

AN'ESSAY ON THE COOPERATION BETWEEN TURKMENISTAN AND INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Ertan EFEGIL, Ayse Mine OICAY, Huseyin KIDJK

*(Eastern Mediterranean University, Turkmenistan International Turkmen -
Turkish University, Turkmenistan Eastern Mediterranean University,
Turkmenistan)*

1. ROOT OF THE RELATIONS

Due to the economic, social and political difficulties in the former Soviet Union, the Secretary-General of the Communist Party Mikhael Gorbachev introduced his two vital policies - Glasnost and Perestroika. By initiating these policies, Gorbachev wanted to solve internal difficulties and enhance the loyalty of the Soviet people to the central authority. Although his real aim was to prevent disintegration of his own country, the implementation of these policies activated a disintegration process within the Soviet Union. In the meantime, the Soviet Republics believed that if they became independent, they would solve their economic and social problems themselves within their own territories.

But, when they became independent, the internal developments removed the good-will aspirations of the people as well as the governments. Because in the first year of independence, the different groups within the country pursued conflicting policies" in order to solve economic and political difficulties. Even some powerful and organized groups, like peasants and workers, required for more democratic rights and made demonstrations to participate in governmental decision process. The first demonstration against the central authority emerged in Poland. The Polish labor Union, under the leadership of lech Walessa, boycotted the socialist government's

policies. The Polish workers' demonstrations were followed by the internal crises in other Eastern European countries, for instance Romania. In addition to these developments, another civil war started in Tajikistan when it became an independent state.

With regard to the internal crises, the new governments in former Socialist countries did not successfully initiate economic development programs. Hence, they did not improve the living conditions of the people or the economic situation within the country. As a result of worsening conditions in these countries, the Socialist parties won the elections and then introduced neo-Socialist policies.

Under these circumstances, a referendum for independence was held on October 26, 1991 in Turkmenistan. 94,1 percent of the Turkmen people voted for the legal establishment of Turkmenistan as an independent and democratic state. One day later, in its extraordinary meeting, Turkmenistan Supreme Soviet adopted the constitutional law "On Independence and the Fundamentals of the State Set up in Turkmenistan".¹ However, the Turkmen top officers, under the leadership of President Saparmurat Turkmenbashi, had to define the new political and economic directions of newly independent state while taking into account the existing economic, social and political situation within the country as well as the geo-strategically position of Turkmenistan.

Firstly, in order to provide high-level and contemporary living standards for Turkmen people, they should improve the existing economic infrastructure within the country. Secondly, Turkmenistan, as a politically independent state, should establish mutually beneficial and equal diplomatic relations with other states in the world. While achieving these fundamental purposes, they should prevent the emergence of any internal uprising within Turkmenistan, like uprisings in Eastern European countries. This was a vital condition to realize two fundamental purposes. Therefore, on the one hand, the Turkmen officials should enhance and strengthen the political independence of Turkmenistan; on the other hand they should achieve its economic independence. At the same time, the Turkmen people

should cooperate with the Turkmen government in order to successfully realize two fundamental aims.

But the basic question was "How could Turkmenistan strengthen its political and economic independence without the emergence of internal crisis". Before answering this question, President Turkmenbashi preferred to define the present situation in the world. According to him, the period of bilateral confrontation was replaced by constructive cooperation and dialogue among the states and the world was unique.² Therefore, under existing conditions, the foreign policy principles of the states should be peaceful coexistence, security, general and full disarmament, and non-interference into domestic affairs, democracy and justice.³ Additionally, none of the states should follow revisionist, or in other words, hegemonic, foreign policy. Hence all states serve the interests of peaceful world security. Upon the new realities of the world, the administrative and political structure of new state should be based upon the democratic principles, rule of law and secularism.⁴

On the other hand, on the basis of pragmatic calculations, they correctly accepted that transition from state-controlled economic understanding to free market economy was necessary for the • achievement of souci-economic development of Turkmenistan. When Turkmenistan took further concrete steps toward the adoption of free market economy, the Turkmen officials could activate and cooperate with the multinational corporations, international and regional organizations as well as states to obtain the economic development. Thus, by establishing favorable economic, financial and legal conditions for foreign investments, they could import high-level technologies, contemporary management and administrative systems. They could also prepare and implement joint projects with the cooperation of these actors.

Therefore, the President of Turkmenistan, Saparmurat Turkmenbashi introduced "Neutrality", "Open Doors" and "10 Years of Stability" policies. According to President Turkmenbashi, the "Open Doors" policy aimed at the integration of Turkmenistan into the world economy while attracting the attention of foreign investors.¹

In international relations, the concept of Neutrality means not participating in any military pact or in any military confrontation in favor of any one of the parties. But, the Turkmen officials have interpreted the concept more comprehensively than the scope of its original meaning. President Turkmenbashi has stated that the concept of Neutrality has three meanings that are: political, economic and humanitarian. As for its first meaning, the neutrality of Turkmenistan is positive and constructive that implies an active participation in supporting peace and stability in the world in conformity with the principles and objectives of the United Nations; and settling international disputes through peaceful methods.⁶ As far as concerning the politically unstable situation in the Asian region, neutral Turkmenistan, being a peace-making center and participating in peacekeeping operations, will create suitable conditions for the conflicting parties to settle their disputes through dialogue, negotiation and other peaceful methods rather than war.

The second meaning of the concept of Neutrality is economic. Turkmenistan has got all the required facilities and potential to be a regional financial and economic center in the Central Asia region. Thus, after receiving the status of a constant neutral state, Turkmenistan prepared new economic programs on international banking and financial system, services and privileges for foreign investments to adopt a contemporary economic structure that is parallel with international standards.

In its third meaning, the Turkmen officials intended to deepen the process related with the package of humanitarian issues. The political ideology of Turkmenistan is based upon a fundamental thesis that man is the highest value within the society. Therefore, Turkmenistan has directed its efforts to form favorable conditions for the development of the social, cultural and political rights of the people.⁷

Its geo-strategically position and these fundamental policies have given a new role to Turkmenistan in international affairs. Within the framework of the new perspective of the Turkmen officials, Turkmenistan can play these roles mentioned below:

Non

corr
org*
offn
Org in
tl and

ann
the
(EC
the
regi
neu
the
Mil
dec
sec
wo
ach

- 1) Center for Peace-making activities (negotiation, international conferences, and so on);
- 2) Center for Regional Financial Activities;
- 3) Connecting Europe and Asia continents through building North-South and East-West international transportation roads.

2. THE ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN TURKMENISTAN

Upon its fundamental policies, Turkmenistan has established comprehensive relations with different international and regional organizations at different level and in different dimensions. Even the officials and experts of Turkmenistan, International and Regional Organizations have jointly prepared and implemented various projects in the fields of economics, administration, environment, world politics and society.

