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## 25th

ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE PERMANENT  
NEUTRALITY OF  
TURKMENISTAN





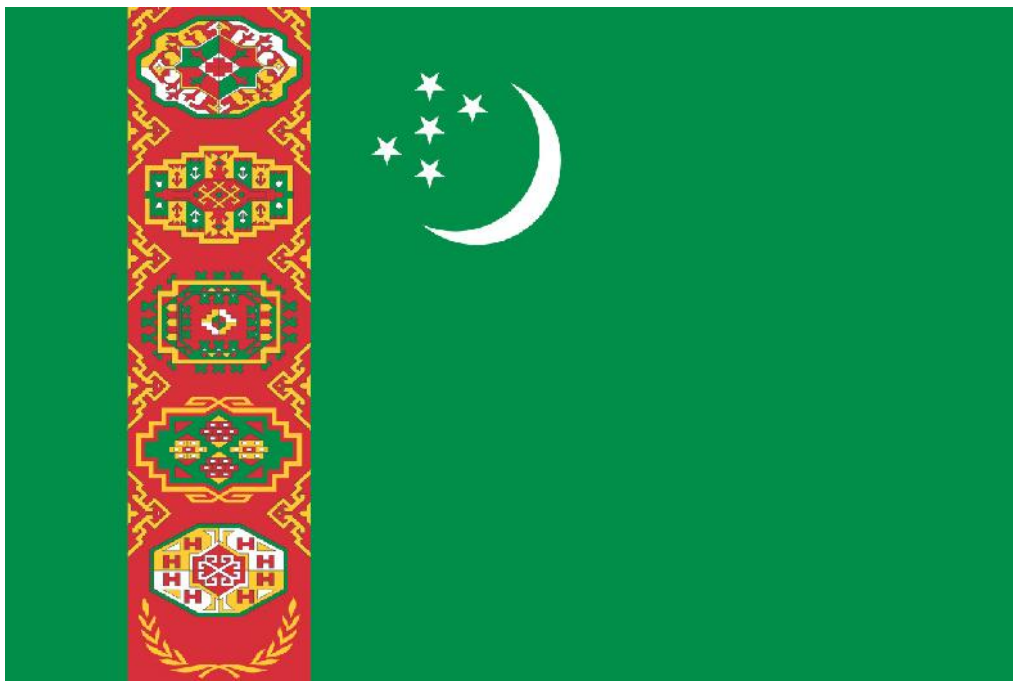




**H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov**  
President of Turkmenistan



**STATE EMBLEM OF TURKMENISTAN**



**STATE FLAG OF TURKMENISTAN**



## **THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF TURKMENISTAN**

I am ready to give life for our native hearth  
The spirit of ancestors descendants are famous for.  
My land is sacred, my flag flies in the world  
A symbol of the great neutral country flies,

Refrain:

The forever great creation of the people  
The native land, the sovereign state  
Forever, the light and song of the soul,  
Long live and prosper, Turkmenistan!

My nation is united and in veins of tribes  
Our ancestors' blood, undying flows.  
Storms and misfortunes of times are not dreadful for us,  
Let us increase fame and honour.

Refrain:

The forever great creation of the people  
Native land, the sovereign state  
Forever, the light and song of the soul,  
Long live and prosper, Turkmenistan!



**2020 YEAR  
TURKMENISTAN - HOME OF NEUTRALITY**





**25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
PERMANENT NEUTRALITY OF TURKMENISTAN**

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Group Chairman/CEO: Mian Fazal Elahi  
Chief Editor Hon: Mian Akhtar Hussain  
Editor/Publisher: Mian Fazal Elahi  
Executive Editor: M Bilal Zafar  
Group Editor: Saeed Yousafzai  
Associate Honorary Editor: Zanib Arshad  
Director Marketing: Mian Furqan Akhtar  
Editor in Chief UK/EU Edition: Mian Assadullah  
Justin Plaza 3, 341London Road, Mitcham, Surrey-CR4 4BE  
Mian Mubeen Akhtar  
Office Manager: Rana Bilal Ahmed  
Creative Art Director: M.Shahbaz Nawaz, RN Scanner  
Art Director: Sharyar Fazil  
Web Developer: Muhammad Wajahat  
Chief Photographer: Ramzan Mughal

Copenhagen Denmark: Fazal Hussain 004540521485  
Email: fazal1955@hotmail.com  
Javed Iqbal Butt: Bureau Chief Australia, Newzealand

#### Board of Advisors

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Northern Virginia: Georgia  
Israr Masood: M. Jamil Rathore  
Sydney Australia: Bureau Chief Jeddah KSA  
Rana Salman Shahid: Cell: +966-502583608  
Vehari  
Mr. Muhammad Muzzamilullah Maan  
Brussels (Belgium)

#### Printer

Roohani Art Press, Street no. 1, Service Road Muhammadi Town, Sohan near Express High Way, Islamabad.

#### Publisher

Mian Fazal Elahi, House No 263-C, Street 87, Sector E-11/2 Islamabad.  
Tel: +92-51-2163092, 2163070, News Room: +92-51-2163029  
Mobile: +92-345-5565552, +92-322-5565552  
Email: mianfazalelahi@gmail.com, diplomaticfocus.isb.pk@gmail.com  
www.diplomaticfocus.org

Karachi Office: Mobile: +92-331-5155515

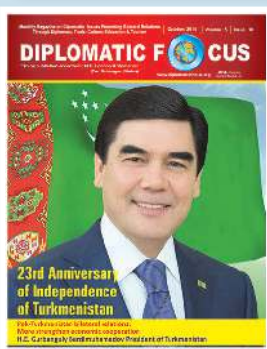
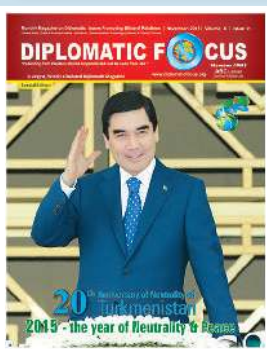
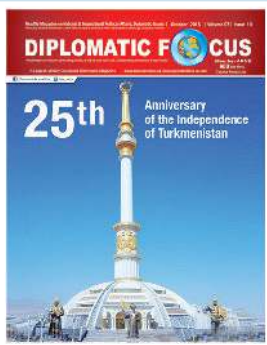
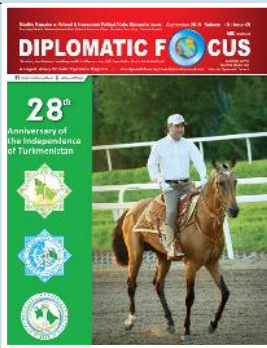
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## Our previous Issues



Mian Fazal Elahi



In the current year, Turkmenistan together with the world community widely celebrated the 25th anniversary of international recognition of the neutrality status of Turkmenistan. This is certainly a significant era, in the history of Turkmenistan and a great accomplishment in preceding permanent Neutrality in the foreign policy of Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan has selected a perfect track which added the status of positive neutrality and framed its essential ideologies like peace-loving, noninterference in the affairs of other countries, respect for their autonomy and territorial integrity, nonparticipation to the international military organizations and treaties.

Regional connectivity is the key pillar of Turkmenistan foreign policy. Turkmenistan plays a role of bridge for regional connectivity and this thing only became possible because of its relations with the countries are remarkable due to its leading role in peace initiatives, harmony, development, and conflict resolution due to its iconic policy of "Positive Neutrality" that is appreciated worldwide and adopted by UN resolution which was adopted twice in 1995 and 2015 respectively. Turkmenistan is also becoming one of the prominent countries of Central Asia because of vision of regional connectivity.

On December 12, 1995, the United Nations General Assembly collectively embraced the Resolution on "Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan.". Time has demonstrated that it meets the drawn out objectives of the United Nations, interests of the states' and individuals' improvement in the states of harmony and security. Further occasions demonstrated this with complete proof.

On behalf of Pakistani nation, The "Diplomatic Focus" wishes to extend heartiest greetings on the happy occasion of the 25th anniversary of permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan.

The articles, columns, Opinions are published in Magazine in good faith. However, the contents of these writings may not necessarily match the views of the Editor/Publisher/Organization.

### Important Announcement



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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**DIPLOMATIC FOCUS**

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## The President of Turkmenistan participates in the forum dedicated to cooperation with international organizations

International conference “Turkmenistan and International organizations: Cooperation for peace and development” with participation of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov was held in Ashgabat on January 14, 2020. The forum was dedicated to the celebration of the 25th anniversary of neutrality of Turkmenistan.

The representatives of respected international organizations arrived to Ashgabat to attend the Conference. Also, the heads and representatives of the Government of Turkmenistan, regional executives of international organizations, including the UN, OSCE, EU, World Bank, EBRD, ADB and others, as well as the chiefs of diplomatic corps accredited in Ashgabat and representatives of local and foreign mass media participated to the event.

Speaking at the opening of the Conference, the President of Turkmenistan noted that being an active member of international life, Turkmenistan proposes number of international initiatives on current issues of modern time for deserving contribution to provision of sustainable development and prosperity on global level, the Head of the State said.

Being a supporter of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, our country sets objectives, which are very important for current and future generation and tries to achieve them on different levels, in particular under international organizations.

Therefore, Turkmenistan does not stop only at proposal of important initiatives aimed at expansion of wide international partnership and meeting fundamental interests of all countries and nations but also takes measures for their practical implementation. This is indicated by the current meeting, the Head of the State noted.

Speaking of the agenda of the meeting, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov informed that subjects related to national and common interests would be reviewed. The participants will exchange their views and outline joint work in the nearest future on these subjects.

This year, our country and the world community will celebrate the 25th anniversary of international recognition of the status of neutrality of Turkmenistan. This important date is a remarkable event in independent history of Turkmen state, a milestone in its foreign policy, the President highlighted.

At the same time, this is a good reason to think over way, which was made for the quarter of the century, to give assessment to current development of Turkmenistan as a

neutral state. Today, we do it together with our friends and partners who represents big and competent international organizations. We are interested in and appreciate your opinions and recommendations, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said.

The Head of the State noted special importance of this in the context of preparation to International High-level Conference “Policy of Neutrality and its Importance in Provision of Peace, Security and Sustainable Development”, which is planned to be held in Ashgabat on December 12 this year.

After, Head of the State Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov referred to the history of neutrality of our country. For Turkmenistan, which gained independence in complicated conditions of fundamental changes of entire system of international relations, the selection of foreign course was one of the most important subjects, the President said.

What this course would be, how do we build relations with the world community, on what principles do we develop international cooperation?

The history has numerous samples when mistakes in choosing of foreign model have led to loss of real sovereignty of the states, their involvement to the sphere of interests, which are far from true goals of national development.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlighted that Turkmenistan has chosen the model, which was named a positive neutrality and specified its fundamental provisions, which are peace-loving, non-interference in affairs of other states, respect of their sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-involvement in international military organizations and treaties.

We started to pursue sovereign neutral but at the same time an active and constructive foreign policy. Therefore, it is no wonder that the world has accepted our efforts for strengthening of neutrality of Turkmenistan as international and legal status with friendliness and understanding. Our country received support from the neighbouring countries at first and after in Non-alignment Movement.

On December 12, 1995, the United Nations General Assembly has unanimously adopted the Resolution on Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlighted that neutrality of Turkmenistan has become a significant factor of international peace-making efforts in our region, having

reminded that it was Ashgabat, which hosted number of talks under the UN aegis, which played an important role in achievement of peace and harmony in Tajikistan.

The capital of our neutral state became the place of negotiations on regulation of Afghan conflict in the end of the 90s of the last century.

Turkmenistan became a reliable ally and effective partner of the UN in protection and support of political stability in the region, development of good neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation. This was indicated by the decision of the world community with support of all countries of the region on opening of the UN Regional Centre of Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia in Ashgabat in 2007.

We accepted it as a huge responsibility and at the same time, as an evidence of the trust given to Turkmenistan by the United Nations Organization, the Head of the State said.

Today, Turkmen neutrality is an important factor of regional security. Its fundamental principles fully comply with strategic directions of the UN in Central Asia, which are aimed at turning of the region into the place of peace and cooperation, strong link of continental stability. In this context, the UN can always rely on support of Turkmenistan, which use political and diplomatic methods for creation of atmosphere of understanding and trust, favourable conditions for equal and constructive partnership, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said.

Turkmenistan sees assertion of the culture of dialog as its priority objective as a neutral state during solution of arising issues and confrontations. As is known, the UN General Assembly with co-authorship of 73 member states has unanimously adopted the Resolution initiated by Turkmenistan on declaration of 2021 as International Year of Peace and Trust.

In this context, our country will develop and present proposals on conducting of International Year and of Peace and Trust with maximum practical benefit for the efforts of for provision of peace and security to the UN for review, the President of Turkmenistan informed, having noted that we hope for close cooperation with relative structures of the UN and other international organizations during formation of these initiatives and their further realization.

During the last session of the UN General Assembly, Turkmenistan proposed initiative on development of set of rules on application of the principles of neutrality in provision of peace and security. We considers that this is very useful initiative and look forward for your support in



«TÜRKMENISTAN WE HALKARA GURAMALARY: PARAHATÇYLYGYŇ WE  
ÖSÜŞIŇ HATYRASyna HYZMATDAŞLYK»

atly 2020-nji ýylda «Türkmenistan - Bitaraplygynyň mekany» sygary astynda geçiriljek Türkmenistanyň hemişelik  
Bitaraplygynyň 25 ýyllygynyň belenilmegine bagyşlanan halkara maslahaty

Aşgabat şäheri, 2020-nji ýylyň 14-nji ýanwary

“TURKMENISTAN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: COOPERATION FOR  
PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT”

International Conference dedicated to the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the permanent Neutrality of  
Turkmenistan in the year of 2020 – “Turkmenistan – Home of Neutrality”

Ashgabat, 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2020



its implementation, the Head of the State said addressing to the participants of the forum.

This document can be used by international community as an effective mechanism for prevention of possible confrontations, non-admittance of their escalations into war, for turning of conflict processes into peaceful negotiation stream.

Recently, we have also proposed to establish the Group of friends of neutrality for the interests of peace and security, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov continued, having expressed the willingness for close cooperation with all sides, which are interested in promotion of this initiative.

The Head of the state made special mention that Turkmenistan has always been and remains to be an active participant of international efforts for combating against modern challenges and threats, and highlighted solid position of our country in counteracting of terrorism, combating against illegal drug and human trafficking.

Turkmen leader highlighted that support of reconciliation processes in Afghanistan receives special importance today. The Head of the State confirmed the position of Turkmenistan: as a neutral state and close neighbour of Afghanistan, our country is willing to provide necessary conditions for establishment of peaceful dialog on Afghanistan. There is no alternative to negotiation process, the President of Turkmenistan said. Previous practice has

shown that force methods are non-productive and have no future in this case.

Throughout many years, Turkmenistan provides specific addressed economic and humanitarian support to Afghanistan. It is expressed in construction of medical and educational facilities in neighbouring country, beneficial supplies of electricity, study of Afghan students in Turkmen educational institutes, regular humanitarian cargos to Afghanistan, other support and assistance. All of these is financed by Turkmenistan from its own funds.

The President assured Afghan friends and international community that such support would be continued on systematic base according to special programme developed in Turkmenistan.

Having noted that special attention is paid to economic aspect of Turkmen neutrality these days, which implies creation of conditions for rapid social and economic growth of our country, development of its beneficial foreign economic and trade relations, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlighted that the neutrality guarantees from any politicization of such cooperation and provides equal treatment of all foreign partners.

Provisions of Turkmenistan's neutrality, non-confrontational outlook, our strict adherence the UN Chapter and international regulatory standards are completely reflected in realization of international projects of the country. Their

direction is provided not only by commercial and economic benefits but also by intent to provide rapprochement of the states to create the atmosphere of trust and predictability in relations between them.

In its turn, it will support to expansion of economic relations between the countries, practical implementation of the principles of transparency and equality in international economic cooperation. These foundations have been laid to the activity of international organizations of economic, financial and investment orientation.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov expressed the willingness of Turkmenistan in activation of cooperation between such international financial institutes as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Islamic Development Bank. Last year, we have also enforced our work on study of rules and procedures to join the World Trade Organization, the Head of the State added.

The Head of the State outlined execution of the Agenda of the Sustainable Development, where Turkmenistan is also willing to share the experience gained in this direction, as another subject of exchange of opinions.

The President said that today, important parameters of the Sustainable Development Goals are inherently integrated to the Programme of social and economic development





of Turkmenistan in 2019–2025. Implementation of the SDGs in economic part of the Programme is to ensure universal access of the population to cheap, reliable and modern energy provision, stable economic growth and full occupancy, establishment of flexible infrastructure, support of stable industrialization and promotion of innovations. Big attention is paid to widespread digitization of the economy.

Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkmenistan has brightly expressed direction. This is about such important aspects as provision of food abundance and improvement of nutrition of the population, widespread assertion of healthy life style, provision of full gender equality, creation of conditions for inclusive fair and qualitative education.

Starting implementation of national plans in different spheres of the economy and social sphere, Turkmenistan correlates them with ecological component of the SDGs strictly and responsibly. For this purpose, the country starts using modern eco-friendly and resource-saving technologies in all spheres of the economy – in industry, agriculture, transport and other spheres.

We have always clearly stated out positions in this subject: the ecology and environment have not to be hostages of commercial benefits, no matter how attractive they seemed to be, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said, having highlighted that provision of sustainable development of the country, improvement of quality of life of the population are directly related to the solution of ecological objectives in the region.

Saving of Aral Sea is one of the main objectives. Our terms in this direction have been discussed in details at the Summit of the Heads of the States, the Founders of International Fund for Saving of Aral Sea (IFAS) in Turkmenbashi in August 2019 and certain agreements have been reached. Therefore, important steps toward improvement of activity of IFAS and improvement of its effectiveness have been made.

The President of Turkmenistan urged to move in this direction more actively, to involve potential of international community, first the UN and its specialized structures, wider. We proposed an initiative on development of the UN Special Programme for Aral Sea basin and allocation of Aral Sea problems in separate direction of the UN activity.

It is necessary to concentrate more on the efforts of Central Asian states and international structures in provision of equal and fair access to water resources, the President continued. The position of Turkmenistan in this subject is well known to all: we consider that review and solution of water management issues have to be made on the base of the standards of

international law, mutual respect and interests of all countries of the region with participation of international organizations.

The Head of the State noted that in general, we expect continuation of constructive dialog on the issues of the Sustainable Development Goals, which provide consolidation of efforts on international, regional and national levels.

In this context, firm confidence in expansion of partnership between Turkmenistan and the UN Development Programme, UNICEF, World Health Organization, UN Population Fund, the UN Environment Programme and other specialized establishments and institutes of the United Nations has been expressed.

Cooperation of our country with the UNESCO is one of priority subjects of international agenda of Turkmenistan in the context of implementation of the UN Agenda 2030, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said further.

We plan to take efforts for realization of potential of cooperation with the UNESCO in such spheres as education, science, ecology and sports in the nearest future, Turkmen leader said.

The President of Turkmenistan has focused on humanitarian problems. As is known, for number of years, Turkmenistan cooperates closely and comprehensively with relative international organizations for improvement of democratic institutes in the country, effective fulfilment of its obligations in human rights sphere.

At the same time, Turkmen leader Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov made special mention that realization of principle “State for Human Being!”, which is aimed at creation of maximum favourable conditions for comprehensive reveal of potential of human individuality, is the main one in our joint work.

We confirm our intent in activation of partnership with such international structures as the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, as the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, International Migration Organization, International Labour Organization, International Federation of Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies and other humanitarian structures, the Head of the State said.

The neutrality of Turkmenistan is a reality of today and our future, which opens new opportunities for development of wide international partnership in all directions. Following strict commitment to undertaken international obligations, we affirm with all responsibility about our willingness to wide and active cooperation with international organizations for achievement of universal creative goals, the Head of the State summed up.

After, the President of Turkmenistan gave floor to Special Representative of the UN Secretary

General for Central Asia, Head of the UN Regional Centre of Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia Natalya Gherman.

The UN welcomes important and timely initiatives of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, which are aimed not only at consolidated cooperation and solution of the main issues of regional and global agenda but also at the assertion of the central role of the UN in the subjects of peace, security and sustainable development in the region and on global level, Mrs Gherman said.

Special Representative of the UN Secretary General noted that following the course of neutrality, Turkmenistan has not only achieved significant results in different spheres but also has made a significant contribution to strengthening of peace and stability in Central Asia. It can be confidently stated that choice of Turkmenistan was prompt and well-grounded and the model of foreign political development of the country was the most optimum and meeting national interests, long-term goals of the world community and principles of the UN Chapter, she highlighted.

Natalya Gherman highly appreciated Turkmen idea on development of the UN Code of Practice on effective use of the principles of neutrality during regulation of international issues and provision of peace and security as well as initiative on organization of wide multilateral dialog on practical implementation of the principles of neutrality under the UN aegis for prevention of conflicts, elimination of their root causes and consequences, solution of humanitarian issues.

Mrs Gherman said that assuming the post of the UN Secretary General in the beginning of 2017, Antonio Guterres proposed his vision of the UN activity where the utmost place was given to preventive diplomacy.

In this regard, it was noted that the Regional Centre has become one of the first structures of the UN, which was to use and promote preventive diplomacy as a tool of support of interstate dialog and development of cooperation between the countries. In this context, Natalya Gherman highlighted the currency of the thesis of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov that positive neutrality and preventive diplomacy go together. Prevention is our common goal for provision of peace and stability in Central Asian region and on global level.

The Head of the RCPDCA has also noted that in 2020 when the 25th anniversary of permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan symbolically falls on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations Organization, under the celebration of this anniversary, the UN Secretary General Antonio



## 2020 Year - Turkmenistan - Home of Neutrality

the role of international cooperation in building of the future we want.

In this context, the idea of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on organization of International High-level Conference in Ashgabat on December 12 is very current especially on the threshold of 2021, which is declared as International Year of Peace and Trust by initiative of Turkmenistan.

Natalya Gherman expressed confidence that representative forum in Ashgabat would be a substantive part of the process of definition of the future of the UN that we want, to which international community has to strive. This is related not only to Central Asian region but also the world in general, which experiences hard times from the consolidation point of view.

Turkmenistan and the UN will have to face big and fruitful work for further promotion of started initiatives, development of existing formats and platforms of cooperation as well as intensification of the dialog in all main spheres for the interests of peace, stability and sustainable development, Mrs Gherman said in the end.

Having expressed gratitude to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for substantive speech, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlighted that being the state hosting the Headquarter of the UN Regional Centre of Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, Turkmenistan pays special attention to promotion of peace-making agenda, establishment of multilateral cooperation in the sphere of early prevention of conflicts and confrontations, elimination of challenges and threats, establishment of reliable base for peace, security and development.

For almost 12 years of its activity, the Regional Centre has recommended itself as an effective link between the United Nations and Central Asian countries in solution of many issues, the Head of the State said.

After, the Head of the State Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov gave floor for speech to the UN Permanent Coordinator in Turkmenistan Mrs Elena Panova.

Having gained significant experience of development as a neutral state, which status was confirmed by two Resolutions of the UN General Assembly, Turkmenistan offers the world to use the concept of neutrality as a tool to protect peace and promotion of sustainable development. We are willing to support Turkmenistan in promotion of the principles of neutrality, the high-rank UN representative said.

She has also noted that Turkmenistan is one of the advanced countries in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. According to her, the main achievement in this aspect is that the country has laid firm systematic foundation for the SDGs, having established national coordination mechanism and included goals and objectives of the SDGs into the Programme of the President for 2019 – 2025.

The Permanent Coordinator has presented the main priorities of 2020 to the participants of the forum, realization of which would help to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs in the country, it includes support in mobilization of financing for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In her speech, Mrs Panova suggested to establish joint coordination mechanism for attraction of foreign investments and financial resources of international banks for implementation of the SDGs in the country. Participation of international financial establishments and big international companies is expected.

Support in improvement of statistical reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals is another priority direction. It was noted that huge work has been done with the State Statistics Committee for development of national database on indicators in the sphere of sustainable development.

Development of new Framework Programme of cooperation between Turkmenistan and the UN in 2021 – 2025 is another priority. Consultations for development of this document have started last year and three directions of cooperation – improvement of efficiency in the sphere of the government administration by digitization and promotion of human rights; development of the economy taking into account the climate change; quality services in health protection, education and social protection sphere, have been defined in the result.

