Certainly, the idea of preparing such a program document based on large-scale

vision of the development problems of the modern world. In this context, an important beginning in the development of international transport cooperation was the call of the President of Turkmenistan to consolidate the efforts of all Member States of the United Nations on the creation of transport corridors regional and continental levels on the routes "North-South" and "East-West".

Based on these ideas, on May 16, 2012 in Ashgabat was held the International Conference "Development prospects of transport and transit in Central Asia and the Caspian region." The forum was the

transport, as the most important segment of sustainable development for the coming fifteen years. It should be emphasized that the United Nations attaches great importance to transport issues in connection with the development goals of sustainable development. It is no accident UN Secretary-General shall establish a High Level Advisory Panel for Sustainable Transport.

The logical continuation of the implementation of the initiatives of the President of Turkmenistan in the field of international transport was the International Conference on the theme



first step in the realization of the idea of creating a reliable system of transportation of goods from China to ports on the Baltic Sea. Taking this perspective, the Turkmen side, in collaboration with a number of international organizations in September 2013 within the framework of the 68th UN General Assembly session in New York was held high-level event on the issues of mobility and coherence in the context of the development after 2015. This meeting allowed to reveal the great potential of the international community in the field of

"The role of transport and transit corridors to ensure international cooperation, stability and sustainable development." held in September this year in Ashgabat. As we know, the result of the Forum was the adoption of the Ashgabat Declaration, circulated as an official document of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly. The Declaration was the basis for a resolution adopted December 19, 2014. It should be emphasized that this resolution is the first document of the General Assembly to formalize the





proposal to establish a Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport.

As noted above, the provisions of the resolution reflected the key elements of the Ashgabat Declaration, adopted in September this year, aiming at a comprehensive approach to the development of transport and transit communications. One of the significant provisions of General Assembly resolution is the fact that it is also based on the principles and norms of the Outcome Document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" and a number of other fundamental documents of the United Nations in the field of sustainable development.

Resolution of 19 December 2014 recognizes the importance of environmentally sound, safe, efficient, reliable and affordable cost of transport and transit corridors for the efficient movement of goods and people in support of sustainable economic growth, improve social welfare of people and the strengthening of international cooperation and trade between the two countries. In this regard, the resolution draws particular attention to the role of international roads and railways, logistics centers combined transport and inland transport terminals, the global logistics and supply chains, the integration of transport, appropriate technologies and the maintenance and modernization of the infrastructure to help ensure uninterrupted international transit. Today, Turkmenistan, in close cooperation with other countries demonstrates a high practical significance and prospects of the above-mentioned provisions of the UN General Assembly Resolutions. The example is the transcontinental railroad Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran, inaugurated December 3, 2014 with the participation of the Presidents of the three countries.

The new railway line is an optimal way from the Baltic to the transportation centers of sea ports of Iran, about a length of about 4500 kilometers. Therefore, for the effective operation of this route is now being made to create the necessary transport and logistics capabilities throughout its duration.

Another example confirming the relevance of the Resolution is a new transport corridor "Central Asia - Middle East," which takes place on the territory of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Oman. Already, a number of neighboring countries are showing great interest in this communication with a view to their possible participation in it.

Currently we realized another transport project - construction of railways of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan. We can confidently say that this highway will become an important link in the transport and transit infrastructure linking the

regions of Central and South Asia, and will promote the development of regional and interregional cooperation.

Very promising is the formation of transport corridors connecting Asia with Europe and passing through the territory of Turkmenistan. In this context, we are actively working with neighboring countries and regions. One example of such a partnership is to work on a new transit route in the direction of Afghanistan-Turkmenistan-Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey. Its main feature is that

activities are aimed at strengthening the international partnership in the field of transport.

In this regard, it should be noted the close and fruitful cooperation between Turkmenistan and the United Nations Development Programme, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Road Transport Union, the Intergovernmental Commission Transport



there will need to maximize the efficient use of a combination of road, rail and sea routes through the creation of intermodal logistics centers.

The above examples demonstrate the special importance of the UN General Assembly Resolution, adopted on 19 December this year, in the context of international cooperation in the field of sustainable transport. Naturally, the implementation of the provisions of the multilateral instrument will be carried out by Turkmenistan in close cooperation with all Member States of the United Nations and international organizations directly concerned with sustainable development, as well as the specialized agencies whose

corridor "Europe-Caucasus-Asia" (TRACECA) and other international partners.