2.1 The United Nations 2.1.1

"Peace-making Relations"

The President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Turkmenbashi firstly announced its government's intention to have a neutral status during the summit meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Islamabad, Pakistan on March 14, 1991. He mentioned that the neutral status of Turkmenistan would positively contribute to the regional disputes. In order to show its decisiveness on the subject of neutrality, in October 1991, Turkmenistan became 114th member of the Non-Alignment movement. In his speech during the session, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Boris Shikhmuradov, declared that Turkmenistan's real aim was to serve world peace and security. He pointed out that the neutral position of Turkmenistan would allow it to undertake a number of important practical steps to achieve peace in the Central Asian region.⁸ Thus the Turkmen government received the support of member states of ECO and Non-

alignment movement for its intention of being neutral. After taking their support, President Saparmurat Turkmenbashi brought the issue before the General Assembly at its 10th Anniversary Session on October 22, 1991. During the session, President Turkmenbashi delivered a speech in which he proclaimed Turkmenistan's strong devotion to the United Nations' objectives and principles. He announced that Turkmenistan was very much interested in participating in building a new model of the world in the direction of peace and cooperation. He declared "being at the crossroad between Europe and Asia, Turkmenistan is ready to offer itself as a transcontinental bridge to expand interregional partnership".⁹

On December 12, 1991, in its meeting, the General Assembly adopted its resolution of "The Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan". In its resolution, the General Assembly accepted the neutral status of Turkmenistan and expressed its hope that the permanent neutral status of Turkmenistan would serve to promote strong peace and security in Central Asia. It also recognized that the new status of Turkmenistan would help achieve the goals of the United Nations, lastly it called on other UN member states to honor and back up the neutral status of Turkmenistan and respect its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.¹⁰

2.1.1.1 Inter-Tadjik Negotiations

As soon as Turkmenistan was recognized as a neutral state, it played a constructive role in the Tadjik and Afghan crises. When Tajikistan gained its independence, the internal crisis emerged as a result of conflicting opinions of five different groups. The internal crisis damaged the life of the civilians and thus led to chaos within the country. When President Saparmurat Turkmenbashi met with Akbarsho Iskandarov, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Tajikistan in Turkmenistan, they discussed the points of bilateral trade and economic cooperation. During the meeting, President Turkmenbashi expressed his support to the inter-Tajik peaceful settlement process. Turkmenbashi stressed that Turkmenistan

considered the Tajik nation could solve its problems independently and overcome their contradictions.¹¹

Due to the positive attitude of the Turkmen leadership, on August 31, the Tajik and Turkmen delegations came together and accepted to start to the regular bilateral consultations. During the negotiations, Boris Shikhmuradov, head of the Turkmen delegation and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, confirmed his government's principal desire to hold the third round of inter-Tajik talks in Ashgabat.¹²

Hence, on October 20 - November 1, indirect inter-Tajik negotiations between conflicting parties began in Ashgabat. President Turkmenbashi received representatives of the Tajik government and joint Tajik opposition groups separately. President Turkmenbashi showed his readiness to assist the Tajik parties in order to settle their differences through negotiations. The delegation of the opposition groups gave their consent to begin direct negotiations in Ashgabat before November 20, 1991.¹³

On December 2, 1991, the inter-Tajik negotiations began in Ashgabat. At his opening speech, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General Ramiro Piris-Balyon stressed the constructive role of Turkmenistan as a new political and institutional mechanism where Turkmenistan turned into an international peace-making center that gave an opportunity to the UN to solve the regional issues through peaceful methods.¹⁴ During the negotiations, Special Envoy Ramiro Piris Baljon proposed to hold separate consultations with the representatives of two sides on the further protocol of negotiations. So the conflicting parties might analyze their positions and start to discuss important topics of the negotiations.¹⁵

On the other hand, meetings of bilateral Turkmen-Tajik Economic Commission were held. Turkmen and Tajik experts discussed a number of projects in the sectors of oil and gas, agriculture and energy. Thus, not only by conducting direct negotiations, but also signing documents about bilateral economic cooperation, the Turkmen side's attitude would stabilize the situation in Tajikistan.¹⁶

On December 13, the Tajik conflicting parties sat around a table in Ashgabat and signed a joint statement about the necessity to implement the cease-fire. After one week, in the plenary meeting, the parties shared draft proposals on vital points of the settlement.¹⁷ Although some difficulties existed, a certain progress in solving a political- set of the crisis was reached. Both sides confirmed their readiness to continue the negotiations.

At the same time, at the summit meeting in January 1996, the Commonwealth of Independent States Council of Heads of States took a decision in which the CIS peacekeeping force would be deployed in the conflict area for a six-month period and the Tajik parties had to activate the dialogue process.¹⁸

Because of the decisive attitudes of Turkmenistan, the United Nations, the member states of CIS, and the positive approaches of the Tajik parties, on February 9, 1996, another inter-Tajik negotiation was held in Ashgabat. On February 18, they signed an "Ashgabat Declaration" which became the final document of the second stage of continuous inter-Tajik negotiations. According to the Declaration, the United Tajik Opposition groups would attend the Special Session of the Tajikistan Parliament. In addition to this, the Tajik government made an obligation to fully guarantee the security of the United Tajik opposition delegations.¹⁹

When the Tajik parties met in Ashgabat on July 12, 1996, a protocol on the exchange of political prisoners was signed during the 'fifth uninterrupted round of the inter-Tajik negotiations.²⁰ On July 19, the parties signed another document on the cessation of hostilities and observation of the Teheran agreement. In the meantime, the UN would send military observers to control the cease-fire situation within the country.xxi Thus, the parties had the possibility of discussing the political and humanitarian dimensions of the crisis.

Consequently, due to the constructive role of Turkmenistan's, creating a positive and secure place to the conflicting parties, a regional issue - the Tajik crisis - was solved by peaceful means.

2.1.1.2 Afghan Issue

After the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Afghanistan in 1990, the internal war occurred among the various Muslim groups. In 1996, the Taliban, a movement led by Islamic seminarians, emerged as the country's new ruler. But it never completely consolidated power and an opposition group continued to fight against it.²⁷ Under these circumstances, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan Abdurakhim Gafurzay came to Turkmenistan. During his visit, he stressed that Afghanistan was ready to the construction of Turkmenistan - Afghanistan - Pakistan natural gas pipeline that would bring a peace to the Afghan crisis. On the other hand he said in the near future a regional conference was planned to be held for stabilization of the situation in his country. He considered that Ashgabat, the capital city of neutral Turkmenistan, would be the most appropriate place of the regional meeting.²³

In December 1996, the UN Secretary-General declared that during January 21 - 23, 1997, an international conference on rendering assistance to Afghanistan would be held. During the two-day meeting, the participants

would discuss the social, economic and military aspects of the situation in Afghanistan.⁴ But because of the escalation of the internal fighting, the Afghan negotiation did not begin. In December 1998, the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan prepared a report in which he suggested the beginning of the comprehensive negotiations between the Taliban government and northern-based opposition groups in order to establish a joint government, including various ethnic groups.²⁵ After that in February 1999, the first round of Afghan negotiations held in Ashgabat. During the negotiations, the parties agreed to a cease-fire. Meanwhile they signed a preliminary agreement to exchange hostages.²⁶

On March 14, in Ashgabat, the second round of the Afghan negotiations was held under the auspices of the United Nations. Both sides reached an agreement on such issues - the establishment of a new broad-based Afghan government, arrangement of new elections,

26

Ertan EFEGİ1, Ayse Mine OICAY, Huseyin KIDIK

continuation of the cease-fire and the release of prisoners—and confirmed their readiness to make a joint statement.²⁷

They also agreed to form a shared Executive, a shared legislature and a shared Judiciary. Both sides would continue the talks in order to address the rest of the differences. In addition to these points, they would hold the next round of the talks in Afghanistan.²⁸

Because of the considerable contributions of Turkmenistan to regional and world security, during the 13rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, Turkmenistan was unanimously chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the UN General Assembly.² The new development also marked the considerable peace-making role of Turkmenistan in the Central Asia and a new stage in the formation of the international image of Turkmenistan. By hosting several rounds of inter-Tajik negotiations and international meetings on the Afghan issue, Turkmenistan has shown that it is ready to be a peace-making center in Central Asia.