Special attention in new Framework Programme will be paid to involvement of youth to implementation of the SDGs and development of youth policy. Intensification of joint activity of different UN agencies will be another special feature of the Programme.

In this regard, Elena Panova made proposal to develop actual mechanism for encouragement of joint projects between the UN and the Government of Turkmenistan.

On behalf of the UN Mission in Turkmenistan, Mrs Panova expressed support to initiative of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on organization of International Conference for subjects of Peace, Security and Sustainable Development, which was made at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly. The theme of this forum is consonant with the activities in the world; it allowed having better

look through the prism of neutrality as global challenges of sustainable development, the UN representative said.

Having expressed gratitude to Elena Panova for substantial speech, the President highlighted that membership in the United Nations Organization, active participation in its activity in implementation of the Global Agenda for sustainable development are the main priorities of home and foreign policy of Turkmenistan.

Turkmen leader gave floor to the Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat Natalya Drozd.

The OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, which has marked its 20th anniversary last year, established constructive cooperation with the Government of Turkmenistan. The Head of the centre highlighted the most remarkable achievements of joint work for the last years. For example, 4,000 representatives of the government authorities, academic circles, mass media and public organizations have become participants of our training events in 2018 – 2019.

Natalya Drozd Highly appreciated contribution of Turkmenistan to strengthening of economic stability in the region, having also noted joint activity for promotion of effective management of trade and transport, innovative technologies for sustainable management of water resources, development of renewable sources of energy and energy-saving technologies as well as for realization of international obligations of Turkmenistan in the sphere of ecological safety, which is one of the priorities of the policy of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

In humanitarian aspect, the OSCE Centre actively cooperates with the office of the Ombudsman of Turkmenistan, supports in fulfilment of National Action Plan in Human Rights sphere and National Action Plan for provision of gender equality in 2015 – 2020.

The OSCE has been providing long support in the sphere of development of mass media. Speaking of perspectives of cooperation this year, the Head of the OSCE Centre noted that realization of Plan of joint projects, which provides dozens of events with relative ministries and departments of Turkmenistan, starts in 2020.

In the end, Natalya Drozd expressed gratitude to President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for trust, permanent support and comprehensive assistance to cooperation.

Having expressed gratitude for the speech, Turkmen leader noted that our country traditionally pays special attention to close partnership with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The President stated with delight that for the last several years, our cooperation with the OSCE in these directions is developed dynamically. Connections with such structures as the Office for Democratic



Institutions and Human Rights, the UN High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Representative on Freedom of the Media.

The Head of the State gave floor for the speech to the Chargé d'affaires of the European Union Representative Office in Turkmenistan Mr Lubomir Frebort.

The European Union respects and appreciates the status of Turkmenistan, its policy of permanent positive neutrality, which is selected as the base of foreign course of the country, the EU representative highlighted.

2019 was very important in relations between the European Union and Turkmenistan, which is our important and respected partner in Central Asia, Lubomir Frebort highlighted. Opening of the EU Representative Office in Ashgabat in the middle of the last year has become a top event in our relations and demonstration of the EU interest in strengthening and expansion of relations with Turkmenistan.

Enhancement of the level of our relations allows us expanding political and economic sections of joint efforts in strategic fields such as security, energy, climate change, environment, diversification of the economy and development of private sector, supremacy of law, human rights and many other, the EU representative continued.

It was mentioned that some initiatives of neutral Turkmenistan proposed by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov meet priorities of the EU, first in the subjects of peace and stable development.

Regarding peace and security, including water security, the EU recognizes permanent contribution of Turkmenistan to stabilization of situation in Afghanistan and this agenda is one of the main priorities of the EU security. We welcome initiative of Turkmenistan on declaration of 2021 as International Year of Peace and Trust.

The EU entirely supports the policy of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on diversification of gas export markets while the construction of strategic Trans-Caspian gas line and import of Turkmen gas remain an important part of the EU strategy in the sphere of energy security and recently, new European Commission has included the project into renewed list of priority energy projects. We have activated our bilateral and multilateral energy dialog in 2019 and are ready to continue it.

In the end, Lubomir Frebort expressed confidence that 2020 would give an opportunity for thorough preparation to the high-level meeting between the EU Government and Turkmenistan.

Having expressed gratitude to the Chargé d'affaires of the European Union Representative

Office in Turkmenistan for substantial speech, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlighted that European direction is one of important vectors of foreign policy of the country.

After, the President of Turkmenistan gave floor to Head of the UN Regional Office on Drugs and Crime Mrs Ashita Mittal.

Expressing gratitude to the Government of Turkmenistan for support in promotion of the agenda of the UNDDC in counteracting of transnational organized crime, illegal drug trafficking and prevention of terrorism, Mrs Mittal noted that today as never before, the principles of neutrality occupy central place in provision of peace, security and stability in the planet.

She has also highlighted historical role of Turkmenistan in launch of the UNDDC Programme for Central Asian states in 2015 – 2020, which has been signed in Ashgabat on May 15, 2015 by all five countries of the region as the main framework document on technical cooperation in the region.

Ashita Mittal has highly appreciated initiative of Head of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on bringing of collaboration to more practical level under recently signed Roadmap on further development of cooperation between the country and the UNDDC in 2019 – 2021. Our Department remains comprehensively committed to support of Turkmenistan in its efforts for solution of integrated challenges in security sphere and elimination of the threats to international peace, security and sustainable development, Mrs Mittal noted.

Besides, gratitude has been expressed to the Government of Turkmenistan for its proposal to hold the 55th session of the Sub-commission for illegal drug trafficking in Middle and Near East and issued related to this in June 2020.

Our country pays special attention to international cooperation in combating illegal drug trafficking, especially in close cooperation with specialized UUN structures, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said. Current activity of the UN Department on Drugs and Crime is carried out in Turkmenistan by implementation of 15 global, regional and national projects.

The Head of the State noted that Turkmenistan has ratified the main international conventions and treaties related to the mandate of the UN Department of Drugs and Crime in drug, crime and terrorism spheres. In May 2019, our country was elected to the Commission of Narcotic Substances for 2020 – 2023.

In addition, National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking in 2020 – 2022 has been

adopted on October 6, 2019, which outlines that the UN Department on Drugs and Crime is one of the main partners in realization of this action plan.

Having expressed gratitude to Mrs Ashita Mittal for her speech, the President gave floor to Head of the UN Cluster Office, Mr Svetan Svetkovsky.

In his speech, he noted that Turkmenistan is one of the first countries, which has completed Voluntary National Review of the progress in achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This review demonstrates an integrated approach of the country to implementation of the SDGs in the sphere of the UNESCO authority.

Cooperation between Turkmenistan and the UNESCO in the last four years was focused on implementation of the SDGs in the sphere of education, natural, social and humanitarian studies, culture, communication and information. Turkmenistan took active part in development of the SDGs in these directions and is one of the first countries, which officially adopted and included them into national plans and development strategies, Mr Svetkovsky said.

The UNESCO held its 40th General Conference and adopted the Programme and Budget for 2020 – 2021 in November last year. Subsequently, all programme sectors and site departments have adopted similar plans for work during the same period.

Tehran Bureau of the UNESCO is a cluster bureau, which covers four countries from four different sub regions, namely Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkmenistan. It allows the UNESCO developing potential for development of regional and transboundary approaches. Active role of national Commission of Turkmenistan for the UNESCO affairs has become a link in all communications with the government authorities and existing partners.

We also plan some events related to land management based on protection of ecosystems and biological resources, creation of geological parks, the UNESCO representative has informed.

In the sphere of social and humanitarian studies under strategic goals of social integration and building of peaceful and fair societies, our activity in Turkmenistan includes intercultural and inter-religious dialog as a continuation of International Conference for support of intercultural dialog along the Silk Road, which was organized in Turkmenistan in December 2018.

Session of experts in traditional sports and games of intellectual atlas of cultural collaboration along the Silk Road has also taken place in the fields of the forum in Turkmenistan.





In the sphere of involvement of youth, we plan to expand the Contest of Young Ambassadors of the SDGs in Turkmenistan as a continuation of national campaign of Turkmenistan for promotion of the Agenda 2030. Activities for expansion of potential for National Anti-Doping Agency of Turkmenistan are planned in sports and physical education sphere.

In line of education, it is planned to hold number of events for expansion of potential in the sphere of technical and professional education; educational monitoring and information systems, use of information and communication technologies in teaching methods and study of information technologies.

Joint efforts in the sphere of natural sciences are concentrated on enhancement of role of researches, science, technologies and innovations in stimulation of economic development.

Number of activities for expansion of potential for protection of cultural heritage along the Silk Road, for integration of the management of sustainable tourism in the aspect of management of heritage facilities, provision of safety and risk management in museums, protection of intangible cultural heritage and other.

Having expressed gratitude to the Head of the UNESCO Cluster Office for substantial speech, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that development of culture and education, protection and popularization of historical heritage are the main priorities of the government policy in Turkmenistan. Development of comprehensive and close relations with the UNESCO is an integral component of the policy.

We are proud of high level of cooperation between Turkmenistan and the UNESCO, which is based on intent to realize noble ideals of understanding and friendship between the nations, the President said.

Next, Director of the UN Regional Office of High Commissioner on Refugees, Mrs Yasuko Oda has given a speech.

Having expressed deep gratitude to the Government of Turkmenistan for old successful cooperation with the UNHCR Office, she mentioned recent participation of high-level Turkmen delegation in two main global events held in Geneva.

Expressing gratitude for specific statements made by Turkmenistan at these important forums, Mrs Oda noted that by thus, our country has demonstrated high level of commitment to protection of refugees and efforts for solution of problem of stateless persons.

The UNHCR has established its office in Ashgabat in July 1995. Many things have been achieved since then. The country has ratified all four UN Conventions on refugees and stateless persons. Turkmenistan is the first and only country in Central Asia, which has joined the conventions of stateless persons. In April 2011, Turkmenistan has been elected as a member of the UNHCR Executive Committee and National Action Plan for elimination of statelessness has been adopted last year.

The UNHCR also hopes to join the country groups of the UN for support in conduct of the next national population census in Central Asia including Turkmenistan.

Mrs Yasuko Oda reminded the participants that Turkmenistan received thousands refugees from Afghanistan from the first days of independence and not only provided protection of these people but also gave them access to education, health protection and agricultural lands for their deserving life. Many people received citizenship. This achievement has to be highlighted as one of the best world practices, she highlighted.

Director of the Regional Office of the UN Commissioner on Refugees has also expressed gratitude to President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for invitation of refugee sportsmen from Kenya to take part in the Asian Games in 2017 as well as for conduct of the Conference on refugee problems in the Muslim world in 2012 together with the UNHCR and the Islamic Cooperation Organization, which resulted in adoption of the Ashgabat Declaration calling for close cooperation of all interested countries for solution of problems of refugees and stateless persons.

She has also outlined another important direction of cooperation – the readiness for emergencies. The UNHCR and Turkmenistan conduct annual trainings in this direction.

Having expressed gratitude to Mrs Yasuko Oda for substantial speech, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that Turkmenistan pays great importance to cooperation with the High Commissioner on Refugees and tries to make its contribution to solution of this problem, which concerns destinies of millions of people.

As is known, Turkmenistan in close cooperation with the UN High Commissioner on Refugees and the Islamic Cooperation Organization held international conference dedicated to the problems of refugees in Muslim countries.

Together with the efforts at international platforms, active work is carried out on national level. Starting from 2005, Turkmenistan gave citizenship to more than 23,000 refugees and stateless persons, the Head of the State added, having said that the state would continue paying priority attention to these subjects.

Summing up the reports, assessment and concluding the opinions, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov expressed since gratitude to all participants for substantial speeches. Current meeting confidently demonstrated high level of understanding during definition of goals and objectives of our cooperation, reflected coincidence of approaches to the main subjects of the world development, the Head of the State noted.

Targeting and focus on final result is a character feature of cooperation between Turkmenistan and big international organizations. At present time, implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkmenistan is one of the priority directions of partnership with international organizations.

We were able to make significant move forward in this way, having started development of specific mechanisms of adaptation of the SDGs on national level, having adopted relative indicators for inclusion of them into National programme of social and economic development of Turkmenistan in 2019 – 2025, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said.

International initiatives of Turkmenistan in energy and transport spheres are also provided by the necessity of provision of the Sustainable Development Goals in these important segments of global economy.

It is indicative that relative Resolutions were unanimously supported by the UN General Assembly in co-authorship with dozens of the states. In this context, International Conference of transport ministers of the countries without access to sea in Turkmenistan in March this year is to reflect the continuity of creation of balanced and ramified international transport infrastructure with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

It was almost quarter of the century since the choice of neutral model of development and foreign course made by Turkmenistan in the United Nations Organization received unanimous recognition of all member states, the Head of the State continued. Having wished success for development and progress to all participants, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that number of urgent issues of the global agenda has been highlighted at the Conference. At the same time, it was emphasized that their solution is closely related to high level of international cooperation.

In this context, the President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that partnership between Turkmenistan and international organizations is dedicated to fulfilment of this objective and expressed gratitude to all participants of the meeting and wished them success on work, which is to serve national and universal interests.













# Statement by the President of Turkmenistan at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Dear Mr. President!

Dear Mr. Secretary General!

First of all, let me congratulate Mr. Volkan Bozkir on his election as President of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly and wish him success in this responsible position.

I would like to ask Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande to accept our sincere gratitude for his able and effective work as President of the General Assembly at its 74th session.

Dear participants!

Ladies and gentlemen!

I want to start my speech with the words of deep sorrow for the hundreds of thousands of people who did not survive the coronavirus pandemic.

I also express my admiration and gratitude to doctors, paramedics, nurses, technical staff, volunteers, all those who have been working selflessly for many months to save lives and health of people in different parts of the world.

Our eyes are focused with hope and faith on scientists and researchers who are working on vaccines and drugs to stop the pandemic. I address them with gratitude and willingness to provide all possible support in their most important mission.

Yes, today we have to speak first of all about the new danger faced by humanity in the XXI century. In a short time, COVID-19 has become a real and perhaps the most threatening challenge of our time. A global challenge that does not recognize borders, races, and nationalities, which has a detrimental effect on all spheres of civilizational development.

Perhaps the whole world has felt its vulnerability to a common threat with such severity for the first time in many decades. And we hope and believe that only unity and solidarity can overcome and defeat it and allow mankind to become renewed, wiser, more responsible and farsighted after this battle. And even though the current period is difficult and controversial it gives us a chance to change for the better for the sake of the entire planet's destiny. It is our highest political and moral duty not to miss this chance, to show dignity, solidarity and true humanism.

Dear Mr. President!

Turkmenistan has actively began to take the necessary measures to counter this threat from the very beginning of the spread of the pandemic in the world. Effective protective measures were taken on time, a unified national strategy to

combat coronavirus infection was formed, which consists of a set of measures of organizational, legal, financial, economic, medical and sanitary quarantine character.

Our country has established close international cooperation in bilateral format and through international organizations at the same time.

First of all, it should be noted that Turkmenistan closely cooperates with the United Nations. In this context, we fully support the calls and appeals of the UN Secretary General made in his statements on March 23 and 30 of this year.

Taking into account the initiatives of the Secretary General, Turkmenistan has approved the National Plan of Preparedness for Prevention and Response to acute infectious diseases at the state level.

A Plan of Operational Social and Economic Measures in Turkmenistan to counteract the coronavirus pandemic was also developed and adopted.

Turkmenistan continues its longstanding and effective partnership with the World Health Organization at the same time. We highly appreciate the role of WHO in the fight against coronavirus. Their recommendations have shown their validity in our country and serve as important guidelines for the activities of medical and other institutions.

We will continue to expand and concretize our cooperation with the World Health Organization and bring it to a systematic, long-term level.

Close professional coordination and joint efforts of medical and scientific communities around the world are more necessary than ever for a fast victory over the pandemic.

We are convinced that today we need comprehensive, systematic and purposeful multilateral cooperation on the problem of dangerous viral diseases, a full launch of scientific diplomacy channels. In this regard, Turkmenistan proposes to consider the development and establishment of appropriate international instruments.

In particular, under the aegis of WHO, we consider it appropriate:

- to establish a special program of the World Health Organization to research the coronavirus genome;
- to develop a multilateral mechanism for pneumonia control;
- establish a Methodological Center for the Treatment and Prevention of Acute Infections.

We are ready for meaningful communication on implementation of these initiatives with all interested countries and international structures.

Dear participants!

The Coronavirus pandemic has a significant negative impact on the course and direction of the global economy and seriously undermines the global community's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, we look forward to intensifying cooperation aimed at restoring economic and trade relations. Today it is necessary to create platforms for putting the global economy on a sustainable growth trajectory. In our opinion, energy, transport, industry and trade should become key areas.

In this context, during the 75th session, Turkmenistan intends to intensify its work on the elaboration of international legal instruments of the UN in the field of stability and reliability of energy transit.

The issues of cooperation in transport sphere are no less urgent.

As one of the initiators of wide international communication on transport issues, Turkmenistan proposes to consider the issue of ensuring stable international transportation during emergency situations. We have prepared the corresponding draft resolution of the General Assembly and submitted it for consideration of the UN member states.

We believe that the international conference of ministers of landlocked developing countries planned in Turkmenistan next year will be an effective platform for developing coordinated approaches to this problem.

The World Trade Organization should take a proactive role in the work to restore the world economy and promote trade and investment. Having recently obtained observer status in the WTO, Turkmenistan will actively use the opportunities opened in this regard to promote practical measures to overcome quickly the crisis phenomena in the world economy, its transition to positive dynamics.

Distinguished heads and members of delegations!

Coronavirus pandemic has affected to some extent many countries in the world. However, it is seriously dangerous for disadvantaged regions from the perspective of ecology. Unfortunately, there are plenty of such territories on the map and it is impossible to mention all of them in one



speech. Therefore, I would like to touch upon the issue, which is highly relevant to the Central Asian states and nations. It is the Aral Sea disaster.

The situation is escalating amidst pandemic, it threatens life and health of people and the risk of epidemic outbreak has considerably risen. Under these circumstances we urge the world community to pay close attention to the problems of the Aral Sea and Aral Sea region.

Obviously, the work is underway, substantial work has been done by the UN, while other international organizations have provided assistance to the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea. We thank them all and highly appreciate their work.

If I may speak plainly, it is insufficient today. It is necessary to have very detailed work to save the Aral Sea and concrete practical assistance and support should be provided to the people living there. Thus, we strongly believe that, the subject of Aral Sea needs systematic and comprehensive approach as well as relevant legal documents and this issue should be set as a separate direction of the UN activities. In this regard, Turkmenistan has put forward the initiative to create a Special Program for the Aral Sea Basin.

We would like to underline the importance of the UN General Assembly Resolution "On cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea" adopted at the initiative of our country in April 2018 and May 2019. Today, those resolutions represent the platform for consolidating joint efforts in the Aral Sea area.

Turkmenistan will present initial draft of the concept and structure of future Special program on the Aral Sea in the framework of ESCATO sessions in May 2021 as a means of developing international legal foundations to address the Aral Sea issue. We call upon all states and interested international organizations to discuss these documents.

Distinguished participants!

Current General Assembly session takes place amid complex and painful events related to the escalation of military and political rivalry and unfortunately we are witnessing them today. Assessment of these events and their cause and effect relationship may differ. But what is certain is that, they negatively affect overall international situation, erode global security foundations and impede economic, trade and humanitarian relations.

We have a deep concern over the disregard for the international law that we witness lately. In view of the current situation it is necessary to consolidate efforts aimed at strengthening the role of international law, multilateral legal

instruments in global security system, strict compliance by all states with generally accepted norms deriving from the UN Charter. This is the only way we could sustain stability and predictability in global politics and mitigate the risks of conflicts. Restoring trust in international politics and establishing the culture of respectful dialogue are the ways to achieve this objective.

As is known, at the initiative of Turkmenistan the UN General Assembly adopted in September last year a resolution declaring the year 2021 as the year of international peace and trust. Turkmenistan puts forward an initiative to organize International forum on peace and trust next year to implement provisions of this resolution. We strongly believe that, this Forum will be able to give a strong impetus to constructive and respectful multilateral dialogue on pressing subjects of modern global agenda.

Dear Mr. President!

This year Turkmenistan will mark a significant date in its history. It is the 25th anniversary from the moment that our country institutionalized the status of permanent neutrality in the international community through the UN on December 12, 1995.

Neutrality has been one of the foundations of statehood, its internal and foreign policies for a quarter of a century. The principles of neutrality, its values and ideology have proven their full compliance with our national interests and the UN objectives and tasks.

And the UN General Assembly with a large number of member- states that became co-authors of this initiative unanimously declared December 12 as the International Day of Neutrality.

The neutrality of Turkmenistan is an appeal and condition for equitable, respectful and mutually beneficial international partnership in politics, economy and environment protection, ensuring overall food security, fair and effective distribution of natural resources of the planet, supporting and assisting refugees, migrants and stateless people and addressing many other pressing issues of modern world.

Turkmenistan's neutrality is a lofty mission of peacemaking and our states' readiness to participate in solving all issues emerging in global and regional dimensions through peaceful, political, diplomatic tools and methods.

Preventive diplomacy is a significant function and integral part of Turkmenistan's neutrality. It is highly symbolic that the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia was established by the decision of the General Assembly with the support of neighboring states and Security Council members in Ashgabat, the capital city of neutral Turkmenistan in 2007.

Following the logic of neutrality policy Turkmenistan intends to submit the draft resolution "The role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia" for General Assembly's consideration to ensure regional peace, security, development and unleashing potential of preventive diplomacy.

Peace, security and development in Central Asia directly depend on the settlement of the situation in Afghanistan. The position of Turkmenistan is principled and remains unchanged. There are no alternatives to the negotiation process. All previous experiences have shown that coercive approaches do not have prospects and fail to lead to agreement and reconciliation. Our country as Afghanistan's neutral and immediate neighboring state is ready to provide necessary political and organizational conditions in our territory to establish peaceful dialogue between the Government of Afghanistan and all parties interested in political settlement of the situation in Afghanistan.

We think that the key condition for political stabilization, social and economic recovery of Afghanistan, its successful integration to global economy is to implement large infrastructure projects with Afghanistan's involvement primarily in vital sectors such as energy, transport and communications.

As is known, our country consistently working in this direction has initiated the construction of a gas pipeline along Turkmenistan- Afghanistan-Pakistan-India route, as well as railroads and fiber-optic communication lines with access to the territory of Afghanistan, which have already entered the stage of practical implementation. We call on the international community, business structures, and financial institutions to become more actively involved in this work.

Distinguished participants!

The UN has been and will remain the most important and priority partner for our country. We check all our steps in the international arena with the spirit and letter of the UN Charter. And today, Turkmenistan responsibly declares its unshakable adherence to the great ideals that lie at UN's foundation in the year of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. We are convinced that the ideals, values and principles of the UN will remain relevant. The United Nations was and should remain the only international organization with universal legitimacy.

Turkmenistan strongly believes in the future of the UN and will continue to strengthen and build up strategic partnership with this organization, thereby making its contribution to unlocking its inexhaustible potential in the interests of global peace, security and progress.

Thank you for your attention!









## SCIENTIFIC-PRACTICAL CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PERMANENT NEUTRALITY OF TURKMENISTAN AND THE DAY OF DIPLOMATS OF TURKMENISTAN WAS HELD



On February 18, 2020, the Scientific-Practical Conference “The Policy of Neutrality and Culture of Peace” dedicated to the 25th anniversary of permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan under the slogan “Turkmenistan – Home of Neutrality” and the Day of Diplomats of Turkmenistan was held in the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

The Conference was complemented by the Exhibition dedicated to the 25th anniversary of permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan and the Day of Diplomats of Turkmenistan.

The heads and employees of the diplomatic service of Turkmenistan, representatives of the Institute of State, Law and Democracy of Turkmenistan, heads of diplomatic missions and representative offices of international organizations working in Turkmenistan, teachers and students of higher educational institutions, representatives of public organizations of our country, as well as the representatives of national and foreign press, accredited in Turkmenistan, participated in the work of the Conference.

In the beginning of the Conference, the Congratulatory Address of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to the participants of the Scientific-Practical Conference “The Policy of Neutrality and Culture of Peace” was read.