International initiatives of Turkmenistan aimed at uniting the efforts of the international community for sustainable development and prosperity of mankind. In this context especially important are the words of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov that "Turkmenistan will continue to play an active role in maintaining and promoting the ideas of the United Nations aimed at strengthening peace and political stability, sustained economic prosperity and development of international cooperation for the benefit of all the peoples of the world."





President of Turkmenistan inaugurates new facilities of healthcare

There were opening of large objects of the medical sphere, as well as laying the ground breaking of the specialized medical facilities. These ceremonies on the eve of the Day of Health and Medical Industry and the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the State program «Health», were attended by President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly

Berdimuhamedov.

The participants of the celebration were representatives of the country's leadership, media, health care workers. Doctors and professors from Germany and other foreign guests were specially invited to take part in celebration.

In the morning the head of state arrived to the place in Ashgabat, where the ground

breaking of the International Center of Surgery and Endocrinology took place. Addressing the gathering, the President congratulated the doctors of the country with the commissioning ceremony and foundation laying of new health facilities.

To the applause of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov signed a message to descendants, and placed it in a capsule, which was placed on foundation of a new building. The head of state puts into the base of the future facility the first shovel of concrete, giving a symbolic start to construction.

Upon completion of the ceremony of foundation laying the President of Turkmenistan proceeded to the newly built facility in the same medical campus in the south of the capital of the International Training and Research Center, which will be engaged in the development and implementation of research projects, the implementation of their results in practice.

After cutting the ribbon, the esteemed President thoroughly familiarized with the equipment of the Centre. Here is the newest hardware, having no analogues today in Central Asia. The equipment with which students, residents, physicians and other specialists will have practical





training, improve skills, conduct research, test methods and advanced technology. The structure of the complex includes medical simulation centers with department of endoscopic surgery, research and analytical departments.

The head of state visited a research laboratory of embryology department for the study of stem cells. The newest equipment allows to diagnose genetic diseases before the embryo in vitro fertilization, that is, before the start of pregnancy. Also in laboratory models are created with help of different types of mesenchymal stem cells (of the dental pulp, adipose tissue, umbilical cord) to

their use in reconstructive surgery. It is, in fact, on the tab of tissue engineering in regenerative medicine and the national transplant.

Then the head of state visited the research laboratory of pathological morphology, designed for research and diagnostics in the field of histology and cytomorphometry, the study of prognostic markers in the pathology of organs. It will also deal with issues of stem cells, defects in the immune system, especially the transplantation of organs and tissues. Another issue is the effect on macro- and microscopic effects of medicinal plants growing in Turkmenistan for the various

organs and tissues.

Then the Turkmen leader met with the scientific and diagnostic laboratories of biochemistry and hematology, including the operation of laboratory equipment, allows you to quickly identify the causes of allergic diseases.

In the structure of the Research Department of the International Training and Research Center there are molecular genetic, cytogenetic, microbiological laboratories, and laboratories for the study of metabolism and others.

The work of the Analytical Department of





the Centre is aimed at scientific and methodological support of development, modernization and management of health, its economic base, the development of evidence-based strategies of the state of e-health, design, development and maintenance of the state register of medicines and the State Register of medical technology and medical devices, and etc.

Then the Turkmen leader observed possibilities of the Training Center of endoscopic and robotic surgery. It uses boxing simulator and virtual laparoscopic simulators to train surgeons to various manipulations before they start to work in a veterinary laboratory, where

laparoscopic training conducted on animals. This training center is part of a multifunctional complex of a simulation, along with the clinical training center and a vivarium.

Training modules in the Clinical Center are simulators, mannequins, realistically simulating patients and simulators with remote control, equipped with electronic training programs. This methodology is intended for senior students and young professionals in order to develop their skills and to develop clinical thinking on the basis of modeling of different situations.

Visiting multimedia hall, the esteemed President drew attention to the further

development of telemedicine, noting the need to organize workshops, the exchange of experience with foreign colleagues, the largest scientific and clinical centers around the world via video conferences.

Then President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov opened the International Center of Cardiology. Here, the leader of the nation, cut the ribbon, opens another significant object of national health care. International Heart Center includes a fully renovated former case and his new next door, connected to the first gallery of transition. Cardiology consists of thirteen offices equipped with the latest medical science and technology in accordance with the highest international standards, and is designed to place 141 patients with highly skilled staff.

The consultative and diagnostic department are receiving cardiologist, cardiac surgeon, arrhythmology, resuscitation specialist, internist, neurologist, gynecologist, otolaryngologist, ophthalmologist, beautician. It offers patients offices of functional diagnostics: electrocardiography, ergometers, spirometry, X-ray densitometry; offices ultrasound, otolaryngologist, ophthalmologist, and X-ray densitometry, endoscopy.