2.1.2 Other Cooperation Fields

Turkmenistan and the United Nations have implemented various joint projects in different fields. Firstly they established beneficial cooperation in the fields of finance, trade and investment. Experts of the UN Institute on Scientific Research and Training (UNITAR) consulted with the administrative staff of the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of External Economic Relations, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan on main principles of trade. They paid great attention to the questions of preparing international agreements, formation of joint ventures, financing, export and import.³⁰

Six months later, the UN Development Program (UNDP) and the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Turkmenistan jointly organized a conference in Ashgabat on the issues of privatization, providing credit to small and middle-sized companies and preparation of feasibility reports.³¹

Within the framework of the program on rendering technical assistance to Turkmenistan, the UNDP gave computer equipment to

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The agreement, signed at the end of 1994, included training programs, workshops and conference.³²

Turkmen experts joined two international projects on the subject of solar energy, which was financed by the UN Education, Science and Culture Organization. Representatives of 101 countries unanimously adopted the Harare Declaration on solar energy, which contained primary national, regional and global projects controlled by the World Commission on Solar Energy. At the end of the conference, the UNESCO experts regarded Turkmenistan to be a leading scientific and practical center for the study and utilization of solar energy in Central Asia. Secondly, UNESCO would finance another project aimed at detecting the reasons for the Caspian Sea level rise.³³

In the same year, Turkmenistan hosted an international conference on coping with criminality organized by the Ministry of Justice and the United Nations.³⁴ Additionally UNESCO participated in the National Programme on the restoration of the monuments of arts, architecture and culture. Thus UNESCO would help revive the culture of Turkmenistan. At the same time, President Turkmenistan. and UNICEF Regional Director discussed the possibility of organizing an international forum under the auspices of UNICEF in 1996. The major aims of the conference were to render assistance to children and mothers living in the Aral Sea region, to protect the health of mother and child, and to implement the Convention on children rights.³⁵

In 1997, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) organized an international conference where the participants discussed the integration of newly independent states in Central Asia into the world economy by increasing trade transit efficiency of the region and establishment of alternative transportation

³⁶
routes.

The joint UNDP and Turkmenistan project on the improvement of efficiency of municipal departments and housing-and-communal services in 9 cities began in September 1998. Within the framework of the project, 89 housing areas of Nebitdag have been planned to be connected to the new circular main water-supply system while upgrading the domestic water-supply facilities. In the meantime, the

28

Ertan EFEGI1, Ayse Mine OICAY, Huseyin KIDIK

water pumps have been installed in houses to increase the water head.³⁷

On the other hand the UNDP launched another joint programme within the framework of the National Program on Ozone-Distracting Substances Control. The project aimed at creating a national ozone center to coordinate the activity and to collect available information about ozone-destructing substances.³⁸

The last joint project was the regional drug control program. The project's aim was to prevent and stop the drug traffic from Afghanistan to Europe via the Central Asian countries. Thus the UN Drug Control Program (UNDCP) intended to technically assist the Central Asian countries in setting up working mechanisms of information exchange, and development and introduction of the appropriate laws and procedures in order to realize the fundamental aim of the project.³⁹

2.2 Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO): An Instrument for Regional Integration

Turkmenistan has regarded the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) as an instrument for regional integration and as a forum to achieve some huge projects, which will connect the economies of the member states at the regional level, which are beyond the capacity of Turkmenistan. At the same time, ECO became a political arena for the member states to discuss and overcome their differences. Therefore in order to improve its economic infrastructure and to promote the concept of "regional economic integration", Turkmenistan gave great priority and importance to the ECO system rather than Commonwealth of Independent States.

Pakistan, Iran and Turkey formed ECO in 1981 to increase the economic and trade relations among them. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, newly independent Central Asian states -Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan -as well as Afghanistan joined the Organization in 1992.

While the littoral states in the Caspian Sea region found an opportunity to discuss the legal status of the Caspian Sea during the ECO sessions, the first concrete step was taken by constructing Tedjen-Meshed-Seraks railway which was a key element in a transport infrastructure organized in the ECO region. Because Tedjen-Meshed-Seraks was the milestone for the construction of "East-West" and "North-South" main lines in the Central Asia region. For instance, it would connect the Central Asian states with the Persian Gulf.

Firstly, the expert group of leading specialists came together in Almaty, former capital city of Kazakhstan, to discuss and supplement the plan on the development of the ECO transport infrastructure.⁴⁰ The second meeting of the ECO experts was held in Ashgabat on August 11-19. During the meeting, the participants noted the basic fact that the ECO member states were intended to deepen regional cooperation in the field of economy. They mentioned that the Organization was ready to function as a bridge between Asian and European businessmen. Therefore, on the basis of these expectations, they amended some provisions of the Organization's Charter.⁴¹ At the Same time, the Secretary-General of ECO, Ahmad Shamshat, came to Ashgabat to participate in the meeting. He announced that Ashgabat had become the main place to hold international conferences, and therefore it could function as a center for organizing various meetings of ECO.⁴²

After three months, on November 6 - 7, the ECO Committee on Cooperation in Energy Area met in Ashgabat and during the negotiations the participators discussed various joint energy projects, for instance Baku-Ceyhan oil pipeline, Kazakhstan - Turkmenistan -Afghanistan - Pakistan oil pipeline, Turkmenistan - Iran - Turkey -Europe natural gas

pipeline, the transmission of Turkmen electricity via Iran to the third countries.⁴³

In December, the Directors of Telecommunications of the ECO member states negotiated another vast project, which was the construction of the Trans-Asian and European Fibber Optic Communication (TAEFOC), connecting Shanghai (China) and Frankfurt (Germany) while embracing all OCE member states. Thus,

30 _____ Ertan EFEGI1, Ayse Mine OICAY, Huseyin KIDIK

the telecommunication systems of the member states, especially the Central and Southern Asian countries, would be modernized. The project would increase telecommunication possibilities and ensure a reliable communication with the world.⁴⁴

In addition to these projects, the ECO member states included "agriculture" and "drug control" subjects into their cooperation agenda. On the one hand the ECO Agriculture Committee developed measures to establish the common agricultural market in the ECO region and outlined further concrete steps, which were the establishment of the institute to train farmers, databank and development of measures to prevent losses of agricultural production. On the other hand a special agency under the ECO Secretary would coordinate the ECO plan on drug-traffic control within the Organization's area. The Coordinating Center would also become an information agency between member states by coordinating local policies and corresponding legal and technical assistance.⁴⁵