It is said in the Address that the efforts of our homeland aimed at the maintenance of global peace, security and stable development gained vast support of the international community.

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Head of Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia Natalia Gherman, the UN Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan Elena Panova, Regional Representative of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Central Asia Ryszard Komenda, IOM Regional Coordinator for Central Asia Zeinal Hajiyeve, as well as the Country Director of UNFPA in Turkmenistan Giulia Valleze gave speeches at the event.

Then the heads and faculty members of the institutions of higher education of Turkmenistan gave speeches.

During the speeches it was noted that the agenda pertaining to the announcement of the year 2020 as “Turkmenistan – Home of Neutrality” is well-timed and “the Conception of the External Policy Course of Neutral Turkmenistan for the period of 2017-2023” is based on the principles of mutual understanding and mutual respect which stand as a valuable heritage of the ancestors of Turkmen people.

Then the Address of the participants of the Scientific-Practical Conference “The Policy of Neutrality and Culture of Peace” to the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov was adopted where sincere gratitude for the special attention towards the issues of diplomatic service of the country was noted.

In the end of the Conference, the award ceremony of the diplomas of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to young diplomats and senior students of the Institute of the International Relations took place.









# VIDEO MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT OF TURKMENISTAN WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WHO



On August 7, 2020 the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov held a videoconference meeting with the Director General of the World Health Organization Tedros Ghebreyesus.

Opening the meeting, the WHO Director-General warmly greeted the President of Turkmenistan and expressed gratitude to the Turkmen leader for his personal contribution to the successful development of fruitful bilateral cooperation, built on the basis of mutual respect and trust.

The head of the WHO also thanked the Turkmen leader for his great contribution to the common efforts in the fight against the spread of the new type of coronavirus infection in the world.

Then the floor was given to the head of Turkmenistan. Welcoming the head of WHO, the Turkmen leader expressed gratitude for the initiative to hold and organize this meeting. As President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized, this is a good opportunity to exchange views on cooperation issues, as well as to discuss the most important themes in the field of human health.

Over the course of 28 years of its membership in the World Health Organization, Turkmenistan has carried out a great deal of work to improve the national health care system, bringing it in line with the fundamental international documents that determine the principles for the development of this sphere. As a result, 25 years ago in our country the State

Program “Health” was adopted. On its basis, a completely new model of a health care system was created, aimed at the general availability of medical care provided to the population, the President noted. Touching upon the topic of the current discussion, the head of Turkmenistan noted that at present all of humanity is faced with a new universal threat - the coronavirus pandemic. Today, based on our experience gained over a quarter of a century, we have taken comprehensive measures to combat the spread of COVID-19, the President stressed.

Turkmenistan, bringing its activities carried out in this area in full compliance with the work carried out by the world community, came up with a number of important initiatives aimed at uniting international efforts in the fight against coronavirus.

Joint work carried out by the countries and international organizations is yielding positive results. However, numerous aspects related to the COVID-19 virus remain unclear. According to the President, on the basis of this, Turkmenistan puts forward its proposals.

First, the reasons for the emergence of new types of the virus today are an unresolved issue that scientists from many countries of the world are currently working on. In our opinion, in order to effectively carry out such work, it is necessary to prepare a special program of the World Health Organization to study the genome of the coronavirus. Second, the emergence of disease types due to the COVID-19 virus is a complex issue. President

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov stressed the need to consolidate the efforts of states to correctly diagnose this disease under the patronage of the World Health Organization, inviting the WHO Regional Office for Europe to consider the possibility of developing a regional method for combating pneumonia.

Thirdly, a particularly important issue is the improvement of methods for the treatment of newly emerged infectious diseases and their prevention. We hope for the assistance of the World Health Organization in further improving methods of treating relevant diseases, the head of Turkmenistan said, noting that in this regard, it is advisable to consider the issue of creating a methodological center for the treatment and prevention of acute infectious diseases in the structure of WHO.

Expressing gratitude to President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for the informative speech and voiced proposals, Director General of the World Health Organization Tedros Ghebreyesus noted the importance of the initiatives put forward by the President of Turkmenistan that are significant for all mankind. In this context, the readiness of the World Health Organization was expressed to comprehensively study the proposals of the Turkmen leader and carry out joint activities. In conclusion, the President of Turkmenistan and the head of the World Health Organization expressed their readiness to expand cooperation and join efforts in the fight against new threats and challenges to public health.





## PRESIDENT OF TURKMENISTAN HELD A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

On September 18, 2020, a telephone conversation took place between President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Arif Alvi.

Expressing gratitude to President Arif Alvi for the great personal contribution and attention paid to strengthening bilateral cooperation, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that our states and peoples are bound by the traditions of friendship and cooperation.

During the telephone conversation, it was emphasized that in recent years, the friendly, trusting Turkmen-Pakistani dialogue has acquired a new content and is developing especially successfully due to the huge potential and mutual readiness of the parties to build up mutually beneficial ties.

Continuing the topic, the interlocutors noted with satisfaction the high level of cooperation in the political sphere, including within the framework of authoritative international organizations. In this regard, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov addressed the Government of Pakistan with gratitude for the active support of Turkmenistan's initiatives in the world arena aimed at ensuring universal peace, security and sustainable development.

They also highlighted the progressive dynamics of interaction in the trade and economic sphere, where the strategic basis is

partnership in the energy sector, in particular, on the implementation of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) transnational gas pipeline project.

To date, construction and installation work on its Turkmen site is in its final stage. Most recently, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Turkmenistan and Afghanistan on the selection of land plots on the Afghan part of the TAPI highway, designed to facilitate the intensification of work on the territory of the neighboring country.

In this context, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov expressed hope that with the assistance and support of his Pakistani counterpart, construction of a gas pipeline in Pakistan will soon begin.

As it was emphasized, the successful implementation of this major project, giving a new impetus to the economic development of the region, will further bind our states with the bonds of good-neighborliness and cooperation, and will become an important factor in peace and stability.

Among the promising areas of interstate and regional partnership, the effective combination of efforts to develop transport and communication infrastructure, and build power transmission lines was also identified. Today, Turkmenistan and Pakistan have sufficient potential for a significant increase in

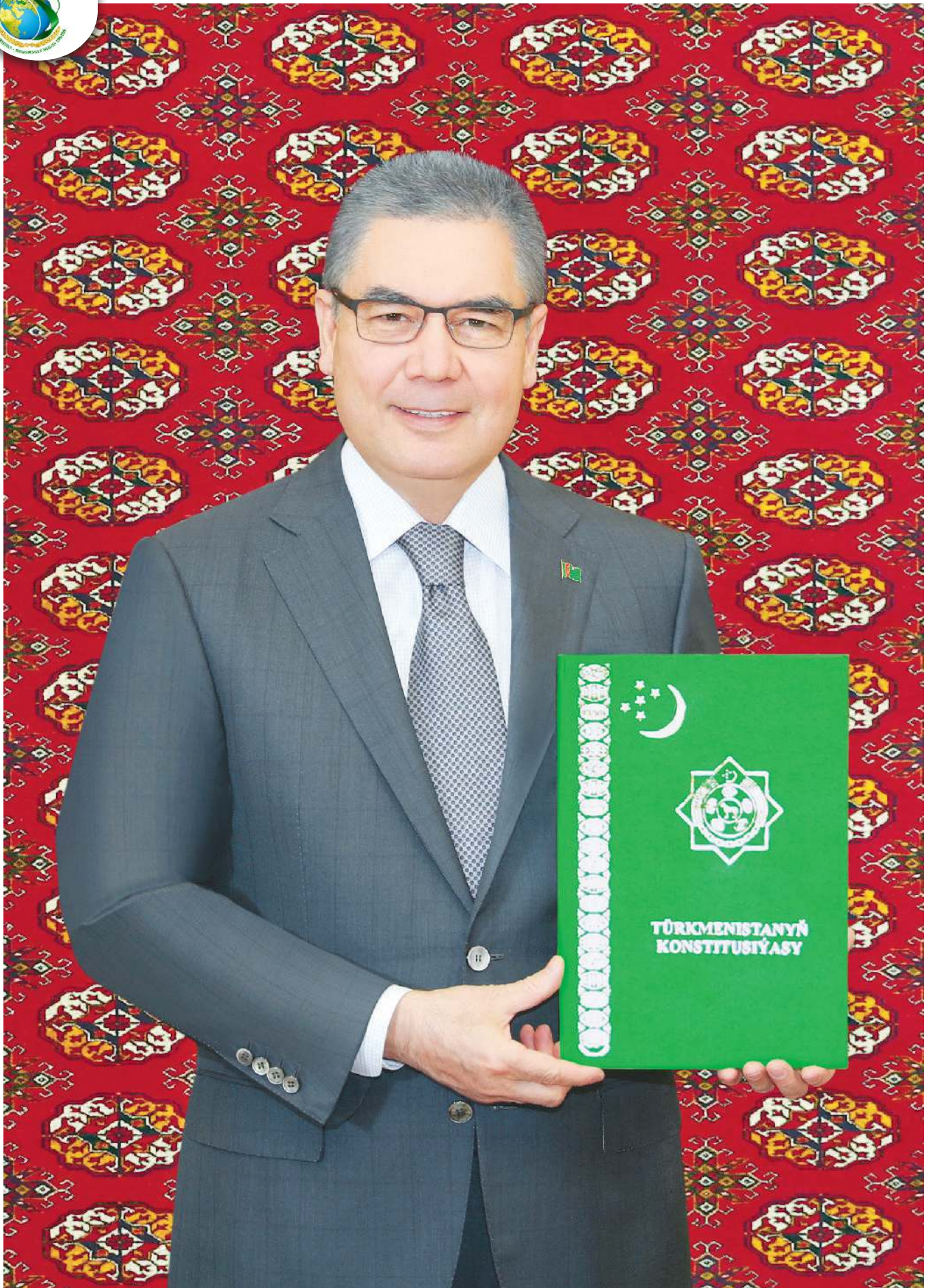
the indicators of bilateral trade, diversification of mutual supplies.

In this aspect, the expediency of conducting a thorough joint analysis of the general state of trade and economic relations and the dynamics of trade was noted. Here, the Intergovernmental Turkmen-Pakistani Commission should show itself more actively, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said, proposing to organize its next meeting in the online format in the near future.

The interlocutors also spoke in favor of expanding the traditional humanitarian interaction between the two countries, whose peoples are united by long-standing spiritual and cultural ties, which are now a solid basis for further deepening interstate cooperation. In this regard, there are good opportunities for enhancing systemic contacts in the field of culture and art, scientific, educational and medical spheres.

At the end of the conversation, confirming the mutual intention of Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to build up a constructive dialogue across its entire spectrum, Presidents Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and Arif Alvi wished each other health and success in responsible state activities, and well-being and prosperity to the fraternal peoples of both countries.









## President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov: Adoption of the Constitutional Law will be written in gold letters to the chronicle of the nation

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov: Adoption of the Constitutional Law will be written in gold letters to the chronicle of the nation

On 25th September direct video conference session of the People's Council of Turkmenistan has been held under the chairmanship of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

Members of the Government, chairman and deputies of the Mejlis, heads of the ministries and profile departments, political parties and public associations, heads of the regions, districts and cities as well as members of the People's Council, numerous personnel of facilities and establishments, honoured elders, respected mothers and youth took part in the session.

To participate in the session, the Head of the State has come to the capital's Ruhiyet Palace where special big monitors have been installed for direct video connection with all participants.

Addressing the participants of national forum, the Head of Turkmenistan noted that current session of the People's Council is held in video conference format. That is why representatives of Balkan, Dashoguz, Lebap and Mary Regions have gathered in regional Ruhiyet palaces, representatives of Ahal Region in Ak öý building and representatives of Ashgabat in the capital's Mekan Palace.

The culmination has come and President of Turkmenistan, Chairman of the People's Council Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov announced the opening of the session.

National anthem of Turkmenistan is playing.

Having congratulated the participants of national forum people of the country on important events in life of Turkmen society and state – the opening of the session of the People's Council and 29th anniversary of independence of the country, the President addressed the best wishes to all.

The Head of the State highlighted that the People's Council, which is held in the year under slogan "Turkmenistan – Home of Neutrality", would be written in gold letters in the chronicle of our powerful state. New stage of constitutional reforms has been started at the session of the People's Council last year and initiative on improvement of the Main Law of the country has been proposed.

The main goals of these reforms is to improve activity of high representative bodies – the People's Council and Mejlis of Turkmenistan, which serve to the highest value of the state and society – human, its interests as well as to establish two chamber structure of legislative body and to bring the activity of democratic institutes to new level. Further, having noted that delegates of the forum had a chance to see the agenda, President

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov asked if there are any proposals or remarks on subjects and documents, which would be brought for discussion.

The Leader of the Nation has announced about approval of the agenda of the Session of the People's Council under unanimous support and full agreements of the participants of national forum.

After, the President of Turkmenistan have made a program speech for the participants.

Addressing the participants of national forum, the Head of the State has highlighted that large-scale work has been carried out for construction of modern state with stable developing economy, formation of fair civil society, making of favourable life conditions for the years of independence. The state and social order have been fundamentally modernized in the result of successful implementation of the reforms for 29 years.

Starting from the first days of own development, Turkmenistan has declared neutrality in its foreign policy and strictly follows the principles of good neighbourliness, respect, justice and equality, implements foreign policy meeting the goals of universal peace, security and prosperity, the Head of the State said.

Our neutral state has established diplomatic relations with 149 states of the world.







Being a member of around 50 international organizations, it is also a member of more than 150 international conventions, agreements and other multilateral documents.

We pay special attention to strengthening of cooperation in different directions with such competent organizations as the United Nations Organization European Union, Commonwealth of Independent States, Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, Non-alignment Movement, Islamic Cooperation Organization, states of Asian and Pacific region, Middle and Far East, European and American countries, - the Head of the State noted.

Turkmenistan makes deserving contribution to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the President continued.

Adoption of the Resolution on announcement of 2021 as International Year of Peace and Trust at the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly was a historical event that has demonstrated our efforts for the sake of triumph of peace and friendship to the world and has increased the authority of neutral Turkmenistan.

Speaking of importance of receiving of the status of observer at the World Trade Organization, the Head of the State noted that it would provide harmonic development of national economy, strengthening of positions in foreign trade relations, expansion of multilateral cooperation and attraction of foreign investments. This

factor would support the development and successful implementation of perspective commercial and trade strategy.

Continuing the session, the Head of the State has highlighted one of actual problems of the present, the President of Turkmenistan has highlighted that acute coronavirus disease, which has made negative impact on the economics of all states, was spread in the world in 2020.

Despite continuing complicated financial and economic conditions in the world, we have achieved stable development of the economy of the country and were able to keep significant financial resources in reserve, the President stated.

Having noted that Program of the country development for five years has been adopted at the session of the People's Council last year, the Head of Turkmenistan focused the attention on the necessity of taking of all measures for fulfilment in full volume in current complex conditions. Provision of income to the State budget, which is the main financial instrument, was specified among the utmost objectives. Significant part of the social investments is provided from the state budget.

More than 70 percent of the State budget is used for social activity including the reformation of social and living conditions of the population of villages, settlements in the regions, cities and

districts. Construction of houses for disabled people and citizens who require support would be continued in the capital and regions, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlighted.

Having noted that care of social protection of the citizens is in the centre of permanent attention, the Head of Turkmenistan highlighted that salary wages, pensions, state allowances and student scholarships have been increased this year.

In addition, most part of financial resources allocated from the State budget would be invested to education, health protection spheres and Pension Fund.

Continuing the session, the President of Turkmenistan has focused on another important subject. It is necessary to develop the industry providing equipment and resources for development of construction sphere at high rates.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has specified increment of volumes of local construction materials, efficiency of work, enhancement of competitiveness and quality of construction production, safety of works and service complex among the main future objectives.

At the same time, the Head of Turkmenistan has noted that it is necessary to make corrections of the construction program for the next year and





to prepare investment program. Strengthening of the base of the sphere in the country is an important part of industrial and innovative strategy of development of independent state.

The state programs of production of import substitutive products and increment of volumes of export of local goods, establishment of electronic industry are successfully implemented under diversification of the economy, the President continued.

At present time, together with improvement of administrative and territorial system of the country, we have such important objectives as removal of borders between the city and rural area, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said, having highlighted that the Mejlis of Turkmenistan together with administrations of regions, ministries and profile departments have to continue relative work in this direction as well as work on expansion of the scale of urbanization of settlements and capabilities for stable integrated planning of settlements and their management.

Important place in successful implementation of the adopted programs of industrialization of our independence state is given to power energy industry, the Head of the State said, having highlighted that output capacity of energy industry would be increased in near future.

Speaking of the plans in this sector, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlighted that use of capabilities of solar and wind energy is planned. According to the Concept of development of Altyn Asyr Lake region in 2019 – 2025, modern settlements and facilities built in this place would be provided by energy from solar and wind power stations. Works for establishment of energy ring inside the country and construction of Turkmenistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan power line would be continued.

Continuing the speech, the Head of the State has noted that current logistic strategy takes its grounds from ancient times. Being an important part of the Silk Road, the territory of Turkmenistan used to unite peoples and continents, which was very important in development of relations between the East and West.

Beneficial geographic location of our country opens wide perspectives for establishment of competitive transport macrostructure. Maritime, road, railway, air and pipeline international multimodal logistic projects are implemented in modern time. The agreements achieved on Uzbekistan – Turkmenistan – Iran – Oman and Afghanistan – Turkmenistan – Azerbaijan – Georgia – Turkey transport corridors will support the establishment of opportunities for development of relations in the regional and continental boundaries

in the future. Existing international Turkmenistan – China gas pipeline and transnational Turkmenistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan – India gas line, which construction is continued, are to serve as a composite link of pipeline logistics.

Modern highways, which have been built and under construction in our independent state including Ashgabat – Karakums – Dashoguz and Turkmenbashi – Ashgabat – Farab roads, which will support efficient use of colossal economic potential of the country and other states of the region, play important role in development of transport logistics.

It was highlighted that big work has been carried out for turning of agriculture into high technological sphere open for innovative solutions and ideas supporting opening of new markets.

Speaking of the utmost objectives of this complex, the President of Turkmenistan has noted that it is necessary to use potential of digital systems more efficiently for enhancement of work productivity in agricultural complex, and provision of its stable development.

Having highlighted that local markets have to be fully provided with local production, the Head of the State ordered to increase the plantations







of potato, vegetable and cucurbitaceous crops and to increase volumes of meat and dairy production.

In this regard, appropriateness of analysis carried out by the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and the Cabinet of Ministers for regular improvement of the program of construction of small, medium and big facilities making import substitutive production has been noted. Implementation of this program will support the establishment of new and keep of existing work places.

Having highlighted another actual issue, the President highlighted that special attention is paid to stable development of the country, its successful integration to the world economic space, bringing of educational sphere to international level and education of deserved younger generation is paid in the government policy.

New younger generation, which is fond of science and art, has been formed in the result of fundamental changes carried out in scientific sphere, national academic scientific and research institutes, high educational facilities, scientific and projects centres, experimental and practical laboratories and profile scientific organizations.

Talented youth work efficiently in the sphere of nanotechnologies, scientific researches of new

resources, energy, biotechnologies, molecular biology, agriculture, ecology and genetics, information and communication systems.

Importance of projects and scientific studies in such perspective directions as computer technologies, modern medicine and pharmacy, innovative economy, humanitarian sciences, innovative developments has been highlighted. The head of the State continued that it opens wide perspectives for efficient activity of educational personnel, education of youth on the world level.

According to the Program of the President for social and economic development of the country in 2019 – 2025, Turkmen leader has ordered the higher educational institutes to specify certain directions of improvement of training of young scientists, engineers, technologists and specialists as well as to develop relative Program.

Continuing the session, the Head of the State highlighted the subject of combating the COVID-19 coronavirus, which the world has faced at present time.

In this regard, it was noted that work for regular provision of the population with the main medicines strengthening immune system of human has been organized from the first days of spread of large-scale spread of the disease. Total check-ups are carried out, other necessary

measures for strengthening of immune system of people are taken.

The Acute Infectious Disease Readiness and Response Plan as well as the Plan of Operational Social and Economic Measures for countering the pandemic have been adopted on the Government level.

Stimulation of personnel of health protection sphere and efficient use of their potential in combating the infection are important directions at present time, the Head of Turkmenistan said, having highlighted that the Resolution on provision of additional benefits would be signed later.

At the same time, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has noted that it is necessary to prepare new edition of the State Health Program.

The Head of the State has specified careful and efficient use of natural reserves among perspective directions of coming work. Appropriateness of construction of resorts in gorges of the Kopetdag, Koytendag and Sumbar, spaces of Badkhyz Reserve, along Amudarya, Murgab and Karakum rivers, making all conditions for travelling and comfortable holidays of people has also been noted.

Further, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has focused on improvement





of legal status of the People's Council and amendments and addendums of the Main Law, which have been started at the session of the People's Council of Turkmenistan last year.

Being a special branch of the government power, the parliament is an integral tool of people's democracy in political and public life of the country. Establishment of fundamentally new two-chamber structure of National Parliament will make favourable conditions for strengthening of legal base of further development of our independent country and enhancement of efficiency of activity of the government authorities, the Head of Turkmenistan highlighted, having stated with delight that these changes have raised big interest and full support of the society.

Special emphasis has been made on huge work done by the Constitutional Commission for development of the Constitutional Law on Amendments and Addendums of the Constitution of Turkmenistan. It was mentioned that the draft of this legal act has been published in mass media for comprehensive consideration of public opinion and national discussion.

According to the draft of Constitutional Law, the People's Council is included to the system of the highest government authorities making the functions of legislative power. In this context, it is proposed to exclude the article 6 with index 1 from the main Law and name National Parliament as Milli Gengesh of Turkmenistan and its chambers as the People's Council

and the Mejlis due to establishment of two-chamber structure of legislative representative body of the Government power.

The draft proposes the order of establishment of the Parliament's chambers, holding of the sessions, adoption of laws, requirements to the candidates to the members of the People's Council and deputies of the Mejlis as well as standards specifying their authorities, which are very important for coordinated activity of both chambers.

According to the draft Constitutional Law, it is proposed to exclude one and add three articles to the Main Law and make relative amendments and addendums to article 27.

It would be reasonable to hold elections of the members of the Milli Gengesh of Turkmenistan by regional and district People's Councils in the first quarter of coming year under unanimous approval of the Draft Constitutional Law at current session, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted.

Having finished his speech, Turkmen leader proposed to start the discussion of subjects of the agenda of national forum, having given the floor to the participants.

The floor was given to Speaker of the Mejlis G. Mammedova. Having expressed cordial gratitude to the President and participants of the session of the People's Council and all Turkmenistan citizens on coming 29th anniversary of independence of the country,

the Head of the Parliament highlighted that today, Turkmenistan is known in the world as a state demonstrating high level of industrial development and based on the latest scientific and technical achievements, caring of wealth of the nation and urging all countries to peace and good relations.

It was mentioned that program speech of the Head of the State at the current session of the People's Council outlined the main directions of strengthening of achievements of independence and permanent neutrality, social and economic cultural development of the country and sets specific objectives.

Major programs aimed at social and economic development of cities, districts and villages, improvement of social and living conditions of the population are carried out at present. In this context, improvement of administrative and territorial system of our state is an important aspect. This subject including elimination of difference between city and rural area, modern management of settlements, has been highlighted by the Head of the state in his speech, having specified relative objectives.

Having assured that all necessary measures would be taken for fulfilment of objectives for further improvement of administrative and territorial system of the regions, the Speaker of the Mejlis wished strong health, longevity and success in all major beginning for the sake of the people and country to the Head of Turkmenistan.





Summing up the discussion, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has expressed gratitude to all who made speech and took active part in work of the session, during which important issues of the state and public life of the country have been reviewed. Having stated with delight that the speakers spoke for support of initiatives proposed at the forum, Turkmen leader noted that all proposals would be taken into account.

Continuing the session, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has signed number of documents including the Orders on conferring of the State Awards and Honoured Titles on occasion of the 29th anniversary of Turkmenistan's Independence.

These high awards are conferred to distinguished citizens for special merits for independent neutral Motherland and people, long honest and selfless work and professional skills.

Further, the Head of the State highlighted that historically important subjects of the state and public life have been reviewed at the current session.

