

Organization of Turkic States: Deepening Turkic Cooperation and Turkic World Vision-2040

Established in 2009 as an intergovernmental organization, the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (also known as the Turkic Council) has gradually become one of the main platforms for intensified cooperation between its five member states – Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan – and two observer states – Turkmenistan and Hungary. On November 12, 2021, during the 8th summit meeting held in Istanbul, the organization has changed its name to the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), which is an indication of the interest of the member and observer states in deepening their cooperation in the political, economic and cultural spheres. At this historic meeting, significant decisions have also been taken with regard to the modalities for obtaining observer and partner status at the OTS, while Türkiye assumed the chairmanship of the organization until the next summit to be held in Uzbekistan in 2022.

The Istanbul Summit was also quite remarkable because of the adoption of the “Turkic World Vision-2040” document, which could be regarded as a milestone in the evolution of Turkic cooperation as it is the first strategic vision document to set the ground for future cooperation in the Turkic world. It should also be noted that the OTS has been intensifying its efforts for institutionalization in the last few years in close cooperation with its related and affiliated organizations including TURKSOY, TURKPA, Turkic Academy and Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation.

With the goal of elaborating on regional cooperation in the Turkic world, this issue includes articles exploring the various dimensions of the OTS – also in accordance with Türkiye’s efforts to enhance Turkic cooperation during its chairmanship. We would especially like to thank Dr. Pelin Musabay Baki, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye who kindly accepted to act as a guest editor and collaborated with distinguished scholars from the OTS member and observer states in order to provide the most comprehensive analysis of the new role(s) played by the OTS in international relations. At a time when the OTS is turning into a key actor in the Turkic world, we believe that the articles of this issue are going to be valuable contributions to the emerging academic literature on this important regional organization.