The 4th meeting of ECO took place in Ashgabat and the parties signed "memorandums" in assuring the project of the railway passage, international highway transportation between Turkmenistan and Pakistan; and lastly, construction of Turkmenistan - Afghanistan -Pakistan oil and natural gas pipelines.⁴⁶

In 1997 and 1998, the ECO member states discussed the details of the power projects. The ECO Committees Conferences took place in Ashgabat on the cooperation in gas and oil pipelines construction and • on the development of a regional power system.⁴⁷

Consequently the ECO has become a central forum for discussing the big projects, which will augment regional integration. In every summit meeting - Teheran, Islamabad, Izmir, Ashgabat and Almaty -, the leaders of the ECO member states confirmed their readiness to promote social and economic integration in the region on the basis of mutually beneficial cooperation. In advancing the ECO countries' policies about regional integration, the priority has been given to the development of transport, communication, trade and energy sectors. They have emphasized ECO as a permanent functioning body to ensure intra-regional consultations, coordination and cooperation

aimed at strengthening economic, social and cultural development. In the meantime, Turkmenistan sees it as a link to integrate with the world market. President Turkmenbashi expressed his proposal in which ECO and the United Nations; ECO and the World Trade Organization had to establish direct bilateral relations. The proposal of the Turkmen's side was accepted by the other member states.

2.3 The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

The loans of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD, or in other words, the World Bank) were directed to small Turkmen

entrepreneurs; administrative departments and big projects. In August 1992, Turkmenistan became the member of IBRD. Turkmenistan got a first loan in the sum of \$21 million from the IBRD in October 1994 for the institutional project in which the administrative structure of Turkmenistan would be changed according to the conditions of the Free Market Economy. Within the framework of this project, to ensure the free market economic system, the Ministry of Economy and Finance formed a legal group consisting of representatives of Medjlis, the Ministry of Justice and the Board of Trade and Commerce.⁴⁹

The second project was the development of an urban transport system. The project included determination of priorities and prospects of urban transport network, supply of means of transportation, and motor transport servicing. The IBRD experts began to prepare the necessary documents for an international tender.⁵⁰

In February 1996, the IBRD began to grant credits to Turkmen private enterprises. Related to this work, the agreement on granting a loan in the amount of \$31 million for small business support was signed by Turkmenistan and the IBRD in November 1994. Within two years, the IBRD and Turkmen experts examined investment projects presented by Turkmen businessmen.⁵¹

In 1997, as a result of the bilateral negotiations, the IBRD and Turkmenistan enlarged the cooperation sphere by including oil and

gas sectors, light and food industries and private sectors. The IBRD intended to participate in these sectors by direct investments and by granting long-term credits.⁵²

On October 24, 1997, the IBRD approved a \$30 million credit for reconstruction and modernization of the Turkmenbashi seaport. It has also planned to grant credits for reconstruction of the Tedjen-Mary highway, which is an important part of the transport corridor from Trans-Caucasia to Central Asia, and for the construction of the rail-and-roadway between Ashgabat and Mary across the Amudarya region. At the same time, concerning the oil and gas sectors, the IBRD has wanted to financially support the implementation of the projects related to the pipelines and construction of refineries.⁵³

2.4 International Monetary Fund (IMF)

In 1992, Turkmenistan joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Since 1992, in their relations, IMF has aimed at transforming Turkmenistan's state-controlled economic system to the free market economic structure.⁵⁴ In favor of its fundamental principles, IMF has rendered technical assistance in the financial system reforms, training of officials and bankers, taxation, and price index system. The IMF experts and financiers have taken an active part in the organization of the national currency system and taking a census of population. At the same time, IMF scheduled payment of the Ukraine's and Georgia's debts for Turkmen gas supplies. Additionally the IMF Ashgabat Office has prepared annual reports on the country's economic development and made recommendations for currency stabilization and gradual liberalization of Turkmenistan's economy. Also IMF has played an active role in taking measures for inflation reduction.⁵⁵

2.1 The European Union (EU): A Bridge for connecting Turkmenistan to International and Regional Economic Systems

2.1.1 General Outlook

When the former Soviet Republics disappeared, the European Union determined its new policy toward Central Asia in which the state-controlled economic systems of these countries will be gradually transformed to the free market economy. To realize this aim, the European Union, with its organs of TACIS and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), will have an active role within the process through rendering technical and financial assistance to the newly independent states.

Moreover the EU has wanted to provide the gradual development and modernization of key sectors - agriculture, oil and gas, textile and transportation— as well as improving the conditions of private businessmen, privatization, and human resources. While TACIS rendered technical assistance in different forms such as training specialists, giving consultations to government and private businessmen, working out technical and economic substations of concrete projects, the EBRD granted long-term loans to the projects and small businessmen.

However the main goal of bilateral cooperation has been to assist the integration of Turkmenistan into the regional and international economic systems.⁵⁶

In 1993, the EU and Turkmenistan signed the first Partnership and Cooperation Agreement that had drawn the general framework of the cooperation and covered the improvement of food production processing and distribution and development of private sector and human resources.⁵⁷

From 1993 to 1996, tens of projects within the technical assistance programs of the EU were implemented. In 1996, Turkmen

and the EU experts started to discuss a new agreement on Partnership and Cooperation. In April 1996, to discuss the new scope of the Agreement, a delegation of the EU arrived in Ashgabat. Both sides considered the future agreement to be very important because it would open new opportunities to strengthen mutually beneficial contacts in economy, policy, culture, education, energy and science.⁵⁸

During the negotiations, the EU delegation expressed their intention to deepen their cooperation in the fields of oil, natural gas and power transmission and agro-industrial complexes. They also stated that they were ready to attract the EU investors. Meanwhile, they implied that they would support Turkmenistan in being a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and they showed their interest in strengthening their cooperation with ECO.⁵⁹

At the end of the negotiations, the Joint Commission determined a number of concrete projects to be developed for the near future. For instance, in the energy sector, they planned to organize a training center for the specialists. They would also prepare draft feasibility reports about the energy projects and conduct the international tender to exploit the hydrocarbon reserves in the Caspian Sea continental shelf area, lastly, the European experts would make some recommendations on the improvement of the legal framework of the energy sector. In general, within the context of the Agreement, the priority was given to agriculture, energy, the improvement of taxation policy, privatization and the development of the private sector.⁶⁰

In September 1998, Turkmen and European delegations came together in Brussels and evaluated the country's economic development projects in

agriculture, oil and natural gas and transportation. Concerning the energy sector, the European delegation wanted to establish close cooperation in the construction of Trans-Caspian natural gas pipeline project within the framework of the EU International Oil and Gas Transportation to Europe. Secondly the EU showed interest in the projects of transport infrastructure, which is so important to connect Europe with Asia. Within the framework of the development of the transport system, the EU supported the projects of reconstruction of the Turkmenbashi Seaport and construction of

Turkmenbashi-Ashgabat highway and of a bridge through the Amurdarya rives. It was also agreed to start the food-independence project.