First, priorities of home and foreign policy of the country as well as draft of the Constitutional Law on Amendments and Addendums of the Constitution of Turkmenistan have been discussed.

As it was mentioned before historical initiatives about change of legal status of the Peoples Council of Turkmenistan and transit to two-chamber parliament system have been proposed at the national forum last year.

The Head of the State said that these beginnings have raised big interest and support

of the nation. In the result of works, draft Constitutional Law of Turkmenistan, which has been brought out for national discussion, has been developed. The participants of the current session have supported initiatives about improvement of activity and change of legal status of the People's Council. Similar support has been provided by the citizens from all regions of the country, the Head of the State noted.

Number of proposals has been made during discussion of the draft Constitutional Law of Turkmenistan and in the speeches of the participants. Speaking of this, the President noted that draft Resolutions of the People's Council on Approval of the Draft Constitutional Law on Amendments and Addendums of the Constitution of Turkmenistan and on Approval of the Main Directions of Social and Economic Development of Turkmenistan in 2021 are presented for review to the participants of the session.

These documents have been adopted unanimously. Having signed the above mentioned Resolutions and highlighted that big work has been done for improvement of the Main Law of the country, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov expressed gratitude to representatives of all levels of Turkmen society including the delegates of national forum for active participation in this activity.

Addressing the participants of the session of the People's Council, the Head of the State informed that Constitutional Law on Amendments and Addendums of the Constitution of Turkmenistan is presented for review to the Mejlis.

The deputies had a discussion of the Draft Constitutional Law on Amendments and

Addendums of the Constitution of Turkmenistan at the session of the Mejlis.

Continuing the session of the People's Council, the Head of the State has given the floor to Speaker of the Mejlis G. Mammedova for announcement of decision of the deputies on the above-mentioned Draft Constitutional Law.

The Head of National Parliament has informed that deputies have discussed and unanimously adopted the Draft Constitutional Law on Amendments and Addendums of the Constitution of Turkmenistan at the session of the Mejlis.

The Speaker of the Mejlis has congratulated President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and all Turkmen people on remarkable event in the latest history of the country – the adoption of the Constitutional Law, which sets legal base for establishment of two-chamber legislative body.

Having expressed the best wishes to the President, the Head of the Mejlis addressed the Head of the State to sign the Constitutional Law on Amendments and Addendums of the Constitution of Turkmenistan.

Having listened to the information and addressing the delegates of national forum, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has stated that deputies of the Mejlis have unanimously voted for adoption of the Constitutional Law.

Under applause of the participants of the session, the President has signed the Constitutional Law on Amendments and Addendums of the Constitution of Turkmenistan, having highlighted that adoption of it on the threshold of the 29th anniversary of independence, which marks solidarity of





the society and state, is a grandiose historical event, which would be written in gold letters to chronicle of our nation.

In this solemn moment, the Head of the State has congratulated the participants of the session and all people of the country on adoption of the Constitutional Law of Turkmenistan related to improvement of activity of the People's Council and Mejlis as well as establishment of two-chamber structure of legislative body, which complies with the world and national democratic practice, universal standards and norms of international law.

In this regard, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has ordered the members of the Government, deputies of National Parliament, representatives of public associations and local power authorities to carry out relative work at sites for solution of objectives following from the adopted Constitutional Law.

The Head of Turkmenistan highlighted that relative proposals on important administrative and territorial issues of the country have been proposed at the current session. The main goal of these subjects is in efficient organization of regional management, reduction of administrative expenses, further strengthening of positions of local power authorities and support of democratic initiatives on sites.

We would continue following standards and principles of the Constitution and lead our democratic, legal and temporal state on the way of grandiose achievements, - President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlighted, having expressed confidence that new two-chamber parliament system would also make fruitful contribution to this affair. Continuing the subject, the President has informed that the Constitutional Law on Amendments and Addendums of the Constitution of Turkmenistan enter into force from January 1, 2021.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has also noted that having adopted the above-mentioned Constitutional Law, we have established two-chamber structure of legislative body of the country. In order the People's Council of new Parliament has started its activity, it is necessary to carry out organization work and election of its members. According to the Constitutional Law, the first elections of the People's Council chamber of the Milli Gengesh of Turkmenistan are appointed by the President of Turkmenistan.

Following this, the Head of the state has signed the Resolution of the People's Council on organizational work related to the appointment of the first elections of the members of the People's Council of the Milli Gengesh of Turkmenistan as well as arrangement of activity

of the People's Council of the Milli Gengesh of Turkmenistan.

Continuing the session, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has also highlighted the subject of health protection, having noted that national medical personnel carry our big work for health protection of the people, work selflessly for prevention, diagnostic and treatment of diseases. Speaking of this, the Head of the State has signed the Resolution on Improvement of social protection of personnel of health protection industry.

Summing up the session, during which the main subjects of foreign and home policy of Turkmenistan have been reviewed, the President has congratulated the delegates of the forum and all people on the 29th anniversary of independence of the country, having expressed the best wishes.

After, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has addressed the participants of the session and all fellow countrymen with final speech. Having expressed gratitude to the delegates of the forum, especially those who took direct part in its work and organization, the President of Turkmenistan wished them strong health, prosperity and big success in work.











## Events on the occasion of the 29th Anniversary of the Independence of Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan has observed the Independence Day on September 27. This year, which is held under slogan Turkmenistan—Home of Neutrality, this big holiday is filled with special meaning for us as it had number of historical events. After nation-wide discussion, the Constitutional Law on Amendments and Addendums of the Constitution of Turkmenistan, according to which the Milli Gengesh consisting of two chambers – the Mejlis and People's Council, has been adopted at the session of the People's Council on September 25.

Coming celebration of the 25th anniversary of Turkmenistan's neutrality is also worth to be mentioned among important events of this year. Various events are held on occasion of the anniversary in our country and abroad. Election of Turkmenistan as the Vice-chairman of recent 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly was another bright evidence of high international authority of the country.

According to good tradition, the main events on occasion of the Independence Day have been held at the main square of the country in Ashgabat.

Members of the Government, heads of the Mejlis, military and law enforcement agencies, ministries and departments, public organizations, the Mayor of Ashgabat, honoured elders have gathered at the Tribune.

Personnel of National Army have lined up at the Square of Independence. The solemn music was performed by the Exemplary Military Orchestra of the Armed Forces.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov went up to the Government tribune. The participants have greeted the Head of the State with big enthusiasm.

Traditionally, the celebration has been started from the military parade where defensive capability of the country, professionalism and skills of Turkmen warriors who stand guard protecting sovereign Turkmenistan and prosperous life of the people.

Defence Minister B. Gundogdiyev has addressed President of Turkmenistan, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the country, Army General Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov with request to give start to military parade on occasion of the celebration of the 29th

anniversary of the country's independence. The Head of the State has given command to start the parade.

The Defence Ministers has had a ride along the troops greeting parade squads consisting of military personnel and cadets of specialized universities and schools, soldiers and officers of National Army.

National anthem of Turkmenistan was played. The State Flag of Turkmenistan has been hoisted on the flagpole. Having lined up at the square, officers, soldiers and cadets have given a sacred military oath to be loyal to the Motherland, People and President.

Celebration parade has been started by the flag group. Under the sounds of solemn march. The soldiers of separate battalion of the Guard of Honour have carried the State Flag of Turkmenistan and combat colours of all Armed Forces across the square. They have been followed by the cadets of Berdimuhamed Annayev 1st specialized military school of the Ministry of Defence.

Battalion of officers, the best in combat training, have marched across the square.







The best representatives of all Military Forces, which deservingly continuing traditions of glorious ancestors, fulfil their military and civil duty with honour. They have been followed by soldiers of motorized rifle battalion, whose high training and combat skills serve as solid guarantee of security of the country. They have been replaced by the column of Turkmen pilots.

Battalion of marines was among the participants of the military parade. Due to the attention of government to NAVY Forces, equipment and facility base of military fleet is modernized under the programme of development of the Armed Forces.

Profile higher educational institutes, which have important objective to form up new generation of national military personnel, are available in Turkmenistan today. In his speeches at the sessions of the State Security Council, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces highlights the necessity to pay special attention to quality and efficiency of education, enhancement of level of professional skills, improvement of operational skills of modern military vehicles and equipment.

Activity of the Military Institute of the Defence Ministry, which has all conditions for receiving education meeting time requirements, is aimed at achievements of set objectives. Cadets of this educational institute also participate in the parade in honour of the anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence.

Naval Institute of the Defence Ministry, which cadets have been marched in straight lines across the square, was opened for reliable protection of maritime borders of the country and training of qualified specialists for the fleet

of the Defence Ministry and the State Border Guard Service of the country.

They have been followed by the cadets of the Institute of National Security, Institute of Internal Affairs and Border Guard Institute. Training and educational process in these educational facilities meets modern requirements.

Special force battalion, which was named "Türkmen edermen" by initiative of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, has entered the square.

High level of combat, theoretical and physical training, courage and determination are distinguishing feature of military personnel of this division. It is not occasionally that alabay, which has all these properties, is the emblem of the battalion. Limited number of soldiers and mobility of the group allows fulfilling combat assignments rapidly and precisely.

March of military personnel of equestrian divisions, which were formed up under support of the Head of the State in military divisions of national Armed Forces and Ministry of Interior, was an adornment of the celebration parade.

Review of military vehicles, which was supplied recently to all military forces, demonstrate high level of defence capability of Turkmen state, readiness to combat modern challenges and threats.

Mechanized columns of different Armed forces, which are headed by Combat Guard special vehicles, have been followed one after another across the square.

The columns have been followed by military personnel on motor vehicles, which are at

disposal of National Army. This equipment is able to drive all terrains and designated for rapid operations of special groups. Combat arms installed on the vehicles allow acting in any conditions.

Further, military vehicles MRZR-D2, MRZR-D4, DAGOR, AJBAN, which are designated for special operations, have entered the square. These mobile and at the same time powerful tactical transport vehicles are able to drive off-road with big load and used in service by military personnel of Türkmen edermen Special Force group.

At present time, National Army have armoured Land Rovers and NIMRs, which are equipped with anti-tank missiles, tactical drones, mortars and machine guns.

Light armoured AL SHIBL2 vehicles, which have supplemented equipment and technical base of the Armed Forces of Turkmenistan, have been driven in column across the square. They are also used by personnel of Türkmen edermen Special Force group and help to fulfil combat tasks successfully. The review of military vehicles has been continued with CARACAL self-propelled anti-tank rocket complexes

Further, armoured personnel carriers BTR-80A with group of paratroopers and man-portable air defence systems on board have entered the square. This modern equipment is distinguished with reliability and high combat properties.

Armoured Kirpi vehicles designated for special forces have been marched in front of the tribune. Land Rover combat vehicle with modern system of military communication @Rode Schwarz was among the second





mechanized column. It has been followed by FM-90 and Pechora-2BM anti-aircraft missile systems, which are used for destruction of above-water and land-based targets.

The third mechanize column has consisted of specialized transport vehicles of the State Border Guard Service PMV-SURVIVOR-II, Toyota Hilux, COBRA designated for protection of the sacred borders of the country. These vehicles are distinguished by power, speed and high off-road capability.

They have been followed by IVECO trucks with ZU-23 anti-aircraft complex, which allows destroying air-borne targets on small altitude.

The turn of the fourth mechanized column has come. The departments of the Ministry of Interior, the same like any other security forces, are gradually equipped with the latest vehicles and equipment, their resource and technical base is strengthened. Light armoured vehicles used by police like OTOKAR, PMV SURVIVOR II, Toyota Tundra, GMC Sierra and Ford have been presented at the parade. These vehicles serve for support of public order.

Further, the celebration review has been continued in the air. Turkmen pilots who demonstrated their skills have been operating modern aircrafts. Mi-17 and Mi-24 helicopters have appeared in the sky above the square. They have been followed by Eurocopter 145 of the Ministry of Interior of the country and Eurocopter – 365 of the Ministry of National Security as well as Augusta 109 helicopter of the State Border Guard Service.

Special aircraft Diamond – 42, which is designated for reconnaissance flights as well as aerial photo and video footage has flown

above the square. Su-25 combat aircrafts have appeared in sky.

In general. All powerful ground and air equipment presented at the parade is a visual evidence of unremitting attention of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to strengthening of defence capability of independent neutral Turkmenistan, modernization of national Armed forces, further improvement of activity of military and law enforcement structures.

Celebration parade at the main square of the country has been continued. Independent Guard of Honour battalion of the Defence Ministry, which soldiers demonstrate an excellent training and high skills of exercises with arms, has appeared in front of the government tribune.

The map of Turkmenistan and image of dove, a symbol of peace, figure 29, which embodies remarkable date, have been made on the square by military personnel. After, personnel of Independence Guard of Honour battalion has formed up the outline of the Monument of Independence.

Performance of combined military orchestra of the Armed Forces of Turkmenistan, which has prepared its present on occasion of the main celebration of the country, was a final chord of the military parade.

... Ahalteke horse, which beauty is highlighted by jewellery decoration, has been brought out to the square in front of the tribune. Wonderful horse has demonstrated outstanding training and gracious statue.

This golden stallion named Buysanchly has been presented on behalf of the associates to Head of the State Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov

on occasion of the 29th anniversary of Turkmenistan's Independence and as a gratitude for selfless work for the sake of prosperity of Turkmen nation.

Our horse riders, which are famous around the world as outstanding sportsmen, have demonstrated performance program at big event dedicated to the 29th anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence. Numerus winner of the world festivals and international contests, Galkynysh National equestrian Game group of Ahalteke Equestrian Complex of the President of Turkmenistan has demonstrated again their outstanding skills in such complex genre as equestrian stunting.

The column of horse riders have been led by the head of the Group on Akhan, which has performed an elegant dance under national tune. It is worth to remind that Akhan has been listed in the Guinness Record Book in 2018. Unusual abilities of the horse, it has managed to walk rearing for 10 meters in 4.19 seconds, having beaten previous record in this unique nomination by two times, have been registered back then. The Akhan has demonstrated again his best stunt, having reared and walked this way.

The events on occasion of the 29th anniversary of independence have been continued. TV broadcasting allowed our fellow countrymen living in different cities and villages to watch the ceremony at the main square in the capital in live. Due to the capabilities of moder TV broadcasting and internet communications, celebration mood of Turkmenistan citizens can be shared by the people of different







## 2020 Year - Turkmenistan - Home of Neutrality

countries of the world. Further, demonstration of success and achievements of the branches of the economy and social complex has started. Truck-based platforms with bright thematic decorations were visual illustrations.

The procession has been opened by the Mejlis of Turkmenistan and public organizations of the country. The masters of the ceremonies have been speaking of huge role given to activity of public organizations, highest legislative body in development of the state, its civic and public institutes.

Signing of the Constitutional Law on Amendments and Addendums of the Constitution of Turkmenistan by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, which marks transfer of legislative body to two-chamber system, has been significant event in the year of celebration of the 29th anniversary of independence.

Solidarity of Turkmen nation, dedication to historical roots and national traditions are symbolized by white traditional tent (yurta), which was installed on vehicle-based platform dedicated to five regions of the country.

The demonstration has been continued by the municipality of Ashgabat. Vehicle with attractions of the capital – new constructions, monuments, which have decorated the main city of the country, which image is fundamentally changed owing to large-scale urban development program initiated by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, has moved in front of the tribune.

Vehicle representing educational sphere, to which the Head of the State gives special role of intellectual engine of further development of the country, has appeared on the square. It is followed by health protection and medical industry spheres. The models, which reflected

development of national medicine, special place has been given to herbal plants of Turkmenistan.

Demonstration of economic structures, financial and banking spheres has also been very bright. Panels and models have reflected the dynamic of economic growth of Turkmenistan.

Trade, foreign economic relations, textile industry of country have also been presented in the parade. President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlights that development of trade sphere and light industry is an important condition of marketing and competitive national economy.

Bright carpet with traditional patterns were at the displays on the vehicles. Inclusion of Turkmen national carpet art to the UNESCO World Intangible Cultural Heritage List has been a visual result of work for popularization of Turkmen heritage in the world.

Turkmenistan's entrepreneurship has been the next subject in celebration demonstration. Today, the facilities opened by local businessmen work efficiently in construction sphere, services, production of consumer goods and food successfully competing with foreign companies.

The baton of the event has been taken up by transport and communication complex. Silhouette of white and green aircraft and picture of space satellite have been seen on the vehicle decorated according to the subject. Ships and trains have been pictured on another platform.

Brightly decorated trucks, one of which has presented the products of generous Turkmen land and national agricultural producers while another – picturesque landscapes with mountains, valleys, inhabitants of preserved places of the nature and ahalateke horses, have come in front of the tribune.

Achievements of oil and gas sphere have been visually demonstrated in thematic decoration of demonstration vehicle with models of drilling rigs and pipelines. Visual place in the decoration has been taken by big tank with ECJ-93 logo, new brand of Turkmen petrochemical industry, which has arranged the production of eco-friendly gasoline. The Head of the State pays special attention to increment of processing of hydrocarbon materials, rapid industrial development of new fields.

Construction and architectural sphere has been presented after. Achievements of construction complex are visible to everyone. They have changed the image of our capital and all country, having decorated them with hundreds of new social and economic facilities. Today, urban construction industry in Turkmenistan is distinguished with systematic approach to use of space and establishment of favourable environment.

The turn of power energy and chemical industry has come after. The vehicle had models of production trains, which output capacity provide growing requirements, pictures of high-voltage power lines supplying Turkmen electricity to neighbouring countries, new facilities of chemical industry. Not only production capacity of the branches but also their export capabilities are increased.

Platform of art and cultural personnel of the country has come to the square. Growing generation has been also participating in celebration demonstration. Children were joyfully greeting President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. Young artists have performed dance composition and song about happy childhood and beloved country.

The event has been finished with kushtdepy dance, during which white doves – symbols of peace and happiness, good wishes and hope, have been set to the sky with air balloons.









## Briefing dedicated to cooperation of Turkmenistan with the international organizations in the area of healthcare was held in the MFA, Turkmenistan



On the 5th of October 2020, a briefing was held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan dedicated to cooperation of Turkmenistan with the international organizations in the area of healthcare.

The briefing focused on the recently signed Resolution of the President of Turkmenistan, in accordance with which the Minister of Health and Medical Industry was authorized to sign on behalf of the Turkmen side the Plan for Procurement of Vaccines and Immunization Devices in 2021-2025 under the Framework of the Standard "Memorandum of Understanding on the Provision of Procurement Services between the Government of Turkmenistan and UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund," signed on 28 August 2015.

The heads and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan, the chiefs of the diplomatic missions and representations of international organizations accredited in

the country, as well as the representatives of national and foreign mass media participated to the briefing.

Opening the briefing, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan B. Myatiyev noted the special importance of the expansion of international cooperation of Turkmenistan in the field of healthcare.

During his speech, the Minister of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan N. Amanepesov reflected the high indicators of the activities of the healthcare system in the framework of the implementation of the National Immunization Programme financed by the Government. He added that "the long-term practice of stable financing in the country enabled to build a strong system of immunization".

The Head of UNICEF Office in Turkmenistan Ms. Christine Weigand highly appraised the cooperation with Turkmenistan in the field of healthcare, in particular in the area of

protecting the children's health. Ms. Weigand underlined that "Turkmenistan is a leader in the region and globally on sustaining nearly universal rates of vaccination."

The Head of WHO Country Office in Turkmenistan Ms. Paulina Karwowska informed during her speech about the high efficiency of cooperation between Turkmenistan and WHO, as well as other international partners and donors.

This topic was further elaborated by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the European Union to Turkmenistan Diego Ruiz Alonso, who emphasized that Brussels pays special attention to cooperation in the area of healthcare and supports the preventive plans and programmes of Turkmenistan in relation to healthcare in the conditions of global pandemic.

In turn, the Rector of the State Medical University of Turkmenistan named after Myrat Garryev Ms. N. Myratnazarova noted that "in recent years, Turkmenistan has achieved great results, conducting continuous and extensive work in the field of immunization and the effective use of evidence-based approaches in the field of public health."

The Government of Turkmenistan significantly increased the financing of immunization of the population. The country adheres to the long-term cooperation with the UN and its specialized agencies. In this regard, the collaboration of the country with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is stipulated by the efficient implementation of joint programs and plans on the national level aimed at the enhancement of measures in the area of healthcare, including the social security system on the way to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

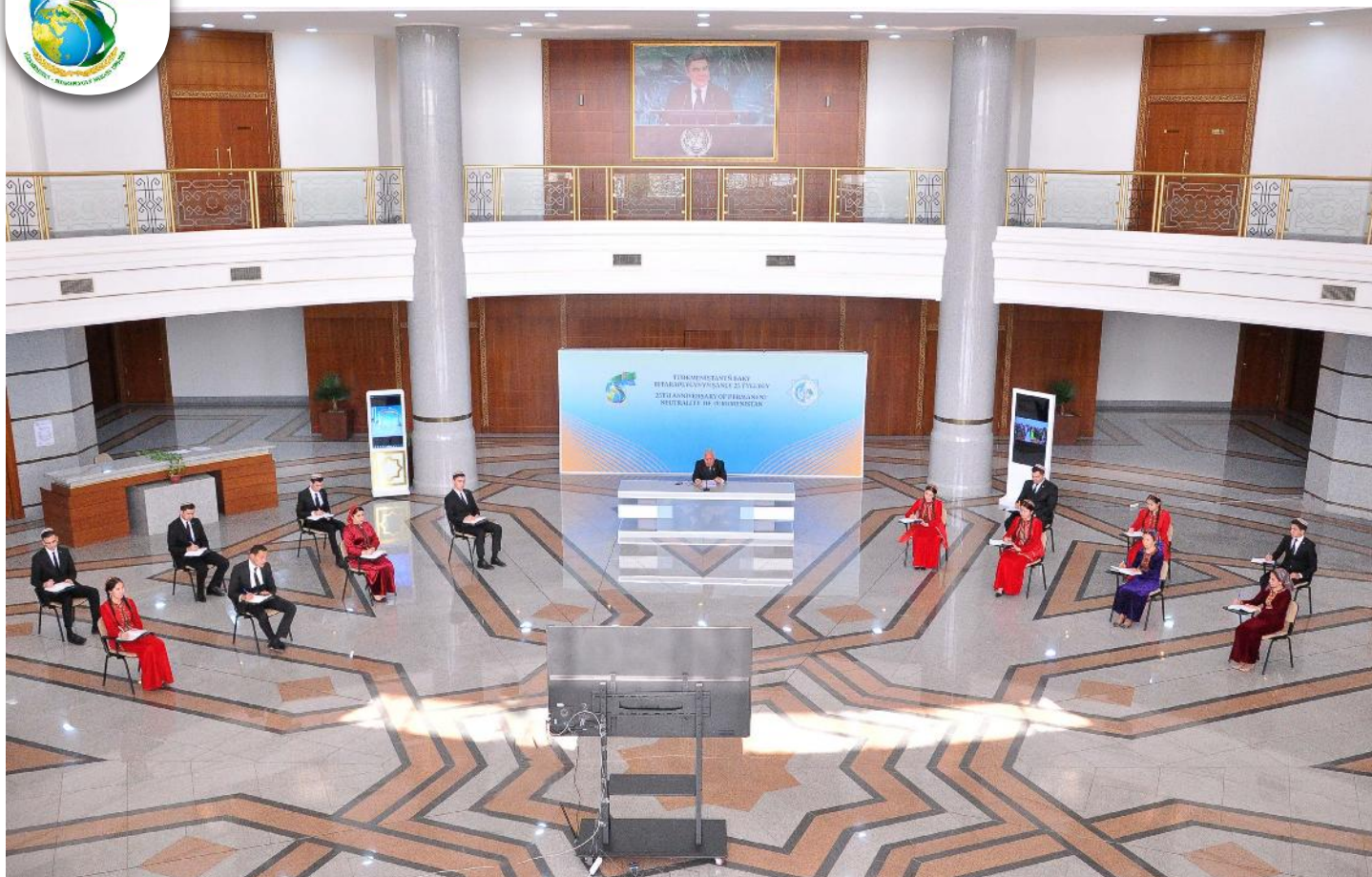
In the framework of the event, the signing of the Plan for Procurement of Vaccines and Immunization Devices in 2021-2025 under the Framework of the Standard "Memorandum of Understanding on the Provision of Procurement Services between the Government of Turkmenistan and UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund," signed on 28 August 2015 took place.