During the inspection of the center head of state visited is located in the new building office echocardiography (ECG), familiarized with the set equipment, including for transesophageal echocardiography, detection of cardiovascular disease using a stress method of ECG diagnosis - on the background of physical activity. Installed equipment is unique in Central Asia.

New standards in cardiac diagnosis set by



advanced equipment of radiology department and angiocardiology. President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov examined the office angiography intended to identify at an early stage of coronary circulation and cardiovascular system, treating them with innovative methods.

Innovative equipment is allowing to carry out high-tech complex operations with minimal risk to health, to provide the most advanced services, including: coronary surgery and surgery of heart defects, surgical arrhythmology, endovascular surgery, coronary heart disease,

hypertension and compartment Rehabilitation.

The head of state visited the operating room and intensive care at the intensive treatment of cardiovascular diseases, and acquainted with the work carried out here.

The operating unit of the Centre consists of 3 operating units, relevant for its equipment, technologies, techniques and opportunities to the international standards.

The center also clinical diagnostic laboratory with modern automatic

analyzers of leading European manufacturers they are meant for hematologic studies, biochemical and immunological studies, which include the previously undetectable enzymes. The list of immunological tests for the diagnosis of hypertension include new markers for the early diagnosis of acute coronary syndrome, tumors and cancers, determined connective tissue growth factor to detect liver fibrosis in the early stages, etc.

The center has physiotherapy department, in the range of services which





electrotherapy, magnetic therapy, hydrotherapy, phototherapy, laser therapy, inhalation, a juice bar.

From the head of state went to the new Clinical Research Center for Maternal and child. President of Turkmenistan cut the ribbon, opening super-modern medical facility.

The new 7-storey complex scientific – clinical Center to Protect Mothers' and Children's health for 670 seats include 28 offices. This medical facility that combines the main directions of science and practice of obstetrics, advanced technology in obstetrics, perinatology, intensive care and neonatal resuscitation, Medical Genetics, Reproduction, diagnostic and consulting services, treatment of childhood diseases, and more.

Turkmen leader examines the equipment operational unit of the Center. Out of the

13 operating ones there 5 are intended for emergency operations, and 8 - for planned. Technical equipment operating complies with international standards, where the main is to reduce aggressive surgical intervention and the transition to more subtle methods of operation. This method helps to reduce the time spent in hospital and contribute to its rapid reunification with family

The center has a separate scientific and clinical surgery department of children under 1 year old, has all the features and facilities for emergency care around the clock, as well as effective treatment. It includes several sections: thoracic, abdominal, hepatology, proctology, maxillofacial surgery, neurosurgery, urology, orthopedics, traumatology. There is carried out a planned examination, conservative and surgical treatment of diseases of the lungs, liver, stomach,

intestinal wall, the brain and the spine, congenital underdevelopment. Specialists had practice in the department of known clinics in Europe, which have mastered modern methods of treatment and effectively apply them in their practice.

Continuing the examination of the Centre, the President visited the department of anesthesiology and intensive care.

In the department of anesthesiology and resuscitation of newborns there all the conditions for observation and treatment of preterm and LBW infants. It is equipped with modern equipment, allows for neurosonography, echo-cardiograph, ultrasound of internal organs, portable X-ray machine. The method used in the office, i.e. hypothermia method, will be used for the first time in Turkmenistan. Also available analyzer for carbon dioxide levels in the blood of infants under artificial respiration. Department is





equipped with a high-frequency device CPAP, which helps normalize the breathing of newborns with the presence of respiratory problems.

The leader of the nation looked on the ground floor Department of Toxicology and hemodialysis. In Turkmenistan, the first openly Pediatric toxicology. There have quality medical care to children suffering from acute and chronic renal failure, with all sorts of poisons.

Then President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov proceeded by car to the new complex of warehouses Chief pharmacy association. After cutting the ribbon at the main entrance of the building, the esteemed President began his acquaintance with the structure with offices and laboratory facilities.

Today is also the opening ceremony of the specialized rehabilitation center on 120 places in the Tedjen city Akhal province.





The International Conference The policy of Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan





On March 15, 2015, the Embassy of Turkmenistan in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in collaboration with the Institute for Peace Studies and Diplomacy of the IRP, Pakistan Society of Civilizations organized international scientific-practical conference "The policy of permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan" in Islamabad.

Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the IRP Sartaj Aziz, Chairman of the Standing Committee on foreign policy of the National Assembly of Pakistan Sardar Aiwaz Ahmad Khan Leghari, representatives of the Pakistan Society of Civilizations, Institute of Peace Studies and Diplomacy of the IRP, heads and members of diplomatic missions accredited in Islamabad, representatives of higher educational institutions, academics and experts, prominent public figures, representatives of the Turkmen diaspora in Pakistan, as well as representatives of the media of Pakistan participated in the work of the conference.

At the beginning of the conference the keynote address was delivered by Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan S.K.Berdyniyazov. In his report, he elaborated on the basic principles of

Turkmenistan's neutrality, spoke about the path traversed by Turkmenistan in the years of independence, about economic achievements and major international projects aimed at strengthening peace, cooperation and stability in the region.

In his speech, Minister of Foreign Affairs of IRP Sartaj Aziz highly appreciated the Turkmenistan's neutrality policy. Stressing the close relations between the two countries, he noted the importance of expanding trade and economic relations between the two countries. He also noted that the TAPI gas pipeline will contribute to peace and economic prosperity of the countries of Central Asia and South-East Asia.

In his speech, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan A.N.Movlamov, expressed his gratitude to the leadership and nation of Pakistan for their support and co-sponsorship of the UN General Assembly special resolution "On the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan" on December 12, 1995 which was initially launched at the summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization in Islamabad.

During the academic session, Rector of the International University of Humanities and Development of Turkmenistan E.M.Aydogdyev in his report spoke about the international

aspects of neutrality, which contributed to strengthening of the authority of Turkmenistan in the international arena.

Participants speaking at the conference highly evaluated the choice of direction and realization of the potential of Turkmenistan's neutrality under the wise leadership of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. It was noted that the granting of the status of permanent neutrality to Turkmenistan was an important milestone not only for Turkmenistan, but also for the entire world community.

At the final session, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on foreign policy of the National Assembly of the IRP's Sardar Aiwaz Ahmad Khan Leghari noted in his statement that the announcement of 2015 – as the Year of Peace and Neutrality - is a symbol of the triumph of peace and security, friendship and good relations, understanding, lofty goals and principles of humanism. In this respect, the international scientific-practical conference is a significant event, testifying to the friendly relations between the two countries.

At the conference, the Embassy presented a video that reflects the culture and achievements of neutral and independent Turkmenistan.





Children Painting Competition "Neutrality and Peace"

in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of
Permanent Neutrality Status of Turkmenistan

Council of Elders of Turkmenistan on 20th October, 2014 declared 2015 as a year of Neutrality and Peace.

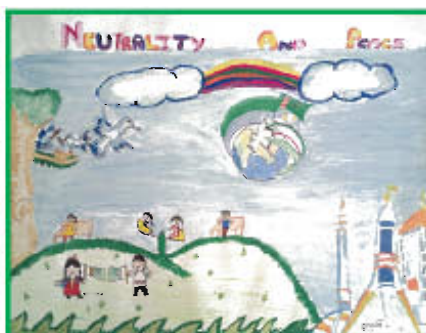
Turkmenistan marks the Day of Neutrality as the second significant national holiday after Independence Day. On December 12, 1995, all 185 members of the United Nations unanimously adopted a special resolution "On the Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan" at 50th Anniversary Session of the United Nation General

Assembly. It was for the first time in the history of UN - status of Permanent Neutrality was granted to any state in the World.

Turkmenistan is steadily moving forward along the chosen path of Neutrality, developing friendly relations with all countries of the world and closely cooperating with the authoritative international organizations, particularly with the UN, for peace, security and

wellbeing on regional and global scale.

Embassy of Turkmenistan to Pakistan in collaboration with Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies in commemoration of 20th Anniversary of Permanent Neutrality Status of Turkmenistan organized a Painting Competition "Neutrality and Peace" amongst the youth of different Pakistani schools including Special Children and Afghan Refugees in order to highlight the concept of Neutrality and Peace which





have far reaching implications for a country to become vehicle of change, peace and prosperity.

The aim of this activity was to promote the understanding of not only the concept and its significance among the nation, but also to honour and showcase the achievements of Turkmenistan that have been gained by the state during the years of independence.

This event was planned and divided into different phases.

Representatives from Embassy of Turkmenistan shared the basic concept of Permanent and Positive Neutrality by giving short, concise and enough knowing video presentations. The core purpose of the video presentations was to create awareness in Pakistani Youth about Turkmenistan's Policy of Permanent Neutrality, cultural and traditional commonalities between two brotherly countries Turkmenistan and Pakistan and to create sense of appreciation in Youth about Peaceful and positive Neutrality which are the key principles of the Turkmen Policy.