In addition to these projects, they emphasized other important projects, which were improving the legal framework of anti-drug; increasing the technical capability of police department; and enhancing the customs control at Ashgabat airport.⁶¹

2.1.2 Brief Information about Specific Projects

2.1.2.1 Restructuring the Agricultural Sector

Agriculture is the first and foremost item of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement signed between Turkmenistan and the EU because of Turkmenistan's policy of being a self-sufficient country. Therefore, the Agreement concentrated on processing and distribution of food production. On the basis of the Agreement, the support of the TACIS experts in the agricultural sector focused on the transfer of know-how in the form of strategic government advice, training and education. The first concrete step of the aim was the establishment of an agricultural advisory service, which would create a training program for both government and farmers on agricultural production and increase knowledge of ways in which the food processing industry could be enhanced. In parallel, the project would also provide essential training related to "best management practices" in the food distribution sector.

TACIS also allocated a fund in the sum of ECU 1.7 million to finance an expert study for farming techniques employed in the production of cereal crops. In addition, another project in progress was to reinforce the government's efforts to create favorable conditions for a productive agricultural sector and provide support to the process of farm privatization.⁶²

After the signature of the Agreement, a Body for planning and technical advises was founded under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Stuffs.⁶³ On the other hand, the American California University experts shared their experience in the fields of agriculture and

irrigation with the Turkmen experts. The bilateral cooperation between Turkmen and American experts provided information and exchange of views. Thus, the American experts prepared a report on how to improve the irrigation system in Turkmenistan. Additionally the Turkmen experts went to Great Britain in order to learn new techniques about irrigation systems.⁶⁴

Within the framework of the TACIS program, the EU put into practice a new technical assistance project, which would develop meat and dairy production. Major attention was paid to the problems of the private livestock breeding sector and its potential to increase production in the future. Another part of the project was the evaluation of the investment policy of the branch, detailed analysis of meat and milk processing factories. This analysis would determine the general investment strategy in the milk and meat industry. Thus the EU experts would help the government renew the long-term investment policy according to the current conditions.

In addition to the technical assistance, under the humanitarian considerations, in 1996 the EU sent 9,000 tons of high quality flour to Turkmenistan in order to meet domestic demand.⁶⁶

As a result of these projects, new factories related to milk and meat processing, and jeans became operational since 1997. The state-owned farms have been reorganized according to the requirements of a free market economy and the European experts taught techniques of distribution, manufacturing and management systems to the Turkmen farmers.

2.1.2.2 Forming a State Administration Institute

In March 1996, the EU announced an international tender for the formation of an Institute of State Administration in Turkmenistan. The Institute would be able to annually educate 110 public personnel. For various governmental structures and organizations, short- and long-term courses and special workshops would be conducted. The program included the subjects of prognostication, statistics, tax management, macro- and microeconomics, price policy, banking, privatization and trade. Thus, when they completed the programme,

the students of the Institute could develop their skills of strategic planning for business management, audit, making contracts, and resource management.⁶⁷ For this Institute, the Turkmen State University named Magtymguly was chosen as a center.

2.1.2.3 Transportation System

The beneficial geopolitical situation of Turkmenistan permits it to play a "crossroads" role between Europe and Asia. During the first years of independence, President Turkmenbashi, becoming aware of this geo-strategical reality, prepared his famous project "Revival of the Historical Silk Road" and began to take concrete steps to implement his project. As mentioned earlier, Iran and Turkmenistan jointly constructed Tedjen - Meshed - Serakhs railway as being a milestone of other big projects.

But when the scope and cost of the big projects are considered, they are far from the financial and technological capacity of Turkmenistan. For that reason, one of the first cooperation areas between the EU and Turkmen was to develop the infra- and superstructure of internal transport roads. Thus, "Europe - Caucus -Central Asia" international highway might be effectively operational.

In September 1991, the experts of the European Union began to carry out the technical assistance to improve motor transport service and to provide and distribute the spare parts in Turkmenistan within the framework of the program "TRASECA" which aimed at the organization of an effective system of motor transportation including a network of repair shops and

service stations. In the meantime, the existing motor transport system and the management system of existing transport companies would be evaluated. Also the EU was supporting these companies by providing finance.⁶⁸ -

On the other hand, to evaluate the efficiency of the harmonization of "the legal framework of transportation" in Turkmenistan and to make Turkmen officials familiar with the existing codes of the EU transportation system, a seminar on international trade and transportation was organized by the TACIS in Ashgabat. International experts, representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers, the Ministries of

38

Ertan EFEGİ1, Ayse Mine OICAY, Huseyin KIDIK

Transportation, State Railways, State Customs and Justice, the State Institute of Transportation and Communication discussed the mater, which would promote trade between regional countries and others.⁶⁹

In detail, the participators worked on the subjects of the organization of business programs, market analysis in transportation, certification, licensing of vehicles and arrangement of documents for international traffic and custom control.⁷⁰

To develop Turkmenistan's transportation infrastructure, in 1997, the EBRD approved two credit lines in the total amount of \$80 million. One of the credits in the sum of \$30 million was allocated for the reconstruction and upgrading of dry-cargo ships and ferry terminals in the Turkmenbashi port. After the reconstruction, the port would be able to operate up to 3 million tones of cargo a year. The second credit in the sum of \$10 million stipulated the reconstruction of 142 km of the Ashgabat - Mary highway that crosses the territory of Turkmenistan and connects Uzbekistan with the Caspian Sea.

1

2.1.2.4 Supporting Foreign Investments and Privatization The experts of the EU TACIS program also assisted the Turkmen government in the privatization process. The TACIS program estimated the cost of the industrial factories included in the privatization program of Turkmenistan. Thus, the small- and medium-sized state-owned industrial buildings and their main parts would be privatized and transformed into joint stock companies.

In order to increase the volume of foreign investments in Turkmenistan, TACIS tried to create most favorable conditions within the countries through improving the normative legal basis of foreign investments to introduce new foreign technologies and use foreign capital.⁷²

2.1.2.1 Caspian Environment Protection Program In Ramsar, in May 1998, Turkmenistan and the EU signed an agreement on holding joint scientific works in all the Caspian region countries. In November 19 - 20, the national coordinators of Kazakhstan, Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and experts of the EU

and UN Development Program organized a seminar where they discussed the concept and strategies of desertification process control in the Caspian Sea region. The strategic goal of the project is to study the actual conditions of the region and inform the governments. Thus, the governments may develop their attempts at the national and local levels according to the concrete data. The scholars will find appropriate ways to solve the environmental problems, which are worsening the social and economic life within the region. Additionally, subject-targeted research centers related to a country's leading industry will be opened.⁷³

2.1.2.6 Oil and Gas Sectors

In April 1996, the oil and gas sectors firstly became one of the items of the Participation and Cooperation Agreement. These issues were put into the agenda of the EU during the EU Committee working group meeting held in Brussels. The European Union handled the oil and gas sectors within the regional program of TACIS.⁷⁴ Thus, within the framework of TACIS program, the EU worked out a long-run program of assistance to develop oil and gas sectors of Turkmenistan through finding financial resources and manipulating international institutions and oil companies toward these sectors.

The primary objective of the program was to prepare a feasibility report on how to modernize and reconstruct the existing pipelines in Turkmenistan. In order to obtain this goal, a specific intellectual center for power workers would be opened. Under the roof of the Center, the specialists would make recommendations on strategic development of the oil and gas sectors, efficient exploitation and utilization of hydrocarbon resources.⁷⁵

A further concrete step regarding the oil and gas sector was taken in 1998 on the basis of INOGATE regional program, which aimed at the modernization of the energy sector in the CIS states, including Turkmenistan. The main task of the program was to draw up a general working plan on how to reconstruct and modernize the existing pipeline system for the natural gas export. The program would also determine the amount of the investments needed.