This Document was signed by the Minister of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan N. Amanepesov on the part of Turkmenistan and by the Head of UNICEF Office in Turkmenistan Ms. Christine Weigand on the part of UNICEF.









## ONLINE DIPLOMATIC COURSES ON THE TOPIC NEUTRALITY OF TURKMENISTAN - FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE, STABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On October 21-23, 2020, at the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, a three-day online diplomatic courses for young diplomats of foreign countries were held on the topic "Neutrality of Turkmenistan - for the sake of peace, stability and sustainable development", organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

More than 30 diplomats from 15 countries of the world, in particular from Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Turkey, Belarus, Austria, the USA, Hungary, the Republic of South Africa, Malaysia, Pakistan, Armenia, China, Japan and Iran attended in these courses.

As is known, these courses, timed to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan, are aimed at increasing the participants' awareness of this status of the state, its role in the implementation of foreign policy.

On the opening day of diplomatic courses, the Rector of the Institute of International

Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan J.Gurbangeldyev made an opening speech, who noted Turkmenistan's commitment to expanding political and diplomatic dialogue with the countries of the world within the framework of the policy of positive neutrality of the state. He expressed hope that these courses will allow diplomats from different countries of the world to learn more about the specifics of the permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan, which, under the leadership of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, is taking important steps to achieve peace, stability and sustainable development in the world and in the region.

On these courses, the rector of the International University for Humanities and Development, as well as the mentors of Turkmen diplomacy - Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkmenistan, who teach young Turkmen diplomats the basics of diplomatic service, delivered lectures. The lecturers spoke about the intricacies of Turkmen diplomacy and

the foreign policy of Turkmenistan, carried out in accordance with the principles of permanent neutrality, which calls for peace, mutual understanding and objective interstate relations.

Leading diplomats, specialists from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the teaching staff of specialized universities of the country have been invited to deliver lectures in the online format, who comprehensively covered novice diplomats on the above topics, as well as talk about the features of Turkmenistan's neutrality.

The program was very busy. Participants of online courses immersed themselves in lively discussions and asked questions to experts of Turkmen diplomacy. Young diplomats of foreign countries learned of such topics as "The history of the Turkmen model of neutrality and its successful implementation", "Turkmenistan and the United Nations - interaction on the humanitarian line", "Energy, transport and environmental diplomacy of Turkmenistan" and others.





# 25 MILLION TREE SAPLINGS WILL BE PLANTED IN TURKMENISTAN IN 2020 IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNTRY'S NEUTRALITY



In 2020, 25 million saplings of deciduous, fruit trees and grapes will be planted throughout Turkmenistan. This number marks the 25th anniversary of the country's permanent neutrality.

Some of the trees were planted during a nationwide planting campaign held on November 7 with the participation of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. It was also attended by members of the government, heads and representatives of ministries and sectoral departments, including numerous residents of the country. Today, every resident of Turkmenistan planted about 30 seedlings.

According to the Decree of the President of Turkmenistan dated January 31 of this year "On planting trees in Turkmenistan in 2020",

25 million seedlings of deciduous, coniferous, fruit trees and grapes will be planted in Turkmenistan during 2020. This action, in turn, provides for the implementation of a nationwide greening program in the country, primarily from the point of view of the country's environmental well-being and is timed to a significant date, the 25th anniversary of the country's neutrality.

It is important to note that one of the key directions of the foreign policy of neutral Turkmenistan is cooperation with the UN and other authoritative organizations in the field of comprehensive promotion of green diplomacy. Today, Turkmenistan actively cooperates with the United Nations Development Program and the United Nations Environment Program, the World Environmental Fund, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), the Regional

Environmental Center for Central Asia and many other international and regional structures.

As is known, the policy of Turkmenistan in the field of environmental diplomacy is aimed at ensuring the priority of protecting human life and health, preserving and restoring the environment, combining environmental, economic and social interests of society in order to ensure sustainable development and a favourable environment for full-fledged life.

Taking into account the seriousness of environmental problems that require the involvement of an increasing number of factors, having joined dozens of UN conventions, Turkmenistan responsibly approaches the solution of the tasks of sustainable development facing the world community. The country also put forward a number of





proposals on sustainable development, careful use of water and energy resources and ensuring food security, reducing the risks of natural disasters, during the sessions of the UN General Assembly, high-level conferences.

In this context, it should be emphasized that Turkmenistan calls on the world community to pay close attention to the ecological catastrophe of the Aral Sea. The air masses formed in the zone of ecological disaster caused by the drying up of the Aral Sea have an extremely negative impact on nature, climate, and the general life of people living in the Aral Sea region and far beyond it.

During the chairmanship in IFAS on the initiative of Turkmenistan on April 12, 2018 and May 28, 2019, the General Assembly adopted resolutions "On cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS)".

In this aspect, it should be emphasized that during the current 75th session of the General Assembly, Turkmenistan will continue to implement the initiative put forward by the President of Turkmenistan at the Rio + 20 Sustainable Development Summit to create a UN Special Program for the Aral Sea Basin and the country also intends submit for consideration at the regular session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and

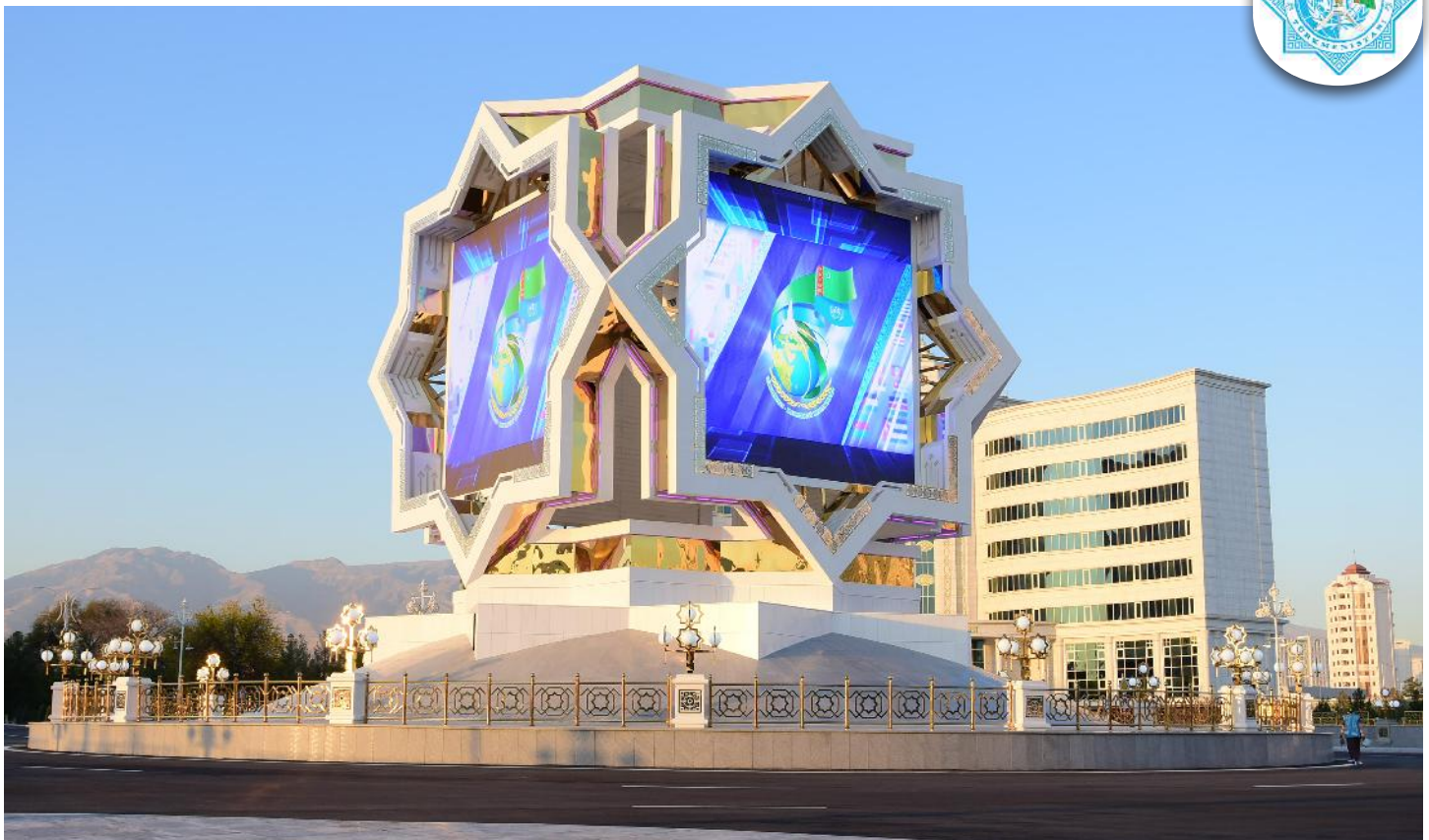
the Pacific (ESCAP) in May 2021 an initial draft of the concept and structure of the future Special Program.

The preservation of biodiversity and ecological balance in the Caspian Sea is also one of the priority tasks of the regional and international ecological interaction of Turkmenistan.

Today, the country has developed the Concept of a new Caspian environmental program, the draft of which will be considered in the near future during the next meeting of the parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea.















# POLICY OF NEUTRALITY PLATFORM OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has defined stable progress of national economy, efficient development of industrial, investment, social, agricultural, transport and communication spheres and sphere of services, rational use of natural resources, strengthening of foreign economic relations, improvement of competitiveness of local manufacturers as the main components of economic policy of Turkmenistan.

All of these is aimed at solution of the main goal – the stability of social and economic development, steadfast growth of wealth and life quality of the population.

In the context of modernization of national economy, it is important to benchmark all what was achieved against the indicators and data existing today in the world, to aim at the achievements of the world experience, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov notes. Our goal is to move toward further social and democratic development steady and purposefully. All reforms, which we have initiated, pursue one goal to merge organically to the system of the world economy organically as soon as possible.

1991, when Turkmenistan received its independence, has come a starting point of the country's development. Grandiose successes have been achieved in the formation of own national model of socially oriented market economy in the country in following years and at present time, the process of its improvement is continued taking into account internal interests and common tendencies of globalization of the world community.

Solid foundation of stable country's development in long-term perspective has been made in Turkmenistan in historical short period and profile structure of the economy has been improved as the result of fundamental changes.

As of today, the country has developed production infrastructure, ramified transport and communication system and rich human potential.

At present time, Turkmenistan is at the stage of new economic reforms based on application of modern equipment and advanced technologies, digitization of all branches, establishment of innovative production structures, intensification of the integration to the world economic system, expansion of international cooperation and activation of investment activity.

National economy is successfully diversified by use of rich natural, economic and investment capabilities and expansion of interstate cooperation enhancing its foreign economic potential.

Turkmenistan has entered its way of development of market relations continuing socially oriented course and greening of economic branches, rational use of natural reserves and efficient adaptation to the climate change. Large-scale reforms are introduced gradually in the country, big international and national projects are implemented, hundreds of production and social facilities have been built and put into operation.

Important projects, which are to add stability to economic development in future and provide qualitative developments in its structure as well as to improve life of Turkmenistan citizens, have been successfully implemented in the last years.

These include the projects of National Avaza tourist zone, construction of Turkmenistan – China, Turkmenistan – Iran, East- West gas line, the North – South transnational railroad, Serhetabat – Turgundy railway, motor and railway bridge across Amudarya River, international airports in Ashgabat, Turkmenbashi, Turkmenabat, International Seaport in Turkmenbashi.

Such industrial giants as Garlyk Potassium Plant, carbamide plants in Mary and Garabogaz, petrochemical complex in Kiyanly, plant for production of gasoline from natural gas and glass factory in Ahal Region and many other can be added to this list.

At the same time, the construction of Turkmenistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan – India gas pipeline and Turkmenistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan power and fibre optic lines is actively continued. All of these will allow strengthening position of our country in the world market and providing additional income of foreign currency.

Transition to the model of sustainable development, which is based on macroeconomic regulation, diversification of branches and market reformation, development of small and medium entrepreneurship are important conditions of solution of current economic objectives. In particular, it is carried out under Turkmenistan's implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals announced by the United Nations Organization.

Today, economic policy is targeted at innovative development, establishment of powerful industrial potential, strengthening and expansion of profile infrastructure. Qualitative and gradual formation of efficient economy with modern market relations, which is targeted at the achievement of high stable growth rates is the priority.

Based on the status of permanent neutrality, which marks its 25th anniversary this year, Turkmenistan increases its production potential every year. This is confirmed by international financial institutes including the World Bank, according to which classification our country is among the states with upper-middle-income. All of these makes significant prepositions for provision of stable increment of national revenue and, despite negative tendencies in the world economy at present, the branches of national economy keep stable growth rates.

Thus, during extended session of the Government dedicated to the outcomes of 9 months of 2020, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has brought up such data: the growth domestic product has increased by 5.8 percent comparing with the same period of the last year, the growth rate in trade sector was 18.1 percent, the production volume has grown by 4.2 percent.

Stability of the growth of national product is based on increment of production volume in all sectors of the economy – industry, agriculture, construction and service sphere. Economic progress of the country is stimulated by significant resource potential, stability of demand as well as by big investments to priority directions of the state development.

Social and economic policy of Turkmenistan is aimed at improvement of life conditions and wealth of the population. Major part of the State budget is sent for improvement of health protection, education, culture and municipal services.

Financial and economic system, which forms up the balance of monetary circulation, purchasing power of national currency and dynamics of social and economic growth, plays an important role in stable development of the country.

Provision of access to financial services and economic resources to all citizens of the country is an important objective of the Government policy pursued by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in financial





and economic sphere. Being an important entity of the currency issue and the main institutional conductor of the monetary policy of the state, supporting and providing financial flows in the country and development of the economy, the banking sector plays the main role in operation of the system of local and international payments.

Two-tiered banking system, which has been established for the years of independence and represented by the Central Bank of Turkmenistan and nine banks of various ownership, works successfully today.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov notes that further support of stable exchange rate of manat, expansion of scales and improvement of quality of banking services with their entry to international level, introduction of the best world practice to activity of profile facilities are the main objectives of the banking sphere of Turkmenistan.

The banks also play an important role in provision of credit resources to various branches of the economy, they are financial sources of big investment projects and working capital. Thus, credit facilities of the country give loans for development of farms, industrial facilities, service sphere and processing of agricultural production.

At the same time, long-term crediting is rapidly developed in the country at the account of such directions as crediting of private producers under the program of credit support of investment projects of national entrepreneurs for opening or expansion of production facilities.

Beneficial financing conditions have been made for fulfilment of strategic economic objectives related to restructuring of branches, industrialization, introduction of innovations as well as with enhancement of the role of private entrepreneurship, which provided the growth rate of crediting including the crediting of non-government establishments.

At the same time, beneficial mortgage credits for procurement of comfortable living on beneficial terms are granted to the citizens for improvement of living conditions and wealth of the population. In particular, the credit is granted on long-term basis up to 30 years with one percent annual rate and with 5-year grace period.

Further protection of interests of the creditors and investors, improvement of efficiency of activity of banking sector in accumulation of financial resources of the population and

organizations, transformation into credits and investments, expansion of existing and introduction new services as well as support to the development of the economy remain priority objectives of the banking system of Turkmenistan.

Specific measures have been taken by financial institutes of the country throughout last years for introduction of new banking operations and innovative technologies, improvement of business process management, increasing capitalization of national banks and other measures and other services. The banks of Turkmenistan work purposefully on improvement of quality of services, implementation of perspective ideas and entry to new level of service.

According to the instructions of the Head of the state, works for improvement of the system of non-cash payments, in particular for wide introduction of cards to various spheres of the economy, as well as for development of electronic document management system are carried out in the financial and banking sphere of regular basis. Internet banking services, which allows reporting on account statements and conducted bank operations by 'client – bank' system, are expanded.

The banks make beneficial conditions for attraction of financial resources and active participation of the population in financial market sphere. Development of technological types of service was observed in the growth of number of remote devices for provision of certain banking services. Thus, more than 2,200 ATMs have been installed and operate in the country.

Introduction and use of digital technologies are among the most important priorities of stable development of the state. The transition to digital society in our country is implemented in accordance with the Concept of development of digital economy.

Development of digital economy opens wide capabilities for introduction of effective systems, which support long-term economic growth and are the main objectives in achievement of stable development of the economy.

Big range of activities for rapid transition to digital society is carried out at present time. Many elements of digital economy work in different spheres in the country these days. Active work is carried out for implementation of modern resources, which expands the range of non-cash payments, banking cards, transport services, health protection systems, education and other services.

The banking sector of Turkmenistan does wide-scale work for introduction of digital

technologies and provision of digital services to the population. High-technology transformation allows expanding the list of banking services and opportunities of national payment system, enhancing competitiveness of credit facilities.

Fir examples, Joint Stock Commercial Rysgal Bank actively works on implementation of payment system using QR-codes in the country, which allows making payments using smartphones.

Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which were adopted by all UN state members in September 2015 and representing the foundation of the 2030 Global Agenda, is one of the key directions of social and economic policy of Turkmen leader.

Gradual work is carried out in the country these days for achievement of the SDGs. The country has already managed to achieve significant results in social and economic policy, to intensify the transit to market relations, continue socially oriented course of economic growth, keep positive indicators for provision of the population with affordable and qualitative medical services and education, take efficient measures for adaptation and mitigation of the impact caused by the climate change.

Implementation of these measures in Turkmenistan is a logical continuation of social policy of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, which is aimed at provision of food abundance, improvement of common wealth of the population, widespread adoption of healthy life style, making of conditions for all-inclusive, fair and qualitative education, provision of gender equality, efficient use of water and energy resources, industrialization and innovation of all spheres of the economy.

Stable economic growth directly depends on successful implementation of the programs of improvement of wellbeing of the population, life quality of the citizens of protection of social guarantees.

In this regard, National Program of Reduction of the impact of complicated situation in the world economy on the economy of the country and stable development of national economy for 2020 – 2021, which is additional measure to the activity carried out by the Government of the country for prevention of negative external impact, has been adopted in July 2020 taking into account global situation.

At the same time, the Plan of Social and Economic Activities against severe infectious disease pandemic in Turkmenistan have





been adopted in July 2020. The Plan covers such important directions as improvement of quality and access to the main health protection services, provision of social security and basic social services, protection of work place, support of small and medium business, macroeconomic stimulation and multilateral cooperation.

All of these indicates that Turkmenistan confidently move forward along the way of progress and further enhancement of wellbeing of the people.

At the same time, implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda is a strategic objectives of our state, which

provides the provision of stable and all-inclusive growth of national economy.

Therefore, implementation of all planned program activities will give opportunity to form up developed market infrastructure, to integrate fully into global economic system and to increase foreign trade significantly in the nearest future.

Wide implementation of innovative technologies to all spheres of production will give opportunity to enhance the competitiveness of national producers, to expand the volume of local commodity and service market and to strengthen financial and economic system.

In particular, it will allow accumulating credit resources for financing of new production facilities, coming over to information society, which in its turn will make positive effect of economic power of Turkmenistan.

These success and achievements of national economy are provided by the policy of neutrality, which 25th anniversary will be celebrated by the world community together with Turkmen people on December 12, 2020, of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

**Gadyrgeldy Mushikov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan**







# INTERNATIONAL ECOLOGICAL INITIATIVES OF NEUTRAL TURKMENISTAN



Independent, Permanently Neutral Turkmenistan, by conducting multilateral humanitarian cooperation with international organizations, consistently presents relevant constructive initiatives to the various structures of the United Nations, aimed at the prosperous future of humanity.

One of the key areas of cooperation of Turkmenistan with the United Nations and its institutions, which strictly adheres to the principles of neutrality, is connected with

the issues of climate change, environmental protection, and sustainable use of natural resources.

It is a matter of pride for our Turkmen nation that the initiatives set forth by the President of Turkmenistan to improve ecological diplomacy in ensuring sustainable development are among the priority issues that will be considered during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. Development of the draft of the Concept

of the Caspian Ecological Program aimed at biodiversity conservation in the Caspian Sea, and the initiative of our county on creating a UN Special Program for the Aral Sea region are clear examples that our state accumulated exemplary experience in the environmental protection issues. These new initiatives are widely supported by the world community.

There are numerous scientific theories that human beings are in harmony with





the natural, social, and cultural-spiritual environments. It is a matter of pride that it is reflected in the cultural and spiritual heritage of the Turkmen people, which is passed on generation to generation from our ancestors.

Under the leadership of the President of Turkmenistan all sectors of the economy are developing in accordance with scientifically based programs, the living standards of the population are improving and the cultural sector is expanding. Under the scientifically based programs, of our state are changing, developing. This contributes to the development of society, social consciousness, as well as the culture and education of individual.

The book of the President of Turkmenistan "Traditions of Turkmen Statehood" gives detailed information about the Turkmen people's centuries-old unique material and spiritual culture and national heritage, passed down from generation to generation, carefully preserved and developed. President of Turkmenistan in the section of the book entitled "Prosperity of the Earth and Eternity of Life" states: "Our ancestors instilled in their wisdom the importance of preserving the resources and beauty of the Earth for future generations".

The measures at the international and national levels aimed at the implementation of the strategy of environmentally sound socio-economic development of Turkmenistan.

With the adoption of the Law of Turkmenistan "On Ecological Safety", for the first time, it was possible to compile the main environmental safety issues in a single document. The aforementioned legislation includes measures for relationship between legal entities and persons in conducting economic and other activities, and protection of the environment from anthropogenic and natural influences.

Under the leadership of the President of Turkmenistan, all favorable conditions are created for conducting scientific research and putting the achievements of science into practice. In today's world, science is developing a new method, innovations, to meet the development of the world community. In this connection, harmonizing the innovative innovations of science with the environmental protection is one of the main requirements of the time.

The laws of Turkmenistan on Protection of Ozone Layer, on Fishery and Protection of Aquatic biological Resources, on Protection of Specially Protected Natural Territories, on Ecological Audit, on Protection of Atmospheric air, on Ecological Safety, on

Ecological Data, and Forest Code", "Water Code" improve and strengthen the legal framework for environmental work in our state.

Turkmenistan, implementing a series of UN conventions on nature conservation, including the Convention on Conservation and Restoration of Land Resources, is actively involved in addressing pressing environmental issues of regional and national importance. Our country consistently underlying importance of coordinating international efforts to address the most pressing issues from the rostrum of UN General Assembly, set forth a number of positive proposals, including water issues and the situation in the Aral Sea, as well as the creation of a UN Regional Center for Climate Change in Ashgabat. In the country ecological projects are being implemented on the basis of national nature protection programs.

Turkmenistan emphasizes important role of developing international cooperation in addressing important environmental issues. Our country, in close cooperation with international structures such as the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Environment Program, and the Global Environment Facility, is implementing large-scale environmental programs and projects. Turkmenistan has acceded to and ratified a number of very important UN environmental conventions.

Experience has shown the importance of global community support, a holistic approach and active and systematic UN participation in addressing global environmental issues, including the Aral Sea. The member states of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea have adopted three phases of the "Program of Specific Actions for the Improvement of the Ecological and Social and Economic Situation in the Aral Sea Basin" and are taking appropriate steps in this regard.

Turkmenistan chaired the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea in 2017-2019. Our country is actively cooperating with Central Asian countries to save the Aral Sea.

Our country carried out the wide-ranging tasks set out in the "Concept of Chairing the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea".

On August 24, 2018, the Summit of the Heads of the Founding States of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea was held in the Avaza National Tourist Zone under the leadership of the President of Turkmenistan. At the summit issues of cooperation in the field of ecology in the region were discussed, and a Declaration was adopted.

On August 12, 2019, the I Caspian Economic Forum was held on the Turkmen coast of

the Caspian Sea. The President of Turkmenistan noted that science has a special importance in maintaining ecological balance and unique biological diversity of the Caspian Sea. Practically speaking, this means that all economic projects in the Caspian region must be implemented on the basis of high international environmental standards. In this regard, the President of Turkmenistan made a proposal to create a new Caspian Ecological Program as a set of conservation measures aimed at the protection and sustainable use of the rich natural resources of the Caspian Sea. Not only continental, but also global importance of the Caspian Sea was highlighted. Not only the importance of its energy resources, which are capable of bringing enormous benefits to all mankind, but also the importance of ecological system of this beautiful Sea was underlined, which is unique in the world.

