

STATEMENT
of the President of Turkmenistan H.E. Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov
at the OSCE Summit in Astana
1-2 December 2010

Esteemed Mr. Chairman,
Esteemed Heads of State and Heads of Government,
Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the Delegation of Turkmenistan, allow me to congratulate you upon the opening of the 7th OSCE Summit, and wish you efficient work. I would like to express gratitude to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev, and to the Government of the country for hospitality and excellent organization of this forum.

The present meeting is being held against the background of the processes that objectively require the political, economic and intellectual potential of the OSCE to be consolidated in areas of priority, and the tasks faced by the organization to be concretized with due regard for new factors and tendencies of the world development.

To such tasks, among others, I would attribute creation of efficient mechanisms of preventing and neutralizing international conflicts, opposition to political and religious extremism, terrorist threats, drug trafficking and transboundary crime, and working out the contemporary model of international partnership in the sphere of supply of energy carriers. Obviously, solution of these tasks answers the fundamental purposes and values of the OSCE, and ensues from the logic of extension of interaction within the Organization, as well as of its relations with the rest of the world.

Being the member state of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Turkmenistan stands for establishing multidimensional collaboration in the OSCE space, destined to exert a significant impact on global development processes.

I am convinced there are all indispensable prerequisites for this. In this context, we highly appreciate the fact that today Central Asia is categorized to be among strategic priorities of the OSCE activities, becoming the ground for the interested multilateral dialogue on a wide spectrum of co-operation. Turkmenistan welcomes such participation of our partners and OSCE colleagues in regional processes, and is ready for an active and open discussion of plans and prospects of collaboration. In this regard, I consider it possible for the OSCE to join in with the initiative, recently brought forward by Turkmenistan at the UN General Assembly, concerning the establishment of a high-level Forum on security and co-operation in Central Asia and the Caspian basin.

It is of no doubt that the OSCE expertise and its authority as an influential international organization will contribute to the successful development of a regional dialogue in this format.

Another area of high importance, where efforts of our Organization need to be focused, is seen as ensuring security of supply of energy carriers. The urgency of this problem is of no more doubt today. It affects vital interests of the majority of the OSCE members, and directly influences the stability of the geopolitical situation on the continent. In this connection, we find it reasonable to activate a dialogue on energy within the framework of our Organization, formulate mechanisms of multilateral consultations on political, financial, economic, technological and ecological aspects of construction and operation of a multi-optional pipeline infrastructure.

It is essential to rise to a new level of comprehension of current realities in this sphere, abandon politicization of issues of energy supply, establish a fair, equal and transparent partnership. We count on a more effective role of the OSCE here. We propose to consider possibilities of convening a special meeting of heads of energy authorities of our Organization, dedicated to the problem of energy security, and are ready to hold such a meeting in Ashgabat.

Turkmenistan fully shares the concerns of the international community about existing terrorist threats, activities of criminal groups dealing with drug trafficking, arms smuggling and human trafficking.

We are ready for the closest co-operation in fighting these challenges under the auspices of the OSCE.

Regional processes, specifically adjustment of the situation in Afghanistan, traditionally hold an important place in our joint work within the OSCE. With regard to the vision of Afghan problems, we are united by the conviction that achieving solid and lasting peace and stability in this country is one of the key issues of international politics as a whole, and resolution of this problem meets the interests of the world community. We show understanding for the OSCE approaches to the Afghan settlement and efforts made in this direction, and on our part are ready to render necessary assistance and constructively consider proposals on coordinating joint efforts.

Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen!

The present phase of development of Turkmenistan is characterized by serious reforms directed at profound renovation of a socio-political life of the country, adoption of modern standards and norms into the practice of democratic institutions, perfection of a legal base, creation of necessary conditions for discovering creative potential of a person, ensuring and protecting his civil rights and freedoms. In this context, I believe our co-operation within the OSCE format has been developing dynamically lately. Turkmenistan is open to co-operation and creative assimilation of experience of our Organization, highly appreciating the urge towards assisting us in this area.

Proper and adequate perception by our partners of the course and pace of the reforms, their compliance with the national peculiarities of Turkmenistan and its specific and singular historical way, traditions and mentality of the people is most important here. Such an approach opens up wide prospects for joint work, search for the new forms of collaboration and more efficient employment of the existing potential.

This fully applies to our co-operation with the OSCE in other spheres as well. It must be said that large-scale reforms carried out in the country, diversification of the economy, adoption of innovations and other achievements of a scientific and technical progress are attended by a visible activation of contacts within the OSCE framework and establishment of mechanisms of technical assistance in implementing long-term national projects and programs.

I am referring to contribution to economic reforms and development of agriculture, support of ecological centers, strengthening of nature-conservative measures in the oil and gas sector, and a number of other areas.

This year we are celebrating the 35th anniversary of the adoption of the Helsinki Final Document. In these years our Organization has come a long way and made a great contribution to the cause of strengthening global peace, stability and security. Today the tasks faced by the OSCE reflect the changes taking place in the world, determine further perfection of its activity, and sensible reformation of the OSCE structures and institutions according to the demands of our time.

We see the essence of the reform in enhancing the role of the OSCE in the world, purposive employment of its vast potential in areas of priority, for solving concrete tasks of contemporary global development.

In conclusion I would like to emphasize that for Turkmenistan, the OSCE membership, active participation in its activities has been and remains one of the priorities of the foreign policy. We distinctly see the prospects of collaboration within the framework of our Organization, appreciate the progress which has become especially visible in recent years, and clearly realize the significance of the onward dialogue with our partners, based on mutual respect. In this vein we also consider the opportunities afforded by the current Summit.

Thank you for your attention.