2.1.2.7 Education

The EU handled the education system in Turkmenistan. In 1991, European Fund of Education (EFU), the organ of the EU, opened the National Observation-for-Education Center in Ashgabat. The Center would collect and analyze valuable information about professional and technical education, study the labor market and determine the priorities of international cooperation in these fields. In order to realize these aims, it would cooperate with the state departments, for instance the Ministry of Education, the labor Department of the Ministry of Economics and Finance. The program also planned to organize seminars, training courses for the employees of the Ministries and bodies related to the educational sector. The program envisaged foreign language teaching-courses for the personnel of the state departments.⁷⁷

Another project in the education field focused on business management training. The project would be implemented within the State University. The two-year project would render educational assistance to the three higher educational institutions: The Turkmen State University named Magtymguly, the Turkmen Polytechnics Institute and the Turkmen Institute of National Economy. The long-term goal of the project is to improve the teaching techniques in economics field, to reorganize the academic and professional

programs, to change education systems, to retrain instructors, to improve textbooks and lastly to modernize the equipment in the Institutions.

Within the framework of the project, the Turkmen professors would go to the leading European Universities to learn modern teaching techniques and six European scholars would come to Turkmenistan to retrain instructors and assist research studies in the Universities.⁷⁸

2.1.7.8 *Financial Support to Small- and Medium-sized Companies*

Small- and medium-sized companies are the fundamental pillars of the free market economy. Even in many European countries,

especially in Germany, the small- and medium-sized companies manufacture most of the inputs of the big companies. For that reason, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development supported small- and medium-sized companies in Turkmenistan while granting long-term loans at favorable conditions. Private Turkmen small- and medium-sized companies, by receiving \$3 million credit, arranged the production of customer goods, furniture, construction materials and food industry. In 1998, these companies would receive \$1 million and the total amount of the EBRD credit is \$31 million. In the meantime, the EBRD could become a share-partner in implementing any project, for instance Gap-Turkmen.⁷⁹

On the other hand, the EBRD is actively working on developing the micro-crediting system in Turkmenistan. Therefore, the European economists have worked in the credit departments of commercial banks of Turkmenistan - these are the State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs, the Joint-Stock Commercial Banks Gas, Senagat, Invest bank and Turkmenistan.⁸⁰

2.6 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): The Military - Humanitarian Side

In respect of the third meaning of Neutrality, Turkmenistan opened its representation office in Brussels within "the NATO's Partnership for Peace" program which creates a favorable atmosphere between the Newly Independent former Soviet Union Republics and NATO member states.

In April 1996, Ambassador Robert E. Hunter, the US Representative in NATO, visited Ashgabat and negotiated this matter with Boris Shikhmuradov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Batir Sardjajev, Deputy Chairman of Council of Minister and D. Kopekov, the Minister of Defense. The two sides decided to establish a joint expert commission, which would present the bilateral cooperation program.

During the negotiations, Ambassador Hunter noted that the participation of neutral Turkmenistan was not contrary to its neutrality

42

Ertan EFEGI1, Ayse Mine OICAY, Huseyin KIDIK

status. Because the program emphasized the humanitarian matters which was the same as the third meaning of the Neutrality. The joint program covered the issues of personnel training according to the implementation of humanitarian programs, modernization of military forces in the areas of budget planning and elimination of catastrophes.

According to the US Ambassador, the membership of Turkmenistan did not imply any military obligations on the side of Turkmenistan but offered some guarantees in the areas such as respect for the security of other nations, solving international and regional disputes through peaceful means, observing human rights and the democratization process.⁸¹

Two years later, NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana and Turkmenistan President Saparmurat Turkmenbashi met in Brussels in March 1998. During the negotiation, they expressed their intention to deepen the bilateral relations between NATO and Turkmenistan.⁸² In April 1998, the two sides took a concrete step to enhance bilateral relations. The scientists of NATO member states and Turkmenistan put into operation a program that focused on the cooperation in the areas of disarmament, environmental security, high technologies, policy-science technologies and computer systems. During the discussions, they were especially interested at the projects related to the Caspian Sea.⁸³

2.7 The Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE): The Human Rights Dimension

First direct contact between Turkmenistan and OSCE was established during the fourth annual session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE in Ottawa, Canada. During the session, Turkmenistan demanded the support of OSCE member states for its initiative about the states of neutrality. While the OSCE member states individually expressed their pleasure in the initiative, they were also much more interested at the economic development in Turkmenistan.⁸⁴ Additionally the OSCE intended to take an active part in the Aral Ecological System.

On February 29, 1996, in Vienna, a Plenary Session of the OSCE Permanent Council was held and the participators discussed the foreign policy of Turkmenistan and its relations with the Organization. Firstly, according to the participators, Turkmenistan presented a geo-strategic interest for Europe, because it is located at the interregional cross line. Secondly, they declared that a neutral Turkmenistan as a peace-making center could play a constructive role in the process of construction of a regional security system, which would be based upon the fundamental principles of the Organization. Thirdly, the participators required more conclusive steps in a financial economic reforms programme to create a stable economic system in Turkmenistan.⁸⁶ When Samuel Brown, the US Representative of the Organization, visited to Ashgabat on August 29 - 30, 1996, "the Human Rights" subject was included into the agenda of the cooperation. They decided that the OSCE experts would assist the Turkmen side to establish the Institute of Human Rights, Democratization of Society and State in Turkmenistan. With regard to that point, the OSCE would render technical assistance to the Institute and the European and American experts would arrange lectures -on human rights.⁸⁷

Mainly the member states of the OSCE have seen stabilization in Central Asia as a vital point in maintaining security in the world. Also they perceived Central Asia as the southern boundary of the OSCE. Thus, in order to gain this aim and to make peace and security within the region permanent, they recognized the necessity of the establishment of regional institutions. Therefore, according to the OSCE experts, the neutral status of Turkmenistan was so important for the security in the region, and the establishment of the Institute of Human Rights, Democratization of Society and Statehood in Turkmenistan was an absolutely correct and progressive effort.⁸⁸

On the other hand while signing the Helsinki Final Act and becoming member of the OSCE in 1992, according to the Turkmen officials Turkmenistan took a fundamental step to participate in the nations of Europe.⁸⁹

44

Ertan EFEGI1, Ayse Mine OICAY, Huseyin KIDIK

The consideration and goodwill of the member states was realized in October 1996, because the Turkmen National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights, which was evidence of democratic principles' triumph in Turkmenistan, was opened in Ashgabat with a ceremony. Also, the President Saparmurat Turkmenbashi outlined special status to" the Institution in which nobody has an authority to control its activities, except the President himself. So the President of Turkmenistan became the main guarantor of democracy and human rights in Turkmenistan.⁹⁰ The major functions of the Institute are both to study world democratic processes and to observe the implementation of human rights within the country.⁹¹

Also in order to strengthen their relations Turkmenistan and the OSCE took a further step where they discussed a Bureau on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights opening in Ashgabat. On May 21 - 22, 1998, the delegations of Turkmenistan and the OSCE discussed the matter as well as other possible cooperation areas - for instance, the economic field and environment.⁹² As a result the Bureau on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights began to operate in Ashgabat to observe the developments in human rights, environment and economy.