Environmental issues are at the forefront of the global agenda today, as they are directly connected with the future of civilization and the possibility of that future for many peoples. Therefore, environmental diplomacy is becoming an integral part of international politics. In his historic speech at the first Caspian Economic Forum, attaching great importance to this issue, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized the need to carry out scientific research in the field of nature protection.

In his speech at the XVIII Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement in Baku on October 25-26, 2019, the President of Turkmenistan particularly underlined the issue of protection of the Caspian Sea, its ecology and unique biodiversity as the global issue.

Independent, Permanently Neutral Turkmenistan has been recognized around the world as a country that has made tremendous efforts to ensure peace, security, and sustainable development on Earth.

In his book "Traditions of Turkmen Statehood", which is scientifically based, and reveals uniqueness of the national heritage of the Turkmen people, the President of Turkmenistan notes "Nature is balance. All the wealth in it has a special meaning".

As, ecological well-being is the well-being of peoples, states, and all of humanity.

**Ogulgurban Ezimova, Acting Head of the Department of Social Sciences of the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Senior Lecturer, Candidate of Philosophical Sciences.**





# The Policy of Good Neighborliness, Peace-loving and Sustainable Development

Foreign policy choice of Turkmenistan - neutrality is in line with worldview, traditions, and mentality of the Turkmen people, which is recognized and supported by the Resolution of the UN General Assembly on “Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan” on December 12, 1995. This historical document calls for member states to support neutral status of Turkmenistan, and respect independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. “Neutrality has been one of the foundations of statehood, its internal and foreign policies for a quarter of a century. The principles of neutrality, its values and ideology have proven their full compliance with our national interests and the UN objectives and tasks” said highly esteemed President of Turkmenistan in his video address to the participants of the 75th anniversary session of UN General Assembly.

Fundamental principles of Neutrality are peace-loving, non-interference in the affairs of others states, respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-participation in international military organizations and agreements. Neutrality status of Turkmenistan is important factor for strengthening stability and security, as well as development of multilateral economic and humanitarian cooperation. Turkmenistan always stands for strengthening friendship and good neighborliness, and further activation of fruitful cooperation in all directions. The motto of 2020 “Turkmenistan – Homeland of Neutrality” is inextricably connected with humanistic principles, which are the basis of the internal and foreign policy of our esteemed President. The universal formula of cooperation developed by our national Leader fully correspond to global progressive trends of human development.

Proving itself as responsible long-term UN partner, firmly committed to practical







implementation of the obligations undertaken, Turkmenistan actively participates in international efforts to strengthen peace, security, sustainable development and cooperation in the world. Our esteemed President declares readiness to act as a reliable UN partner in such important issues as ensuring peace and security on the Planet, finding solutions for global challenges and threats, promotion of sustainable development, environmental well-being, peaceful settlement of the situation in Afghanistan. In his video address at the anniversary session of the UN General Assembly our deeply esteemed President voiced specific initiatives of our country, aimed at consolidating efforts to develop positive solutions for pressing issues of modernity, optimization of constructive cooperation directed at world prosperity and progress.

Our national Leader called COVID-19 as a global challenge that does not recognize borders, races, and nationalities, which has a detrimental effect on all spheres of civilizational development. Our country has taken all necessary measures to counter this threat. Turkmenistan suggests to consider issues related with development and establishment of international tools. In particular, to establish a special program of the World Health Organization to research the coronavirus genome, to develop a multilateral mechanism for pneumonia control, establish a Methodological Center for the Treatment and Prevention of Acute Infections.

Transportation, energy, ecology are priority areas of foreign policy direction of Turkmenistan. Today, promotion of cooperation in transport sphere is of great importance for sustainable development of countries and regions. In this regard, Turkmenistan suggests to consider the issue of ensuring stable international transportation during emergencies. Relevant draft Resolution of the General Assembly has been prepared and presented for consideration of the member states.

Great attention is paid to modernization of transport infrastructure in Turkmenistan: large-scale reconstruction of existing and construction of new modern automobiles and railways connecting regions of the country and neighboring states are consistently carried out. International Airports of Ashgabat, Turkmenbashi, Mary, Turkmenabat and Dashoguz are an integral part of the national transport and logistics system. Today, International seaport in Turkmenbashi, which was put into operation in May 2018, is the "water gate" of the region.

Transit and transport routes in the direction of North - South and East - West contribute further development of cooperation between countries. Transport Corridor Afghanistan -

Turkmenistan - Azerbaijan - Georgia - Turkey (Lazurite), uniting countries of Middle East, Southeast and Central Asia, as well as countries of Caucasus with exit to Europe, Uzbekistan - Turkmenistan - Iran - Oman corridor connecting Central Asian countries with the Persian Gulf region, will turn our Homeland into logistics center.

The Leader of the nation noted a special role of WTO in restoration work of the global economy, stimulation of trade and investment. "Having recently obtained observer status in the WTO, Turkmenistan will actively use the opportunities opened in this regard to promote practical measures to overcome quickly the crisis phenomena in the world economy, its transition to positive dynamics" said our national Leader in his address at the 75th anniversary session of UN General Assembly.

Possessing enormous hydrocarbon reserves and using these natural resources for the world well-being, Turkmenistan greatly contributes to the provision of the regional and the world energy security. Developing mutually beneficial international cooperation in energy sector, our country implements large-scale projects aimed at creating a diversified export infrastructure for its energy resources. These grandiose projects will give a powerful impetus for the economic development of the region, will become levers in solving problems social and humanitarian character, and also in strengthening peace and stability.

Clear examples are transnational gas pipeline Turkmenistan - China, as well as gas pipeline Turkmenistan - Afghanistan - Pakistan - India (TAPI). Another important project is construction of power line Turkmenistan - Afghanistan - Pakistan (TAP), which will pass along gas pipeline of the same name and will give the opportunity to deliver electricity to Pakistan and other countries of the South Asia by transit through Afghanistan. Underlying the importance of these projects our highly esteemed President said: "The key condition for political stabilization, social and economic recovery of Afghanistan, its successful integration to global economy is to implement large infrastructure projects with Afghanistan's involvement primarily in vital sectors such as energy, transport and communications". Our country as Afghanistan's neutral and immediate neighboring state is ready to provide necessary political and organizational conditions in our territory to establish peaceful dialogue between the Government of Afghanistan and all parties interested in political settlement of the situation in Afghanistan.

Turkmenistan takes active in the positive solution of all pressing issues of the global and regional level, using only peaceful, political diplomatic means and methods. It is highly

symbolic, noted our highly esteemed President in his historic video address, that the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia was established by the decision of the General Assembly with the support of neighboring states and Security Council members in Ashgabat, the capital city of neutral Turkmenistan in 2007. Within the framework of the session Turkmenistan to put forward draft Resolution on "Role of the Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia".

Today, issues related with the Aral Sea go far beyond Central Asia. Measures taken by Turkmenistan in finding a solution to the Aral Sea problem receive wide support in the world community. Turkmenistan makes a significant contribution to the intensification of the fruitful cooperation aimed at positive solution of environmental, social, economic and humanitarian issues in the Aral Sea region, and rational use of water resources. In addition, practical measures are taken to prevent desertification.

As is known, UN General Assembly unanimously adopted Turkmenistan initiated Resolutions "On cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea". Our country also set forth a proposal on development of the Special UN Program for the Aral Sea Basin, which will include measures on stabilization of the situation. Developing international legal foundations to address the Aral Sea issues, Turkmenistan will present initial draft of the concept and structure of future Special program on the Aral Sea in the framework of ESCATO sessions in May 2021, calling upon all states and interested international organizations to consider these documents.

As is known, the 73rd session of UN General Assembly adopted the Resolution on the initiative of Turkmenistan declaring the year 2021 as the year of international peace and trust". Turkmenistan put forward an initiative to organize International forum on peace and trust next year to implement provisions of this resolution, which will give a strong impetus to constructive and respectful multilateral dialogue on pressing subjects of modern global agenda. The motto of the current year "Turkmenistan - Homeland of Neutrality" interconnected with global initiatives, put forward by our highly esteemed President. Today Turkmenistan acts as reliable and an authoritative partner in solution of key issues of international cooperation.

**Gapbar Hallyyev, Lecturer of the Institute International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan**





# The “Turkmen Model” of Neutrality

Any state that has gained its independence and sovereignty has to define some important tasks related to its future destiny. Turkmenistan, which gained state independence on October 27, 1991, has made a decisive decision on foreign policy: the country's foreign policy strategy must be based on the principles of positive neutrality. In this regard, at the OSCE summit in Helsinki in July 1992, Turkmenistan announced for the first time that it was choosing a positive Neutrality principle as the basis of its foreign

policy direction. The principles such as respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of other states, non-interference in their internal affairs, non-use of force in interstate relations, prioritization of UN resolutions in international affairs, strengthening cooperation and good-neighborliness with all countries were considered.

The Declaration of Turkmenistan's neutrality was first recognized at the regional level in the

Final Declaration of the Economic Cooperation Organization summit in Islamabad, in March 1995. At the meeting, Turkmenistan made a special statement on the constitutional commitment of the Permanent Neutral State. At the meeting of the Heads of Government and Heads of State of the Non-Aligned Movement in Carthage in October of the same year, a resolution was adopted by the representatives of the member states of the Organization on the Granting of Permanent





Neutrality to Turkmenistan. As a result, at the 50th General Assembly of the United Nations General Assembly on December 12, 1995, the Resolution “Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan” was adopted. This Decree has become a historical first document adopted by the United Nations on neutrality in the practice of international relations.

The Neutrality of Turkmenistan, which is “recognized” by origin, “permanent” in form, and “positive” in meaning was unanimously ratified by the Historical Declaration and unanimously recognized by 185 member

states of the United Nations, the highest representative international body in the world, is an international legal status. At its source, it adheres to the high humanitarian principles of the Turkmen people, such as peace-loving, mutual respect, and humanity, which have been the banner of the millennium. Therefore, the tasks arising from the level of Turkmenistan’s Permanent Neutrality are important in strengthening peace, ensuring sustainable development and prosperity around the world.

At present, the world community unanimously recognizes that the goals of the “Turkmen model” of neutrality are fully in line with the tasks and requirements of global development, and the principles of the United Nations are prioritized in this sphere. With the support of all Central Asian states, the United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia was opened in Ashgabat in December 2007. The main task of the Center is to help the Central Asian states to create a platform for dialogue and dialogue on the prevention of potential threats in Central Asia, the establishment of new directions for strengthening effective relations within the region.

The effectiveness of preventive diplomacy has passed the test of time. During his video address to the 75th anniversary session of the UN General Assembly, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlighted the role and work of the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia. And actively supports the work and initiatives of this Center, which has carried out significant work to promote political-diplomatic, trade-economic and cultural-humanitarian cooperation among them. Turkmenistan has been cooperating effectively with the Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia on regional security issues, including the United Nations Global Strategy on Terrorism. Overcoming the threats and threats of the present, especially the global pandemic and its socio-economic impact, plays a special role in the current interactions.

Today, the principles of Turkmen Neutrality include peaceful regulation of the situation in neighboring Afghanistan, assistance in the disarmament process in the region, resolving water and energy issues on the basis of equality principles and ensuring the security, clearly reflected in the initiatives set forth by Esteemed President. Because these areas are important indicators of the practical implementation of the political, economic and cultural aspects of Turkmen Neutrality that is in the Constitutional Law of Turkmenistan “On Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan” which was adopted on December 27, 1995. Therefore, at the 66th session of the UN General Assembly in 2011, the slogan “Peace through

development” put forward by our Esteemed President proposes in strategic areas such as political issues, economics, energy, ecology and the humanitarian system the preference of kindnesses considered as a main principle of neutrality.

The books on philosophy say that the more human beings are on the Earth, the more philosophy there is. This means that everyone’s opinion of anything is different, not the same. But on the one hand - there is no doubt that everyone agrees on the notion of “peace.” That is why Turkmenistan’s Neutrality Policy is constantly expanding its potential for peace by strengthening its role as a call for universal peace. The second adoption of the Decree “Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan” with support of 193 states at the 69th session of the UN General Assembly on June 3, 2015 is another testament to the high recognition of Turkmen Neutrality, peace-loving diplomacy in the world community.

In his historic address, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov initiated the establishment of International Neutrality Day to further strengthen the global significance of neutrality at the conference on December 12, 2015, dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Turkmen Neutrality. The unanimous adoption of the Resolution on the proclamation of December 12 as International Neutrality Day at the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly on February 2, 2017, was widely supported by the President’s proposal in 2015.

Addressing our compatriots on the occasion, which further enhanced the decisive significance of the experience of Turkmen Neutrality, the President said: “We attach great importance to strengthen neutrality in Turkmenistan and are proud of its unique legal status.

Neutrality is our doctrine, it calls for peace around the world, for the development of friendly and fraternal relations among peoples, for the promotion of humanitarian principles and for unity”. This is one of the important steps in expanding the potential of Turkmenistan’s Neutrality International Legal Status in the new historical context. In 2020 Turkmenistan celebrates the 25th anniversary of our Neutrality, which has been twice recognized by the United Nations. Conferences, exhibitions, brief meetings and online meetings are held regularly not only in our country, but also in several countries around the world on this auspicious date.

***Tirkishmyrat Durdyev, Lecturer of the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Department of Practice and Theory of Journalism***





## POLICY OF NEUTRALITY – SYMBOL OF TRANQUILITY

Any state, that have gained its independence and sovereignty, has to determine certain important objectives connected with its future destiny. Turkmenistan, having gained its state independence in the year of 1991, made a firm decision regarding the issue connected with its foreign policy: strategy of the country's foreign policy is to be carried out on the basis of principles of favorable neutrality. Relying on this factor, Turkmenistan, at the summit of the present Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe held in 1992 in Helsinki, for the first time declared that it chose the principle of favorable neutrality as the basic line of its foreign policy. As major peculiarities of Turkmen Neutrality, the following principles were shown: respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of other states, noninterference in their internal affairs, rejection of the use of force within the scope of intergovernmental relations, giving priority in international affairs to decisions of the United Nations Organization, enhancement of cooperation and neighborly relations with all countries.

In the closing Record of the summit of Economic Cooperation Organization held in 1995 in Islamabad, principle of neutrality applied by Turkmenistan in its foreign policy was for the first time recognized at a regional level. At this meeting, Turkmenistan made a special Statement that it takes upon itself obligations of a Permanently Neutral state on a constitutional

basis. And at the meeting of the heads of states and governments of member-states of Movement of Non-alignment held in October of that year in Cartagena there was accepted an address by representatives of member-states of that organization to the Union of Nations about granting the status of Permanent Neutrality to Turkmenistan. As a result, on December 12, 1995, at the 50th anniversary session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization there was adopted a Resolution "About Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan". This Resolution went down in history as the first document adopted by the Union of Nations within the scope of international relations.

The term "neutrality" has a very deep meaning. During various periods of history, different types of neutrality came into existence in connection with such principles, as nonalignment to states at war, decision to remain on the sidelines, but to maintain friendly relations with them. Principles of neutrality used to be inalienable part of policy that was pursued, during different periods of history, by Switzerland, Belgium, Luxemburg, Albania, Iceland, Austria, the United States of America, Malta, Honduras, Cambodia, and Laos. Nowadays, Switzerland and Austria continue to pursue this policy as well. Principle of neutrality of the above-mentioned countries is secured by conclusion of the corresponding international treaty or law in this sphere. However, Turkmen Neutrality

completely differs from these countries by certain of its peculiarities. Neutrality of Turkmenistan, which has following features: "recognized" – by origin, "permanent" – by form, "favorable" – by meaning, is the status that was recognized by 185 member-states of the United Nations Organization, the highest authorized international structure, and secured by historic Resolution. In its core, it contains such high humane principles, to which Turkmen people strictly adhered during millenniums, as: peacefulness, mutual respect, humanity. Thus, it is worth stating enormous importance of objectives resulting from the status of Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan, which lie in strengthening of peace, arrangement of sustainable development and universal wellbeing.

Nowadays, world public unanimously recognizes the fact that goals of "Turkmen example" of neutrality completely meet objectives and requirements of universal development, and that within the scope of work carried out in this direction, major priority is given to principles of the United Nations Organization. Negotiations on settlement of internal conflicts between Tajikistan and Afghanistan by means of political and diplomatic methods, held in the middle 90's of the last century in our capital Ashgabat under the auspices of the United Nations Organization, not only revealed conciliatory nature of Turkmen Neutrality,





but promoted significant enhancement of its crucial role in strengthening of peace, security and cooperation in Central Asia. Thus, with the support of all states of Central Asia, the United Nation's Regional Center on Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia proceeded to its work in December 2007, in Ashgabat city. Major goal of the Center is to render assistance to states of Central Asia in creation of platform for negotiations and exchange of views concerning determination of the new lines for prevention of dangerous situations that may arise in the region of Central Asia as well as for enhancement of fruitful relations within this region. Political scientists confirm close interconnection of neutrality and preventive diplomacy. In this connection, we may state with confidence that Turkmen Neutrality has turned into an efficient tool of settlement of any objectives of present time and establishment of new directions within the scope of international cooperation.

Nowadays, principles of Turkmen Neutrality also find their distinct reflection in the initiatives put forward by our National Leader in the international arena on such issues, as rendering assistance in work carried out in the region aimed at stabilization of situation and disarmament in Afghanistan by means of peaceful methods, solution of water and energy issues on the basis of principles of equal rights, assurance of environmental safety. Since these trends represent important factors of

realization of political, economic and cultural aspects of Turkmen Neutrality stipulated by Constitutional Law of Turkmenistan "About Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan" adopted on December 27, 1995. Thus, the slogan "Peace by means of development" suggested by our Esteemed President at the 66th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization in the year of 2011, also stipulates giving priority to major principle of Neutrality, that is benevolence in relations established in such strategic trends, as political issues, economics, energy sector, ecology and humanitarian system.

Policy of Neutrality of Turkmenistan, along with regular strengthening of call to universal peace, also significantly widens the scope of opportunity of creation of peace. Repeated adoption on June 3, 2015 at the 69th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization with support of 193 member-states of the UN of Resolution "About Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan" is another evidence of recognition by the world public of Turkmen Neutrality and our state's peaceful diplomacy. Our Esteemed President, in course of his historic speech during the council held on December 12, 2015, devoted to the solemn celebration of the 20th anniversary of Turkmen Neutrality, with the view of significant enhancement of the role of neutrality in the international arena, put forward the initiative

of creation of International Day of Neutrality. Unanimous adoption of Resolution about declaring of December 12 the International Day of Neutrality at the 71st session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization held on February 2, 2017, is a vivid evidence of the fact that proposal put forward by our National Leader on this issue in the year of 2015 received wide support from international community. And this fact, on its own, represents one of the crucial steps concerning enhancement of opportunities of international legal status of Neutrality of Turkmenistan in the new historic conditions. And adoption on September 12, 2019, on the initiative of our Esteemed President, by the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization of Resolution under the title "2021 – International Year of Peace and Trust", with the authorship of 73 member-states of the UN, marked the persistence of views of Neutral Turkmenistan concerning safeguarding of universal peace and tranquility under complicated conditions of present time, as well as our country's readiness to make contribution to joining of efforts of the world public in this sphere.

Turkmenistan – the United Nations Organization: effective direction of favorable and fruitful cooperation.

The United Nations Organization, which with the view of glorification of world peace, stability and security during the tense period





of the last century, reached the status of global world structure from the status of the Union of Nations, reliably maintains its status of the sole legally declared organization of international significance nowadays as well.

In this connection, Turkmenistan also continues to maintain on regular basis mutually beneficial and effective relations with this global organization. And unanimous support of the legal status of Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan given by member-states of this organization on December 12, 1995 witnesses the fact that this cooperation was based on the principles of mutual trust and equal rights from the very beginning. Along with favorable achievements of this highly humane policy, it is also reasonable to note the repeated support of our state's status of Permanent Neutrality.

Apart from that, as another vivid example of effective mutual relations, it is also appropriate to note the holding by delegation of Turkmenistan of presentation of national survey on implementation of Objectives of Sustainable Development for the Union of Nations in course of Political Forum held on a high level in the headquarters of the United Nations Organization on July 18, 2019.

Thus, entrusting our state the participation, as a vice-chairman, in the regular anniversary session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization in the year of 2020 continuing under the slogan "Turkmenistan – motherland of Neutrality" devoted to celebration of the 25-th anniversary of the status of Neutrality is another vivid evidence of significant strengthening of international authority of Turkmenistan and wide recognition of our country in the international arena.

As is generally known, our state has rich favorable experience in this sphere, since it has been elected the deputy chairman of sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization already for the sixth time i.e. Turkmenistan, holding this honorable post, has participated in 58th, 62th, 64th, 68th and 71st sessions.

Besides, our state, having joined the membership of Economic and Social Council of the UN, the UN Commission on population and development, European Economic Commission of the UN and bureau of committee on sustainable energy of European Economic Commission, Special programme of the UN for economies of Central Asian countries, the UN commission on narcotic drugs, Programmes of Executive committee on the issues of refugees of the UN High Commissioner, Executive Committee of the UN subdivision on the issues of gender equality, widening of rights and

opportunities of women and other subdivisions of the UN, unquestioningly fulfilled obligations that it took upon itself and actively displayed itself as a reliable partner.

It is worth stating the fact that the UN's Regional Center on Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia is currently effectively working in Ashgabat city, which renders close assistance for Turkmenistan in efficient realization of its equitable and reasonable policy relying on political and diplomatic relations in course of solution of objectives concerning stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan and solution of any issues that may arise within this region.

Foreground principles of Turkmenistan in its cooperation with the United Nations Organization and its specialized subdivisions completely meets the Global Agenda of the Organization's members until the year of 2030. These views and efficient actions, in their turn, fully find their reflection in framework programme of cooperation on sustainable development for the period of 2021-2025 signed between Turkmenistan and the United Nations Organization on March 14 of current year in Ashgabat city.

Turkmenistan, relying on its legal status of Permanent Neutrality in the international arena, actually proves enormous significance of political and diplomatic tools as well as cultural diplomacy in course of settlement of issues and conflicts arising within global and international scope. Thus, Turkmenistan displayed initiative of working out the set of norms on the use of principles of neutrality in course of arrangement of peace and security, and as a result of this, in August of current year, on the basis of the United Nations Organization there was established the Group of Friends of Neutrality for the sake of World, security and development.

In this connection, our state, with the view of implementation of global strategies and programmes, during the 75th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization harmonically coordinates with the international agenda its international views concerning such directions, as coordination of efforts of international community aimed at struggle against pandemic, issues of international policy, peace and security, sustainable development, international humanitarian cooperation. In this connection, Turkmenistan is going to enjoy opportunities and privileges of its vice-chairmanship at the 75th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization as well as opportunities resulting from its membership in Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC), Council on Trade and Development of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Programme

of Executive committee on the issues of refugees of the UN High Commissioner, the UN Commission on narcotic drugs, the UN Commission on population and development, the UN Commission on social development, the UN Commission on science and technology within the scope of Development Programme and other subdivisions of the UN.

In this connection, Turkmenistan, relying on reasonability of consideration of opportunity of holding the UN Council on financing of development in the year of 2020, displays, as a country acting under the influence of actions concerning development and strengthening of international cooperation on the issues of sustainable and safe transportations, initiative of wide and multilateral consideration of issues of arrangement of sustainable traffic during the period of emergencies. Apart from that, Turkmenistan also hosts on its territory International council of ministers of developing countries, not having the outlet to the sea, holding of which is stipulated in the year of 2021 with the view of working out of efficient and mutually agreed efforts within the scope of multilateral cooperation in this sphere. In this connection, with the view of arrangement of environmental safety, Turkmenistan, in course of regular 75th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization, will continue to harmonically realize the proposal on establishment of the UN Special programme for the Aral Sea basin put forward by President of Turkmenistan during the Summit on sustainable development "Rio + 20".

Referring on its international obligations concerning unquestioning ensuring of the human rights and freedoms, our country, within the scope of regular session, in cooperation with the United Nations Organization, is also planning to establish in Ashgabat city credentials of representative of Regional Organization of High Commissioner of the UN on human rights. In this connection, confirmation, in course of the 75th session of the national plan of actions aimed at ensuring of human rights for the period of 2021-2025 in cooperation with specialized subdivisions of the United Nations Organization, is also one of major issues of the agenda.