Along with presentations, specially designed booklets containing interesting and captivating information about Turkmenistan were distributed in children and staff of schools.

Painting Accessories including Chart

papers, Pencil Colours, Crayons, Pastel Colours, Pencils, Rubbers, Sharpeners and scales were distributed by Embassy of Turkmenistan among the children of Special Education Centre Islamabad to give them opportunities for equal participation in the competition.

Furthermore, selected schools were requested to conduct the competition amongst students within their schools. A packet of Information material was provided to each school for better understanding of theme "Neutrality and Peace." After indoor school competition,

altogether 60 final entries of winners from all school along with portraits were submitted to Embassy of Turkmenistan by February 23, 2015.

Final Ceremony was held on February 26, 2015 in National Library Auditorium Islamabad. Submitted portraits by all schools were exhibited in National Library Auditorium on February 26, 2015.

A special Jury of experts presided by Mrs. Angela Kearney, Representative of UNICEF, decided and enclosed the names of final winners. Jury selected 1 winner from each





grade (1-8) and overall 8 winners from different Pakistani schools.

A separate corner was arranged in the Final Ceremony to exhibit the portraits from Diplomatic Children on its sidelines. And so, some winners were also selected by the jury from Diplomatic Corner.

H.E. Mrs. Angela Kearney, Representative of UNICEF encouraged all the winners and participants of competition while addressing to the audience. She said that it was hard for the jury to pick winners because all the portraits fabulously expressed and conveyed the meaning of Neutrality and Peace. Moreover, she acknowledged all the portraits by little angels as beautiful, eye-catching and winsome paintings. She deeply admired the platform, provided equally to the special children and refugee school by Embassy of Turkmenistan.

H.E. Mr. Muhammad Azam, Secretary Information Broadcasting and National Heritage graced the Final Ceremony as Chief Guest. Ambassadors of different countries, Diplomats, representatives from different Private Organizations and Media persons also attended the Final Ceremony.

Chief Guest encouraged all the children by his thought provoking speech. He stated that Youth are the building blocks of a nation. It is a fact that the stronger the youth, the more developed the nation is. It is the precious asset that can revive a nation going through hard time. He also admired the efforts made by Embassy of Turkmenistan and Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies to promote Neutrality and Peace among Youth, the most important part of the nation.

Gifts were awarded to the winners by Chief Guest H.E. Mr. Muhammad Azam, Secretary Information Broadcasting and National Heritage and H.E. Mrs. Angela Kearney, Representative of UNICEF. All the 8 fabulous winners got QMobile Android Tab (Q50) from Embassy of Turkmenistan along with Certificate for Winner, Shirts and Mugs with the logo of Turkmenistan's Permanent Neutrality Status and theme of competition imprinted on it.

Umar Javed, a promising student of grade 8, from Al-Farabi Special Education Institute was among the top eight students who received certificates for winner, QMobile Android Tab (Q50) along with some souvenirs. Although he is devoid of hands but he made the painting with his feet which empowered and captivated everyone in the Final Ceremony. Everyone appreciated the great talent showed by Umar Javed.

Furthermore, Embassy of Turkmenistan encouraged all the participants by endowing them gift hampers including Certificates for Participants, Mugs and Shirts with logo of Permanent Neutrality

Status of Turkmenistan and theme of competition "Neutrality and Peace" printed on it.

H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan, expressed heartiest thanks to the chief guest, jury, Ambassadors, Diplomatic community, Principals, Teachers and all the participants. He mentioned in his speech that it was difficult to choose best painting because all the paintings were outstandingly depicted to elaborate the theme of competition "Neutrality and Peace"

While thanking H.E. Atadjan Movlamov quoted a saying by Turkmen Leader H.E.

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the Esteemed President of Turkmenistan "The model of Turkmen Neutrality is all the more precious for us, because it is not a political scheme devised by highbrow analysts in the privacy of government offices, but rather a fusion of modern world outlook and the centuries-old wisdom of Turkmen people. Tolerance, friendliness, and loyalty to the principles of good neighbourliness- all these qualities were inherent in the Turkmen people for centuries. That is why our neutral status enjoys not only strong support in national public consciousness. But also makes us much more accessible and open to the outside world."



Heartiest Congratulation To The People & Leadership of Turkmenistan On The 20th Anniversary of Neutrality



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Muhammad Yaqoob Tabani
Honorary Consul of Turkmenistan
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