CONCLUSION

When Turkmenistan became independent state in 1991, it had unproductive economic infrastructure and non-operational administrative structure. But it should provide good life for the Turkmen people. However the current economic and administrative structure did not have enough capability to solve the economic, social and diplomatic difficulties of newly independent state. For that reason, the Turkmen officials, under the direction of the President Saparmurat Turkmenistan, should pursue rational policies in favor of the requirements of the 21st century. First of all they should establish favorable conditions for the foreign investments through improving administrative structure, adopting new laws suitable to the international norms and transferring national economic system from state-controlled one to free market.

Therefore within the framework of Neutrality and Open Doors policies, Turkmenistan, as soon as becoming independent, cooperate with 32 international and regional organizations in different areas. First contacts were realized with the Economic Cooperation Organization, Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, International Monetary Fund, the European Union, the United Nations, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

At the United Nations, Turkmenistan played a peace-making role in regional issues in favor of its new role defined by the President Turkmenbashi. However in order to improve administrative and economic infrastructures within the country, it cooperated with the EU, IMF, the World Bank, ECO and EBRD, ECO provided a regional shelter for Turkmenistan to realize huge projects collectively with the regional big countries. On the other hand other regional and international organizations have rendered financial and technical assistance to Turkmenistan to gradually transform the economic system.

According to the third meaning of the Neutrality policy, Turkmenistan has signed the Helsinki Accord and the NATO Partnership for Peace agreement. Although the Helsinki Accord, which covers human rights, democracy concepts, is absolutely suitable to the third meaning, the NATO Partnership for Peace agreement can be perceived as completely contrary to the Neutrality concept. But when Turkmenistan signed the document, it did not participate in the original document so it means that article 1 of the original document of NATO, which is about collective self-defense concept,

is not binding upon Turkmenistan. However the military forces of Turkmenistan, whose major aim is to protect only the country's boundaries, will be trained not for collective defense but for humanitarian issues.

Consequently Turkmenistan rationally cooperated with the regional and international organizations within the boundaries of the Neutrality concept. Turkmenistan and Regional and International

Organizations prepared many documents on how to improve the administrative and economic structure and they implemented various projects on various subjects. We can say that the cooperation of Turkmenistan with regional and international organizations is very useful and helpful for the Turkmen government and Turkmen people.

REFERENCE

1. Turkmenistan. The Policy of Saparmurat Turkmenbashi: Achievements and Prospects (towards the Fifth Anniversary of Turkmenistan's Independence), Ashgabat, 1996, p. 171
2. Turkmenistan News Weekly, December 18, 1991
3. Turkmenistan News Weekly, October 16, 1991
4. Turkmenistan. The Policy of Saparmurat Turkmenbashi: Achievements and Prospects (towards the Fifth Anniversary of Turkmenistan's Independence), a.g.e., s. 173
5. Turkmenistan News Weekly, October 29, 1996
6. Turkmenistan News Weekly, December 18, 1991
7. **Ibid.**
8. Kakamurat Balliyev and Gilicmirat Kakabev, Turkmenbashi's Big Aim, Ashgabat: Turkmenistan, 1991, pp. 1-7
9. Turkmenistan News Weekly, October 39, 1991
10. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan. Foreign Policy of Neutral Turkmenistan: Speeches, Statements and Interviews by President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Turkmenbashi, (Ashkhabad, 1997) p. 99
11. Turkmenistan News Weekly, July 10, 1991
12. Watan, **Septembers** 1991
13. Ashgabat, November 6, 1991
14. Turkmenistan, December 4, 1991
15. Turkmenistan News Weekly, December 11, 1991
16. **Ibid.**
17. Turkmenistan News Weekly, December 21, 1991
18. Turkmenistan, January 29, 1996
19. Watan, February 20, 1996
20. Nesil, July 11, 1996
21. Nesil, July 22, 1996
22. "Taliban agrees to share power with Afghan Opposition", CNN, February 11, 1999
23. Turkmenistan News Weekly, September 9, 1996
24. Turkmenistan News Weekly, September 9, 1996
25. Yeni Safak, December 4, 1998
26. "Report: Afghanistan's Taliban, Opposition agree to cease-fire", CNN, February 11, 1999
27. Turkmenistan News Weekly, March 11, 1999
28. Statement Released by the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan (UNSMA) on the behalf of the Afghan sides to the Ashgabat Peace Talks
29. Turkmenistan, September 14, 1998
30. Turkmenistan, July 24, 1991
31. Watan, February 1, 1996
32. Watan, April 11, 1996
33. Ashgabat, September 30, 1996
34. Turkmenistan News Weekly, November 4, 1996
35. Turkmenistan News Weekly, December 11 and 18, 1991
36. Turkmenistan, November 24, 1997

37. Turkmenistan, August 31, 1998
38. Watan, February 11, 1999
39. Watan, August 17, 1998
40. Tedjen-Meshed-Serakhs railway became operational in May 1996. For further information about the railway, see Turkmenistan News Weekly, May 13 and 20, 1996 ; November 10, 1997 ; July 17, 1991.
41. For instance, they would simplify visa procedure for businessmen. For further information, see Turkmenistan News Weekly, August 21, 1991
42. Turkmenistan, August 21, 1991
43. Turkmenistan News Weekly, November 13, 1991
44. For further information see Turkmenistan News Weekly, December 4, 1991 ; March 2, 1998; November 17, 1997 ; July 1, 1996
45. Turkmenistan News Weekly, December 11, 1991
46. Watan, May 20, 1996
47. For further information, please see Turkmenistan News Weekly, November 10 and 17, 1997
48. Turkmenistan, May 11, 1998
49. Turkmenistan News Weekly, September 21, 1991
50. Turkmenistan News Weekly, September 21, 1991; November 11, 1996
51. Turkmenistan News Weekly, December 11, 1991 and April 29, 1996
52. Watan, October 29, 1997
53. Ibid.
54. Turkmenistan News Weekly, September 18, 1991
55. Turkmenistan, November 13, 1991 and December 11, 1991
56. Nesil, April 29, 1996