All of the abovementioned is considered to be important components of foreground views of Turkmenistan during the 75th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization and it vividly witnesses the fact that our state independently and unquestioningly fulfills and comprehensively relies on the global agenda.

**Ayjan Omarova, Instructor of Institute of International Relations of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan**









# NEUTRALITY OF TURKMENISTAN: HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND LEGAL BASIS



Thanks to the far-sighted and constructive political course of our esteemed President, Turkmenistan has achieved great success in its domestic and foreign policies. Achievements in domestic policy include democratic principles such as promotion of democracy as well as economic development. Achievements in foreign policy are related to the legal status of permanent neutrality.

In the past at different times several states got the status of neutrality. Some of them remained faithful to their status, being committed to their obligations. Yet, over time some countries refused their legal status for various reasons.

In international law neutrality is defined as the legal status which recognizes the state's obligation to refrain from any kind of war as well as from joining any military alliances and blocs that may involve in military clashes, except the state's self-defence against armed attack. Article 51 of the UN Charter specifies that every state has the full right to defence.

Some states acquired this status on the basis of treaties. As an example, we can refer to the neutrality of Switzerland. It was recognized

in 1815 based on the Treaty of Paris. Another way of acquiring the status of neutrality is the adoption of the Constitutional Law, for instance the Republic of Austria. In Turkmenistan's case, the status of permanent neutrality was recognized by the United Nations.

In this regard, the acquisition of the legal status of neutrality by Turkmenistan is in the form of innovation for the institute of neutrality.

There are some peculiarities of the neutrality of Turkmenistan:

by origin – recognized. The UN General Assembly adopted resolutions on the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan on December 12, 1995 and on June 3, 2015;

by nature – permanent, i.e. it is not limited by time, it is in effect both in war time and peace time;

by content – positive. This means that the neutral policy of the country is a policy of action to maintain peace and stability and develop friendly relations and cooperation among states.

After independence, Turkmenistan chose a foreign policy aimed at good-neighbourly relations, peace, mutually beneficial cooperation and humanism. The first intentions to implement the neutral foreign policy were announced at the meeting of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe held in Helsinki on July 10, 1992.

To achieve the legal status of neutrality, the government of Turkmenistan conducted effective negotiations with a range of foreign countries and leading international organizations.

In addition, the necessary legislative work for the legal status of neutrality was carried out at the national level. On March 16, 1995, the Parliament of Turkmenistan adopted a decree "On the approval of the policy of the permanent positive neutrality of Turkmenistan", which states "To approve the principle of permanent neutrality as a basis for its foreign policy, which fully meets the interests of the state, the national, historical and geographical peculiarities and mentality of the Turkmen people".





responsibly fulfils its international obligations. This can be exemplified by negotiations for the peaceful settlement of the inter-Tajik conflicts and the restoration of peace in neighbour country – Afghanistan. Another confirmation of the essential peacekeeping role of the Turkmen neutrality in the region is the opening of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia in Ashgabat in 2007. Since its establishment Turkmenistan has been effectively cooperating with it, contributing to the strengthening of the preventive direction of the country's foreign policy and diplomacy.

The "Foreign Policy Concept of Turkmenistan for 2013-2017" states that Turkmenistan's foreign policy will be based on the legal status of neutrality and recognizes the United Nations as its main strategic partner. The sessions of the UN General Assembly provide ample opportunities for the presentation of the humane and constructive policy of our state pursued by the National Leader. In the Prosperous Epoch of the Powerful State, a range of initiatives of local, regional and global importance were announced at the UN sessions.

The effectiveness of Turkmenistan's permanent neutrality is also evidenced by the adoption, at the 71st session of the UN General Assembly, of the Resolution proclaiming December 12 as International Day of Neutrality. In addition, at the initiative of the president of Turkmenistan, the UN General Assembly adopted another Resolution proclaiming the year 2021 "International Year of Peace and Trust", September 2019.

As known, this year Turkmenistan marks the 25th anniversary of the recognition of the legal status of the neutrality of Turkmenistan by the world community. On the occasion of this significant event the year 2020 was proclaimed as "Turkmenistan is the Homeland of Neutrality". Moreover, since the beginning of this year, on the eve of the 25th anniversary of permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan, large-scale celebrations and events have been held at the national and international level and in December our country is to hold an international conference devoted to this event.

In general, the foreign policy pursued by the President of Turkmenistan based on the legal status of neutrality fully meets the national interests and the neutrality policy turned into an effective tool for mutual understanding and cooperation among peoples.

**Maya Orazova, Institute of International Relations of the MFA of Turkmenistan, Department of World Languages, Senior Lecturer**

In this regard, the meeting of the Organization of Economic Cooperation held in March in 1995 supported the initiative of Turkmenistan on the status of permanent neutrality. Then the proposal was unanimously supported by the Non-Aligned Movement, which stands for peace in the world and opposes military clashes.

The historic 50th session of the UN General Assembly held in 1995 was written in the annals of the history of Turkmenistan. A special resolution 50/80A on the "Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan" was adopted at this anniversary session with the unanimous support of all UN member states.

This historic resolution calls the member states of the United Nations to respect and support this status of Turkmenistan and to respect its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The adoption of this historic resolution of the UN General Assembly means recognition by the world community of Turkmenistan as a neutral state. And further, such a document was adopted for the first time in the activities of the UN. 185 member states of the world

community voted for the adoption of the resolution at the General Assembly session.

After the recognition of permanent neutrality of our state at the world level, it was fixed in a number of legislative acts of the country adopted on December 27, 1995. First of all, it should be noted that relevant additions have been introduced into the Constitution of Turkmenistan. For instance, the norms of the Resolution are reflected in Article 2 of the Constitution of Turkmenistan. Moreover, the Constitutional Law "On the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan" was adopted. This legislative act consists of 12 articles, which define the political, economic and humanitarian areas of the legal status of permanent neutrality. It also sets forth international obligations undertaken by our country.

After 20 year experience of the neutrality of Turkmenistan, it was reconfirmed by another resolution of the UN General Assembly at the 69th session on June 3, 2015. 47 states were co-authors of the document.

Our country, steadily following the principles of the legal status of permanent neutrality,





## NEUTRALITY OF TURKMENISTAN AS AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT OF STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL PEACE

During the twenty-five years of its history, permanent neutrality status of Turkmenistan evolved into an effective instrument of building international peace. The phenomenon of Turkmen neutrality is studied by scholars of international relations, analyzed by policy-makers, and celebrated by the international community in academic institutions, think-tanks, and diplomacy centers. After twenty-five years, the permanent character of Turkmen neutrality became even more salient in the eyes of international observers. Today the neutrality of Turkmenistan should be analyzed as a part of the history of not only one country, but the entire world. In today's globalized world where new social, economic and environmental challenges need to be addressed by international community jointly, Turkmenistan's positive neutrality demonstrated its potential to serve the common interests of humanity.

Achievements of Turkmenistan in this regard call for a careful analysis of the history of our permanent neutrality status. The successful continuation of the national foreign policy in the spirit of 1995 and 2015 resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly will depend on understanding the reasons for the positive impact of Turkmenistan in international affairs. The permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan was declared in peace time, not as a response to an ongoing military conflict. It was a free choice of people of Turkmenistan. When our country declared its independence in 1991 it faced the question: What should be our foreign

policy? As Our Esteemed President wrote in his book "Music of Peace, Music of Friendship and Brotherhood", foreign policy of a country can affect the very existence of a state. Based on the analysis of history and culture of Turkmenistan, neutrality was chosen as the country's foreign policy. Therefore, the constructive and transparent foreign policy agenda of our country found strong support in the world.

An important strength of Turkmenistan's neutral foreign policy is its openness to the world. If neutrality was to have positive impact on international relations, it had to be widely accepted and recognized by the international community. Our country understood that an effective neutral policy cannot remain merely as a set of declarations and statements. Instead it must be based on shared values of peaceful, friendly, and mutually-beneficial relations between countries. Therefore, the government of Turkmenistan from the very first days of independence aimed to explain its foreign policy choice in international forums. The first official declaration of Turkmenistan on its neutrality policy was made in the 1992 Helsinki summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. In 1995 in the Islamabad summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization welcomed the initiative of Turkmenistan to declare permanent neutrality. In October of 1995, Turkmenistan joined the Non-Aligned Movement and the members of the organization expressed their support in the Cartagena declaration of the organization. On 12 December,

1995 Turkmenistan received the support of 185 states in the United Nations General Assembly and the historic document was adopted on "Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan". During the early days of neutrality Turkmenistan actively contributed to the resolution of the conflict in Afghanistan and Tajikistan. In 2015 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of our neutrality status and the United Nations General Assembly reaffirmed its support for our choice. In 2017 the United Nations proclaimed 12 December as International Day of Neutrality. And in 2020 Turkmenistan proudly celebrates the 25th anniversary of its permanent neutrality.

It is important to emphasize that Turkmen neutrality is the first neutrality status recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in history. However, efforts of Turkmenistan as a neutral country are by no means limited to the United Nations platform. Turkmenistan actively participates in international organizations and developing bilateral and multilateral relations. In international organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Economic Cooperation Organization, and the Non-Aligned Movement Turkmenistan is well-known as an active and constructive partner. Through these platforms Turkmenistan promotes principles of friendship and cooperation and actively spreads the idea of denuclearization and demilitarization in international politics. The establishment of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive





Diplomacy in 2007 in Ashgabat became a symbol of the trust of our neighbors and international organizations. Furthermore, Turkmenistan's election to prestigious positions in international organizations represents a positive evaluation of our country's international efforts. An important example for that was the election of our country to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the period 2019-2021.

Another source of strength of Turkmenistan's neutrality is its constitutional foundation. In the preamble of the Constitution of Turkmenistan our nation vows to strengthen the internationally-recognized legal status of permanent neutrality. Article 2 of the constitution declares that the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan is the foundation of its domestic and foreign policies. Moreover, Article 9 lists the guiding principles of the national foreign policy: permanent neutrality, non-interference in the internal affairs of foreign countries, abstention from the use of force and membership in the military alliances, aiding the development of peaceful, friendly and mutually-beneficial relations with states of the region and the world. The article underlines that Turkmenistan assigns priority to generally-recognized rules of international law. In addition, Turkmenistan's neutrality is supported by the Constitutional Law on the Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan adopted in 1995. While these documents affirm the permanent character of the policy, they also serve as visions of a more peaceful and prosperous world. The strengthening of trust between countries of the world depends on their abilities to commit to the principles described in these documents. Turkmenistan considers the United Nations the central pillar of the international security and development architecture. Consequently, it is no coincidence that Turkmenistan enacts the shared peace-oriented principles of the United Nations Charter in the national legislation. Thereby, our country sets an example for all countries of the world by backing up its words with deeds starting the realization from its own legislation.

The results of work carried out by Turkmenistan under the leadership of our Esteemed President are clear. They demonstrate that neutrality and socio-economic development can go together by mutually reinforcing each other. In the development field, Turkmenistan is implementing national programs to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In July 2019, during the United Nations High-Level Political Forum, Turkmenistan presented its Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Periodic consultation visits of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund delegations confirm that the economy of Turkmenistan is developing sustainably, at an average annual GDP growth rate of 6%. Our country recognizes the urgency of transition to a greener economy and

harnesses the potential of digital technologies to make government services available in both central and remote regions of our country with reduced carbon footprint. For instance, in the coming years, in the northern part of Ashgabat a new city-in-the-city will be created with high-rise residential buildings, administrative and social facilities, and modern infrastructure. During the presentation of the project our Esteemed President drew attention to the formation of a green environment in the future city, use of information and communication technologies, smart technologies, and alternative energy sources. The human resources basis of such national projects is continuously strengthened as seen in the examples of recently-established higher education institutions such as the International University for the Humanities and Development, the University of Engineering Technologies of Turkmenistan named after Oguz Khan, and Institute of Telecommunications and Informatics of Turkmenistan.

The positive impact of neutrality on international development is also acknowledged by our partners worldwide. The constructive character of Turkmen neutrality turns it into an instrument of developing cooperation and peaceful relations between countries. Turkmenistan proposes collaborative solutions to address global challenges and promoting peace and prosperity. Hosting large-scale international events, contests, festivals, and conferences is one of the instruments used by our country. For example, in 2017 Turkmenistan hosted the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat. In addition to spreading the culture of peace, Turkmenistan pays attention to developing cooperation in the fields of transportation, economic development, and water diplomacy. In recent years Turkmenistan chaired in international organizations such as International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, the International Energy Charter, and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Turkmenistan has bold initiatives in many areas of development. For example the First Global Conference on Sustainable Transport of the United Nations was convened in Ashgabat in 2016 for the first time in history. The Final document of the First Caspian Economic Forum held in 2019 was adopted as the document of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Development of neutrality as a concept in international relations and a norm of international law is an important direction of Turkmenistan's foreign policy. For that purpose Turkmenistan organizes conferences dedicated to the foreign policy and diplomacy of Turkmenistan in academic institutions of partner countries. Conferences co-organized in recent years by ADA University of Azerbaijan, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Diplomatic Institute of Romania, Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic

Studies in Pakistan became venues for engaging academic discussions regarding the theory and practice of neutrality in international relations. International delegations from research institutions such as the Royal United Services Institute of the United Kingdom, SOAS University of London, University of Cambridge, the National Institute for Defense Studies of Japan, the Center for Research and Intercommunication Knowledge of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia visited Turkmenistan to gain more knowledge about the neutral foreign policy of our country. Turkmenistan's development of the concept of neutrality is further strengthened by close collaboration with other neutral states such as Austria and Switzerland. As neutral countries they cooperate in the context of international organizations to promote neutrality policy in the world and support Turkmenistan's initiative to establish the Group of Friends of Neutrality for Peace and Security in the United Nations.

The future of Turkmenistan's neutrality policy looks bright because it is based on a thorough understanding of our nation's peaceful aspirations and a rigorous analysis of current world affairs. In response to the need for stronger collaboration among countries, our country will continue to strengthen the culture of peace and trust around the world. In September of 2019, in the United Nations General Assembly together with 72 countries Turkmenistan coauthored the resolution "International Year of Peace and Trust, 2021" which underlined that the International Year constitutes a means of mobilizing international efforts to promote peace and trust among nations on the basis of political dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation in order to build sustainable peace, solidarity and harmony. Turkmenistan believes that neutrality can serve as a powerful instrument of conflict resolution in international arena and proposes to develop a United Nations Code of Practice on the effective use of the principles of neutrality, and to organize a broad UN-based multilateral dialogue on the practical application of the principles of neutrality in prevention of conflicts. All of these initiatives define the spirit of the events organized throughout the year of "Turkmenistan – Home of Neutrality". In this regard, Turkmenistan is looking forward to the forthcoming high-level international conference on "Policy of Neutrality and its importance in ensuring international peace, security and sustainable development" on December 12th in Ashgabat which will serve as a productive platform for the international community to discuss the potential of neutrality policy as an effective instrument of international peace.

***Esen Aydogdyev, Rector of the International University for the Humanities and Development***













# THE ROLE OF PERMANENT NEUTRALITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION SYSTEM IN TURKMENISTAN

**“Neutrality of Turkmenistan – our sacred prosperity, an unshakable meaning of our life, our main aim”**

**President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov**

“Neutrality of Turkmenistan – our sacred prosperity, an unshakable meaning of our life, our main aim”. President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov

Our Motherland Turkmenistan has stepped towards the 25th anniversary of its permanent Neutrality. During the previous years, innovative programme led to develop our country comprehensively, large-scale transformations have been carried out successively. Turkmen country decisively takes position among the developed countries of the world. As a result of wise and perfect foresight internal and external policy guided by our Esteemed President the honor of Turkmen country improves.

The idea about the neutral state for Turkmenistan emerged in the first years of independence. After gaining independence, our country has proclaimed “Open Doors Policy” in its indoor and outdoor policy. Within the framework of “Open Doors” policy, large – scale projects have been carried out to promote the prestige of our county in the international arena. On the strength of national traditions and geopolitical specifics of Turkmenistan, the question of acquiring status of permanent neutrality arose in that time as objective and essential necessity.

Neutrality is a historical choice of the people of Turkmenistan and the will of the people is its guarantee. “On December 12, 1995, the UN General Assembly adopted a special Resolution on “Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan” – an unprecedented document, which provided a unique international and legal status for our country as the first in the world practice”.

The adoption of this resolution was an important milestone for the Turkmen people and the state, making the wise and farsighted foreign policy, strategy, triumphant brilliant idea a reality and it was clear evidence of the care about welfare of the people of Turkmenistan.

At the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly held on February 2, 2017, the Resolution on

Recognition of December 12 as the International Day of Neutrality was adopted unanimously. “The new Resolution reflects crucial essence of peace- making, constructing experience accumulated by our country for more than two decades. During these years, the Neutrality of Turkmenistan established a reputation of an effective mechanism of entering into fruitful cooperation, strengthening friendly, good neighborly relations among states and nations”.

By establishing foreign economic and social relations demands taking into consideration the changes taking place in the world. Confidently entering into the system of modern international relations, our country is in the of movement of establishing wide diplomatic relations with the countries of the world and actively developing constructive cooperation with the UN, the European Union, Organization of Islamic Cooperation and other major international organizations.

In recent years, the education system of world has been developing through globalization and internationalization of national education system. Bringing the higher educational establishments to the level of the world standards is the main task of our times. The tasks of transition to more new methods of education, using the gained world experience and scientific approaches in practical life, creation of high technological educational institutions are being realized more actively.

Since the first days of the presidency of our esteemed President has defined raising the system of education to the level of the world standards and changing with rates all spheres of the public life as one of the main trends.

In this connection and taking into consideration the historical-social conditions of the third millennium, a large scale tasks to be fulfilled for flourishing of our country, for prosperous life of our people. Our Esteemed President gave impetus to modern reforms in the education system.

In the Epoch of Might and Happiness changes in the education system are the most important branch of Turkmenistan’s policy and it advances under the leadership of our Esteemed President. The education system of Turkmenistan develops on international level. Modern technologies are actively introduced into educational system and the work on preparing young generation as well-educated specialists on information technologies is actively carried out. Our country Turkmenistan is aimed at being on high level is such spheres as education, science, culture, modern technologies and economy.

Our Esteemed President’s Decree from March, 1 – 2013 “On the improvement of education system in Turkmenistan” and the Decision on the secondary education issues in Turkmenistan resulted in the prolongation of secondary education up to 12 years. Our Honorable President continuously stressed the importance of using multimedia technologies in the education system of our country.

All schools in our country have been equipped with modern computers, multimedia blackboards and all technical facilities to make study easier and useful. Children at their six years can enter the school according to the Conception of twelve-year education at schools. Twelve-year secondary schools program is divided into the following levels and categories: 1st -4th forms of primary education; 5th-10th forms of basic secondary education; 11th- 12th forms of high school education (The education, science, healthcare and sports spheres of Turkmenistan, 2020).

The Concept of Developing Digital Education System is also aimed at the updating of this sphere, which provides all its levels with an electronic information base.

Along with these concepts “About concept of improving the teaching of foreign languages” is approved. The President of Turkmenistan signed the Resolution approving the Concept of improving the teaching of foreign languages, as





well as plan of actions for its implementation. At the first stage, in 2018, it is planned to master the world experience in the field of methodological support, improvement of state standards, relevant curricula and training programs.

At the second stage, in 2019-2020, the system of training and retraining of teachers, the educational and methodological base in this area will be improved and monitoring will be launched to control the effectiveness of the implementation of this Concept.

At the third stage, in 2021-2024, it is planned to create a continuous consistent and interrelated system of teaching foreign languages. All this requires the development of new methods of training, the training of highly qualified teaching staff. The development of this concept, which will ensure more effective development of foreign languages, will allow graduates of educational institutions to quickly join the renewed international environment of Turkmenistan.

In Turkmenistan higher and secondary educational system is improved at a great pace, secondary, and higher educational institutions train highly qualified specialists in all branches of economy. In pre-school and school institutions much attention is paid to learning the world's advanced experience, generalizing in and realizing it into practice (The education, science, healthcare and sports spheres of Turkmenistan, 2020).

Following these regulations and implementations aimed at improving the quality of education system in Turkmenistan, many initiatives and efforts have been carried out under guidance of ministries, administrative branch institutions on theoretical and practical basis.

Adapting new reforms into the national education sector of Turkmenistan, using best world practices, is vital importance for maintaining sustainable development of the country. The strategies in developing the education sector are reflected in the "National Program of Social and Economic Development of Turkmenistan for the period of 2011-2030", which identifies the need "to establish an education system to comparable to developed countries, and to increase the quality of education as a condition for Turkmenistan's development and competitiveness". In Turkmenistan, all educational establishments are well equipped to prepare young generations for the complex needs of today's world.

Turkmenistan steadily improves scientific, technical, innovative and technology cooperation with leading foreign organizations and centers. Nowadays, cooperation with major scientific and educational centers of the world,

international organizations and foundations has significantly expanded. Introducing the world standards into educational process, our country increase the collaboration in humanitarian sphere with UN, European Union. Joint work is carried out with competent organizations working in Turkmenistan like UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP and UNESCO. Our state positions itself in the world as one of the strong world powers that harmonically develops in all directions. New historical milestone of comprehensive progress of the country requires steadfast improvement of educational system together with other spheres of the economy.

A number of collaborative works are being carried out for leveraging the national education sector to the international standards. Within international education standards, every country uses different approaches in order to integrate into international education standards. On June 15, 2016, the Government of Turkmenistan adopted the policy ensuring a quality education and learning environment. The quality education policy was developed by the Ministry of Education with the technical support from United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

The involvement of the United Nations (UN) agencies (UNICEF, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) for lifelong learning in Turkmenistan, the National Institute of Education, Methodological Centers of higher educational institutions (HEI). A group of international experts from Canada, Russia and Germany, and other countries, shared best practices with pediatricians, psychologists, neuropathologists, speech therapists, pre-school teachers, and education specialists. Choreklieva, Sariyeva & Nazarova, (2017) reflect on the programs conducted outside Bachelor's and Master's Degree Structure:

"...It has become the common practice to hold workshops, training sessions, lectures and other forms of joint activities, which involve in the process educational institutions of Turkmenistan and a number of countries of the world. Vivid evidence for fruitful international contacts of Turkmen education professionals is their contribution to the implementation of various projects in the framework of international educational programs, such as Tempus, Erasmus Mundus, Erasmus+, and others".

Our Honorable President pays a great deal of attention to the education system of the country and aims to continuously upgrade it to the newest level. He emphasizes: "The 21st century dictates necessity to keep pace with world progress, advanced achievements of science and education, demands meeting new realities". Improving national education sector

and incorporating the latest developments and trends into it ensures the development of the country in all its spheres. Therefore, advancing national system of education remains major focus of our esteemed President.

Our permanent Neutrality is the one of the main sources of our country in the field of indoor and outdoor policy. As our esteemed President mentioned in his book that: "Along with independence, neutrality is a basis and support of all our achievements". All implementations and transformations have been carried out within the framework of permanent Neutrality. The motto of this year was proclaimed as the "Turkmenistan-Homeland of Neutrality" and it is not by chance that our country has proclaimed it is the reason this year our Independent and Permanent Neutral Turkmenistan will be celebrating 25th years anniversary of its permanent Neutrality.