48

Ertan EFEGI1, Ayse Mine OICAY, Huseyin KIDIK

57. The European Commission; Tacis Annual Report 1994, (Brussels: 1994), Com (91) 349 final, p. 36
58. Turkmenistan, April 29, 1996
59. Turkmenistan, December 23, 1996
60. Watan, November 4, 1996
61. Watan, October 1, 1998
62. The European Commission, op.cit, p.36
63. Turkmenistan News Weekly, December 18, 1991
64. Turkmenistan News Weekly. August 21, 1991
65. Turkmenistan News Weekly, July 8, 1996
66. Turkmenistan News Weekly,. August 12, 1996
67. For further information see Turkmenistan News Weekly, March 11, 1996 ; October 14, 1996 ; and September 22, 1997
68. Turkmenistan News Weekly, September 21, 1991
69. Turkmenistan, November 18, 1996
70. Ashgabat, November 21, 1996
71. Turkmenistan News Weekly, November 10 and 24, 1997
72. Turkmenistan News Weekly, March 21, 1996
73. Watan, November 30, 1998
74. Turkmenistan News Weekly, April 8, 1996
75. Turkmenistan News Weekly, November 11, 1996
76. Watan, May 19, 1998
77. Turkmenistan, October 29, 1998
78. Turkmenistan, April 11, 1996
79. Turkmenistan News Weekly, September 14, 1998
80. Ibid.
81. Turkmenistan News Weekly, April 11, 1996
82. Turkmenistan, March 2, 1998
83. Watan,. April 13, 1998
84. Turkmenistan News Weekly,. July 17, 1991
85. Nesil, February 20, 1996
86. Nesil, March 4, 1996
87. Watan, September 2, 1996
88. Watan, September 16, 1996
89. Turkmenistan News Weekly, December 9, 1996
90. Turkmenistan News Weekly, October 29, 1996
91. Turkmenistan News Weekly, October 29, 1996
92. Turkmenistan News Weekly, September 28 and May 21, 1998

X ü l a s a

TÜRKMƏNİSTANIN BEYNƏIXAIQ VƏ REGIONAL
TƏŞKİLATIARIA ƏMƏKDAŞLIĞI

Ertan EFEQİL, Mine OICAY, Huseyn KİDİK

(Doğu Akdeniz Universitəsi, Türkmonistan Beynolxalq
Türkmen- Türk Universitəsi, Türkmenistan Doğu Akdeniz
Univcrsitəsi, Türkmenistan)

1991 -ci ildə Türkmenistan müstəqillik qazandığı zaman onun iqtisadi infrastrukturunu və idarəçilik sistemi iflic vəziyyətində idi. Mövcud iqtisadi və inzibati quruluş yeni müstəqil dövlətin üzləşdiyi iqtisadi, sosial və siyasi çətinlikləri aradan qaldırmaq, xalqın güzəranı üçün normal şərait yaratmaq iqtidarında deyildi. Buna görə Türkmenistanın rəsmi dairələri prezident Saparmurad Türkmenbaşının rəhbərliyi altında XXI əsrin tələblərinə uyğun müdrik daxili və xarici siyasət həyata keçirməyə başladılar. Hər şeydən öncə, inzibati strukturu təkmilləşdirmək, beynəlxalq normalara uyğun yeni qanunlar qəbul etmək və milli iqtisadiyyatı dövlət nəzarətindən azad bazar sisteminə keçirməklə xarici investisiyalann ölkəyə cəlb edilməsinə əlverişli imkanlar yaratmaq vacib idi. Bitərəfli və "Açıq qapı " siyasətini həyata keçirərək, Türkmenistan suveren dövlət olandan bəri 32 beynəlxalq və regional təşkilatla müxtəlif sahələrdə əməkdaşlıq etməkdədir.

Türkmenistanın ilk əlaqələri İqtisadi Əməkdaşlıq Təşkilatı (İƏT), Avropada Təhlükəsizlik və Əməkdaşlıq Təşkilatı (ATƏT), Beynəlxalq Valyuta Fondu (BVF), Avropa Birliyi (AB), Birləşmiş Millətlər Təşkilatı (BMT), Şimali Atlantika Müqaviləsi Təşkilatı (NATO), Ümumdünya Bankı (ÜB) və Avropa Yenidənqurma və İnkişaf Bankı (AYİB) ilə yaradılmışdır. Birləşmiş Millətlər Təşkilatında Türkmenistan regional ixtilaflarda prezident Türkmenbaşının müəyyən etdiyi yeni, əmin-amanlıq yəradsn siyasət yeritməkdədir. Prezidentin konstruktiv vasitəçiliyi və BMT-nin köməyi ilə 1996-cı ildə illərlə davam edən Tacikistandakı daxili qanlı qarşıdurma sülh yolu ilə həll edildi. Həmçinin Əfqanıstanda sovet ordusu ölkədən çıxandan bəri müxtəlif tərəflər arasında aramsız gedən və ölkəni viran qoyan hərbi əməliyyatlar Türkmenbaşının və

BMT-nin müdaxiləsi nəticəsində dayandırıldı, atəşkəsə nail olundu. Müxalif tərəflər sülh danışıqları aparmaq üçün masa arxasına oturdular. Beləliklə, beynəlxalq aləmdə Türkmenistamn sülhsevər imici formalaşdı. Bitərəf dövlətin Mərkəzi Asiyada sülhün bərqərar olmasına xidmət edən bir mərkəzə çevrilməyə hazır olduğu nümayiş etdirildi.

Ölkədə inzibati və iqtisadi infrastrukturun dəyişdirilməsi və təkmilləşdirilməsi məqsədilə Türkmenistan AB, BVF, Ümumdünya Bankı, İƏT, AYİB ilə əməkdaşlıq etmişdir. İƏT Türkmenistana regionun böyük dövlətləri (Türkiyə, İran, Pakistan) ilə birlikdə böyük layihələr həyata keçirmək üçün imkan yaratmışdır. Regional və beynəlxalq təşkilatlar Türkmenistana iqtisadi sisteminin tədricən dəyişdirilməsi üçün maliyyə və texniki yardım göstərir.

Türkmen ekspertləri BMT-nin günəş enerjisi üzrə maliyyələşdirdiyi iki proqrama qoşuldular. Türkmenistan Mərkəzi Asiyada bu enerjinin tədqiqi və tətbiqi sahəsində mərkəz hesab edilir. YUNESKO Xəzər dənizinin səviyyəsinin dəyişməsinin səbəblərini öyrənən layihəni maliyyələşdirir, incəsənət, me'marlıq və mədəniyyət abidələrinin bərpasında iştirak edir. Xəzəryanı dövlətlər bu dənizin hüquqi statusunu müzakirə edərək, Tecen-Məşhəd-Sərxs dəmiryolunu çəkdilər. Bu, Mərkəzi Asiya dövlətlərini Fars körfəzi ilə bağlayacaq, İƏT-nin enerji komitəsi müştərək layihələr qəbul etmişdir: Bakı-Ceyhan və Qazaxıstan-Türkmenistan-Əfqanıstan-Pa-kistan neft boruları; Türkmenistan-İran-Türkiyə-Avropa təbii qaz borusu, Türkmenistan elektrik enerjisinin İran vasitəsilə 3-cü ölkələrə verilməsi və s.

Türkmenistan Helsinki sazişinə və NATO-nun "Sülh naminə tərəfdaşlıq" müqaviləsinə qoşulmuşdur. Bu sonuncu müqaviləni imzaladığı zaman Turkmenistan müqavilənin kollektiv özünümüdafiə konsepsiyasını əks etdirən 1-ci maddəsinin ona aid olmadığını qeyd etmişdir. Türkmenistanın silahlı qüvvələrinin əsas vəzifəsi yalnız özünün dövlət sərhədlərini qorumaqdır. Regional və beynəlxalq təşkilatlarla əməkdaşlıq edərək, Türkmenistan müxtəlif sahələrdə proqram və layihələr hazırlamışdır. Demək olar ki, Türkmenistanın bu təşkilatlarla əməkdaşlığı Türkmen hökuməti və xalqı üçün çox səmərəli və faydalıdır.