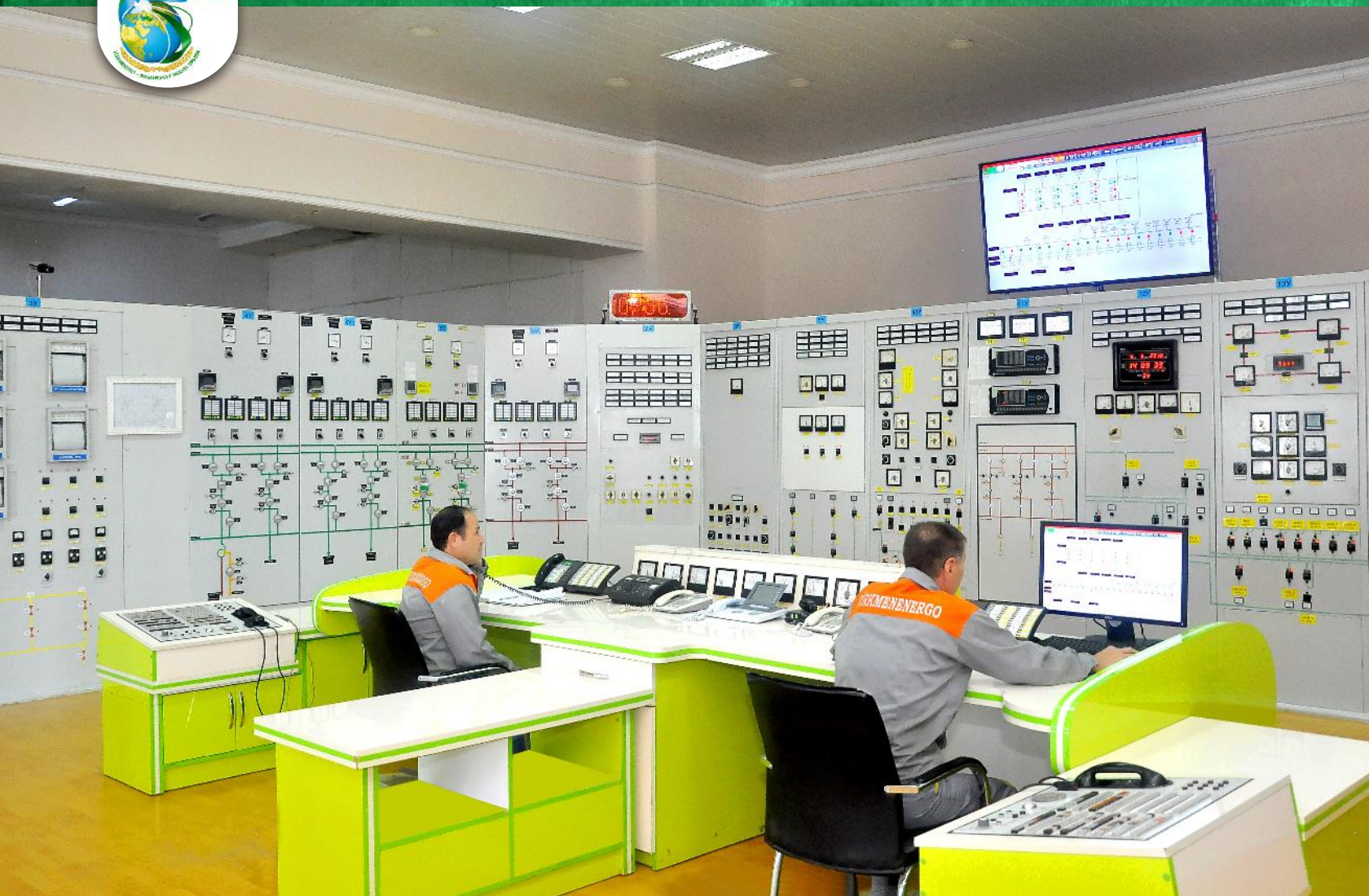
We are young specialists of our country; it is our main duty to make aware young generation about the implementations, transformations which are being carried out in the independent neutral Turkmenistan. Moreover, instructor and educators of our country should discuss permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan and historical facts about permanent neutrality and as well as internal changes of independent Turkmenistan.

Many educational institutions of our country have established close partnerships with dozens of foreign educational institutions. The Turkmen State Pedagogical Institute named after Seyitnazar Seydi has also established close partnership with foreign educational institutions. The examples of successfully continuing fruitful contacts are: Academic Agreement and Cooperation between the Brest State University named after A.S.Pushkin (Belarus, Brest city), Academic Agreement and Cooperation between the Tashkent State Pedagogical University named after Nizami (Uzbekistan, Tashkent city) and as well as Memorandum of Understanding between the Turkmen State Pedagogical Institute named after Seyitnazar Seydi and Volgograd State Socio-Pedagogical University. Having established close partnerships with prestigious educational and scientific centers of Europe, Asia and America, Turkmenistan has achieved considerable growth in the number of its students in these regions.

Begmuhammet Begseyidov, Candidate of Philosophy, Senior lecturer of social science department Pedagogical institute of Turkmen state named after Seyitnazar Seydi

***Ogulshat Hudayberanova, Lecturer of social science department***





# Permanent Neutrality - the mainstay of the energy industry

Every day, every year of independent neutral Turkmenistan is filled with unforgettable for the Turkmen people major events, full of great transformations. This year has become a year of peace, unity, patriotism, economic and spiritual revival, diligence, friendship and brotherhood, humanity. Very valuable and countless hard work of our Dear President in the development of health care, sports and tourism, science and education, in implementing the achievements of science and technology, in training harmoniously developed, hardworking professionals, in the in-depth study and proclamation of the world spiritual and cultural heritage.

In accordance with the "Concept of the Electric Power Industry of Turkmenistan for 2013-2020", gas turbine power plants, power transmission networks, several power plants

in Ahal, Lebap and Mary provinces were built and commissioned in the provinces of our country.

Taking into account the demand of the world market for energy resources, Turkmenistan is transforming and developing the electric power system, in this regard, our country adopted the "Program of energy saving for 2018-2024". As well as modern and international projects being carried out in the energy sector of our country, determine the opportunities for the future energy power of Turkmenistan.

It is important to note that in 2018, a new power plant with a combined cycle gas turbine was built and commissioned within the Mary State Power Plant, which operates on the basis of coordinated management and has a capacity of 1574 MW. This power plant of combined cycle gas turbine operates on the

basis of coordinated management with four gas turbines and two steam turbines prepared by General Electric Company. Electric power produced by means of open distribution systems with 220 kV and 500 kV is supplied to the unified electric system of Turkmenistan. These open distribution systems are installed by means of products of world famous companies. On the territory of modern power plants video surveillance equipment is installed, and this in turn helps to carry out technical control of complex equipment and their correct use.

This station is among the newest engineering developments. Modernity, economic efficiency and environmental safety of this facility is confirmed by licenses of the Federal Institute of Technology "Max Plank" Switzerland, the American Foundation for Healthy Ecology.





The power plant's efficiency factor is 57%, which is 22% higher than in facilities operating under simple management. Commissioning of this modern facility envisages annual saving of 1 billion 100 million m3 of natural gas. In addition, the consumption of natural gas burned as fuel will be significantly reduced and harmful waste discharged into the atmosphere will be reduced by 2-3 times.

In accordance with the "Program of the President of Turkmenistan of social economic development of the country for 2018-2024" in the next 7 years, the amount of electricity produced in the country is planned to 33 billion kilowatt hours.

In order to increase the energy resources produced, which make up a significant part of our exports, as a result of the construction of several large industry facilities based on foreign investments, the directions of the energy strategy are being expanded. Within the framework of multilateral global and international forums on stable provision of energy resources held in recent years, energy security issues have become very topical. And also when in 2017 Turkmenistan chaired the Energy Charter Conference, the general principles and main directions of international cooperation in the energy sector were settled.

As the esteemed President notes: "The energy sector of Turkmenistan with the help of projects on innovative basis has not only domestic consumers, but can also provide a stable supply of electricity to the foreign market".

And this will give an opportunity to successfully implement the program on industrialization of the country; will raise the development of our Motherland to a new level". Guided by these words of the Hero Arkadag, Turkmenistan aims to develop by diversifying the directions of electric energy supply and increase their volumes.

As the Leader of the Nation notes, the foreign policy of our country is based on peacefulness and humanity. All conditions have been created for development through diversification of all branches of national economy and investment.

One of the main objectives of this industry is to increase processing of fuel raw materials, industrial development of new fields, including the main goal to develop the Turkmen part of the Caspian Sea and gas field "Galkynysh", another goal of this industry is to use 3D modeling method. Creation of a multilateral gas pipeline system as well as development through diversification of gas pipeline transit through the continents and Asia provides new opportunities for hydrocarbons transportation to the international market.

The adopted program of electric power industry of Turkmenistan for development of industry of our country plays a big role. The power industry is the power that determines the development of our society. The oil and gas, energy industry is one of the preferred areas of our country, and it belongs to the industries that bring great profit. Provided for the industries in accordance with modern requirements give grounds to develop through diversification.

It creates opportunities to develop and improve the energy industry in the future. Such works as export of electric energy, stable supply of electric energy to consumers increase the economic power of our industry.

The following works have been carried out to increase the reliable power supply of our country and the volume of export of our country's electricity abroad:

- "Kerki" substation with the voltage of 500 kV was built and commissioned;
- reconstruction of Vatan and Farab 220 kV substations;
- construction of 500 kV power transmission lines from Mary State Power Plant to Kerki substation;
- construction of a high-voltage 500kV air electrical line from the Kerki substation to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan border;
- reconstruction of open distributor 500kV of Mary State Power Plant.

In the future, the construction of high-voltage power transmission lines and electric substations will be continued, and this will provide an opportunity for power losses during shipment.

This will provide an opportunity to insure all parts of the electric sphere of Turkmenistan. For many years, Turkmenistan has been comprehensively assisting the brotherly Afghan people. Proof of this is the construction of the Ymamnazar-Andhoy and Serhetabat-Herat power lines. These networks have become an important part of the neighboring country's energy structure.

In summer 2018 the Rabatkashan-Kalainau power transmission network with the capacity of 100MW per hour was put into operation. At the same time, one branch of Turkmen electricity was opened to send Turkmen electricity to northern Afghanistan. As part of this, our specialists built several power supply facilities, including a power plant and a 112 kilometer-long power line.

As we all know within the framework of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan cooperation, with the participation of the esteemed President

and representatives of the Turkmen-Afghan people, a protocol of meeting of the heads of the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan was signed.

The protocol outlined the decision to send electric power from Turkmenistan for 2018-2027 and increase the amount of exported power in these years. The signing of this document is of great importance for the whole region. And also the Agreement on the project of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan power transmission lines network was signed.

This document defines the volume of electricity supplied to Afghanistan through the new transmission line network. According to this, 300 MW (600 MW in total) of electricity will be sent to Herat and Kandahar.

Advance solution of these tasks will give an opportunity to comprehensively industrialize our country, increase the production volume of the country, which is able to compete in the international market, strengthen the economic capacity of Turkmenistan, and improve the level of public amenities.

The head of the state noted that further improvement of the energy sector of our country and diversification on the way of production innovation is of great importance.

As the dear President notes, Turkmenistan is not limited to ensuring a harmoniously developing economy in this area, but is trying to become one of the main states exporting electric energy in the region. Capital improvement works are carried out in the industry, a powerful foundation for the development of production and social sphere is being created.

With the support of the Dear President, large-scale projects are being implemented, power transmission networks are being conducted, substations are being built, and power supply networks of the capital and other cities of our country are being reconstructed.

The Leader of the Nation focuses on all issues of high importance for energy cooperation and notes that diversification of energy flow is the most important strategic direction. Increasing power transmission routes is an integral part of energy policy.

***Shanazar Allakulyyev, Lecturer of the Department of power plants of State Energy Institute of Turkmenistan.***

***Ayjemal Muhammedova, Lecturer of the Department of power plants of State Energy Institute of Turkmenistan.***





# FOREVER NEUTRALITY— IS THE FOUNDATION OF LASTING PEACE

In the prosperous period of the sovereign state, the great deeds carried out under the wise leadership of our esteemed President, the glorious events of which are spread all over the world, are written in golden letters in the glorious history of our dear people. It should be noted that the twenty-fifth anniversary of our permanent Neutrality will be one of the most memorable events in the glorious history of our Motherland.

Today, our courageous people, who put the country's well-being and unity above all else, are confidently moving forward with the wise leadership of our esteemed President, nurturing every moment of our Sovereign State with high labor success and confidently moving forward with the great reforms of our beloved Motherland. If you look at the glorious history of the years of independence, you can see that the aspirations of our brave people for

centuries of peace, unity and solidarity - their dreams have come true at the end of the last century. On December 12, 1995, the United Nations, a world-renowned international organization, awarded the status of Permanent Neutrality to Independent Turkmenistan with the unanimous support of 185 countries.

Recognition of the Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan by the United Nations General Assembly in the 2015 Year of Neutrality and Peace, marked the 20th anniversary of the Permanent Neutrality of our Neutrality, was a great initiative of the President of the region for the peace and prosperity of the world.

It is gratifying to say that under the wise leadership of our esteemed President, the state of Turkmenistan, as a sovereign and neutral state, has been able to establish a peaceful, friendly and fraternal relationship

with the world powers and become one of the most powerful states in the world. It is worth noting that the work of our esteemed President in enhancing the prestige of our state and spreading his glory to the world is of great importance.

In particular, it can be said that as a result of the prudent and prudent policy of the President of Turkmenistan, the good relations and mutually beneficial cooperation of the state of Turkmenistan with the world countries have reached a new high level in recent years and have become more active. This is due to the high achievements of the foreign policy of Turkmenistan under the wise leadership of the President over the past few years as an Independent and Permanently Neutral State and the following important historical events under the direct leadership of the President.







- Three times the election of the State of Turkmenistan as an Independent and Permanently Neutral State, as Vice-Chair of the sessions of the United Nations General Assembly;

- The opening of the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia and the European House in 2007 in Ashgabat, the capital of Independent and Permanently Neutral Turkmenistan;

- On the 63rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Initiatives of Independent and Permanently Neutral Turkmenistan on December 6, 2008 unanimous recognition of important international documents by 192 countries of the world;

- According to the decision of the Olympic Council of Asia, the transfer of the right to host the V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Central Asia in 2017 in Ashgabat, the capital city, is an important event not only with the concern of the President, but also with the concern of his country. It can be clearly seen that he also cares deeply about the interests of the modern world, which is based on the

principles of peaceful, friendly relations. These great attitudes of the President of the region and the world are recognized not only in our country or in the region, but also by the countries of the world as important tasks of the 21st century. happens.

Today, the so-called Prosperity of the Sovereign State, the President of the Independent, Permanent Neutrality, Independent and Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan, which is widely known as the dominant place of lasting peace and unity, friendship and brotherhood on earth, in the epoch of high development and high achievements, by achieving and nurturing great progress with the high attitudes of the people, of state importance.

Every day of our Motherland, which celebrates holidays during the Happiness period presented by our esteemed President, is nourished by celebrations and celebrations. Another of our big holidays, the celebration of which is the International Neutrality Day, which is celebrated after the holy Independence Day. This wonderful historical date is the 25th

anniversary of our forever Neutrality, the day when our brave ancestors dreamed of a peaceful life and a harmonious life in their hearts for centuries.

It is also a pleasure for us to be proud to say that the great initiatives of our esteemed President for the benefit of the nation are widely supported by our people and the world community.

May the life of our esteemed President, who has gifted his people with the Age of Happiness, and who cares deeply for the enhancement of the international prestige of our Independent and Permanently Neutral State and the peaceful, peaceful and prosperous life of our people, have a long and prosperous life, long life and prosperity and we wish him well.

**Jumageldi Akgayew, Vice-Rector of the Turkmen State Institute of Finance**

**Amanmyrat Jumaýew, Senior Teacher of the Turkmen State Institute of Finance**







# WELL-INTENTIONED NEUTRALITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS

Every day the holidays are filled with joyful moments and historical events in our beloved motherland, where the festivities take place. The prestige of our country is growing day by day in the harmonious, prudent domestic and foreign policy efforted by our Esteemed President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

The stability of the political and social situation, the peace of our country, the unity of the people, the further advancement of national economic development, the improvement of the living conditions of the population, the strengthening of freedom and rights of citizens in accordance with the law, serves as a guarantor of foreign policy victory based on principles such as respect to each other.

“The level of neutrality is a great achievement of Turkmenistan and plays an important role in developing cooperation with the countries of the world,” says our Esteemed President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

This is due to the fact that from the moment we gained our independence, the number of countries eager to carry out friendly relations with our country during the period of Prosperity of our sovereign State, the expansion of good, equal diplomatic relations with the countries of the world, the expansion of mutually beneficial economic and cultural cooperation also clearly proves. Neutrality is a guarantee of a peaceful, free life. A peaceful, free life is the desire of all human beings. The everlasting well-being of the earth is the dream of the world community.





In our national principles of neutrality, the Turkmen people have the source of mutual respect, understanding and mutual agreement, tolerance and wisdom that have lasted for centuries.

Turkmenistan's foreign policy, based on neutrality, is founding on strategies such as security, peace-loving, good relations, and mutually beneficial cooperation. Turkmenistan has gained great prestige internationally in this regard. Today, the Neutrality path of our country is seen as a policy that seeks the development interests of the world, ensures and protects international security. The efforts of our Esteemed President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to strengthen peace, ensure global well-being and develop good relations are widely supported in the world.

Our Esteemed President's initiatives to build the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline were also highly appreciated not only in the region but also in the world. Obviously, this pipeline will have a positive impact on neighboring Afghanistan. Hundreds of new infrastructure facilities will be built along its route, which will create hundreds of jobs. Of course, this policy contributes to the peaceful development of the peaceful life of the citizens of Turkmenistan's neighbors.

President Gurbanguly Berdimukhammedov paves the way for economic peace in the region. World-class support for Turkmenistan's international initiatives is reflected, first and foremost, in the decisions taken by the United Nations. In this regard, the United Nations General Assembly on June 3, 2015, entitled "Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan", on November 17, 2017, "The role of the United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia" and the Security Council 2018 The resolution "On

Supporting International Efforts in Afghanistan" adopted on March 8 reflects the growing role of Turkmenistan's internationally important projects in ensuring peace, stability, security and good neighborly relations in the region. Good-neighborly relationships are also one of the priorities. Following the policy of neutrality and pursuing an open door policy, fruitful economic cooperation with our neighbors and other states on the basis of mutual benefit, equality, peace-loving, respect for sovereignty, and important relations with all parties is the main foreign policy of our state.

As we know, the policy of Neutrality is the strategic path of our state Turkmenistan. This means that our country pursuing the "Open Doors" policy is expanding good and mutually beneficial cooperation with neighboring and distant states and international organizations.

All the years that have sprung up in our Dear Land begin with the pursuit of good intentions. This year, on the initiative of the President, it was renamed "Turkmenistan - a place of neutrality". As it's known, the international conference "Turkmenistan and international organizations: cooperation for peace and development" was held on January 14 this year with the participation of the President.

It was dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Turkmenistan's Permanent Neutrality. President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that Turkmenistan, as an active member of the international community, put forward a number of important international initiatives on important issues of modern times in order to make a worthy contribution to the sustainable development and prosperity of the world.

This year, our country, together with the world community, will widely celebrate the 25th anniversary of the international recognition of Turkmenistan's Neutrality. This is a really important date, an important event in the history of the

independence of the Turkmen state, a milestone in its foreign policy, said the President. As our Esteemed President says, United Nations can always rely on the support of Turkmenistan, which uses the political and diplomatic means to create a conducive state of mutual understanding and trust, and create favorable conditions for equal and fruitful cooperation. It is worth noting that the high-level conference "Policy of Neutrality and its role in ensuring international peace, security and sustainable development", scheduled for December 12 in Ashgabat, coincides with the 75th anniversary of the United Nations of Turkmenistan. it makes sense. Because the Neutrality of Turkmenistan is the reality of the present and our future, which opens up new opportunities for the development of broad international cooperation in all fields. By adhering to our international commitments, Turkmenistan is ready for broad and active cooperation with international organizations to achieve common creative goals.

**Bayrammuhammet Atanepesov, Lecturer of the Department of general disciplines of the Institute of Telecommunications and Informatics of Turkmenistan**







# Neutral Turkmenistan is a center of peace and sustainable development in the region

In the prosperous period of our sovereign state, Neutrality serves as a unique bridge between the past, present and future of the Turkmen state. It is the result of the sustainable development of the entire spiritual life of the nation. The essence of Turkmen Neutrality is to pursue national interests, to maintain stability in the country and in the region, to maintain national harmony, and to create favorable conditions for internal reforms.

As is known, in accordance with the special resolution "Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan" adopted at the 50th anniversary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in December 1995, our country was declared the first neutral state in the recent history of the United Nations. This unique event, which has generated a wide response in the world community, has been a strong and consistent policy of Turkmenistan, based on the principles of good neighborliness, mutual respect, equality and mutually beneficial cooperation with all countries of the world. In

his speech, the President noted that "... we are focusing on the geopolitical and geo-economic potential of our country for the sake of peaceful life and creative development."

Today, under the leadership of our beloved President, a wide path has been opened for the establishment and development of equal, mutually beneficial relations with the countries of the world. The good-neighborly foreign policy of the state of Turkmenistan is based on the traditions of peace and humanity of our people. These wonderful traditions, which trace their historical roots back to ancient times, are described in various literatures.

An example of this is the legend of our Hero President in his book *Peace Music, Friendship, Brotherhood Music* that he took his *dutar* and to free his brother from captivity without taking any weapons in his hand. This legend of the fact that music can prevail over weapons reflects the fact that the Turkmen people's ideas for a peaceful life were used in earlier times.

Turkmenistan and China have always been friendly peoples and have maintained political and trade relations with each other. An example of this is the Great Silk Road. Great efforts are currently being made to restore the Silk Road, establish and develop fraternal and friendly diplomatic relations between the peoples through the efforts of the President. In this regard, transport diplomacy is successfully implemented in our country.

Important international initiatives for the comprehensive development of the international transport system of our Hero Arkadag in the prosperity epoch of our sovereign state were discussed at the meetings of the UN General Assembly, the Heads of State of the CIS, the Heads of the Caspian states, at the Summits of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and at other high-level forums.

On September 3-4, 2014, a high-level international conference on "The role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring







international cooperation and sustainable development” was held in Ashgabat on the initiative of the President. Following the meeting, the Ashgabat Declaration was adopted. On the basis of this Declaration, on December 19, 2014, at the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, the Resolution “The role of transport corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development” prepared on the initiative of our President was unanimously adopted. Authors of the resolution were 66 countries around the world, including all Central Asian states, the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, Latin America and Africa, especially those without access to the sea.

Following the results of all this, the “First Universal Conference on Sustainable Transport” was held in Turkmenistan on November 26-27, 2016 on the initiative of our Hero Arkadag and the UN Secretary-General.

On December 22, 2017, at a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, it was announced that good news had arrived from the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA. As noted, on the initiative of our Hero Arkadag, at the 74th Mejlis of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly on December 20, 2017, the Declaration of “Strengthening the coordination of all types of transport in connection with the

implementation of sustainable development goals” was unanimously adopted. The VII Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA VII) was held on November 14-15, 2017. A bilateral agreement was signed at the forum on the establishment of the Afghanistan-Turkmenistan-Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey international transport corridor Lapis Lazuli. This was an important outcome of the forum and further enhanced its importance. With the implementation of the project, it will allow neighboring Afghanistan to increase its trade turnover and bring Afghan goods to European markets. This is another testament to the worldwide recognition of the humanitarian policy pursued by our Hero Friend. Turkmenistan provides comprehensive assistance to the neighboring state of Afghanistan and provides great support to the fraternal Afghan people to restore their economy. The launch of the Serhetabat-Turgundy railway, the integration of our Hero Arkadag into the transport and logistics system of neighboring Afghanistan and the integration of it into the international transport system through Turkmenistan are being successfully implemented. As a result of the modernization of this rebuilt railway, the capacity of the Turgundy station has increased. Its role in Afghanistan’s trade has increased, with great opportunities for the export of Afghan products to world markets and for export and

import operations in the country in a short and convenient way.

All this is another clear evidence that the state of Turkmenistan is moving forward confidently under the leadership of our Beloved Friend, and that the policy of our state of Turkmenistan on strengthening peace in the region and in the world is fully recognized.

In accordance with the Resolution of the President of Turkmenistan on the Declaration of the Year “Turkmenistan homeland of Neutrality” Implementation of huge projects and historical programs aimed at improving it is important. The 25th anniversary of Permanent Neutrality of Independent, Neutral Turkmenistan is a triumph of age-old principles of mutual respect, brotherhood and benevolent cooperation of the Turkmen people.

The status of neutrality for the Turkmen state has now become a solid foundation for prosperity, because only when there is peace and stability can great and fruitful development is achieved in all areas of the state.

***Kakabay Hojanepesov, Vice-Rector for Academic affairs of the Institute of Telecommunications and Informatics of Turkmenistan***





















