

**THE FIRST MEETING OF THE HEADS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
CONSTITUTIONAL JURISDICTIONS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES**

***ISTANBUL DECLARATION ON
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
CONFERENCE OF CONSTITUTIONAL JURISDICTIONS
OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES
(TÜRK-AY)***

On 27 April 2022, on the occasion of the celebration of its 60th anniversary, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Turkey hosted in Istanbul the First Meeting of the Heads and Representatives of the Constitutional Jurisdictions of the Member States of the Organization of Turkic States (hereinafter referred to as the “Meeting”).

The Heads and Representatives of five (5) Constitutional Courts/Councils of the Member States of the Organization of Turkic States have participated in the Meeting.

The Turkish Constitutional Court is honored to undertake such an initiative and grateful to the participants for their utmost interest in the event.

We, the Heads and Representatives of the Constitutional Courts/Councils of the Member States of the Organization of Turkic States declare our commitment to contribute to further promotion of democracy, the rule of law, and protection of human rights in our respective countries. We also recognize that this onerous task is incumbent upon ourselves as the constitutional judges of the Turkic States. It takes great effort to fulfil the responsibility, considering the novel challenges in the constitutional and human rights adjudication arising in the context of social relations of the century and particularly requiring more solidarity in the Turkic world.

In this endeavor of safeguarding and strengthening the rule of law and human rights, it is of utmost importance, therefore, for us as the highest judicial institutions of the Turkic States to exchange views and experiences on the matters of common interest. We strongly believe that it would be further intriguing to establish a medium to ensure the continuation of such dialogue and to promote cooperation among the Turkic States. In order to engage in a more effective exchange with the countries of the Turkic world where constitutional adjudication is carried out, more flexible mediums are necessary with a smaller scale of network.

Within this scope, the Heads/Representatives of the Constitutional Courts/Councils of the Member States of the Organization of Turkic States present at the Meeting recognize the need for greater cooperation and agree in principle to engage in activities with a view to institutionalize a forum among the respective Courts/Councils and hereby resolve to:

1. Establish a constitutional law forum for the Member and Observer States of the Organization of Turkic States, as an independent forum which should avoid organizational formalities and procedure; rather, a flexible framework might be drawn up to exchange information and best practices, to share experiences, and to discuss issues of common interest in constitutional jurisprudence and practice among the Member/Observer States of the Organization of Turkic States, to hold round table discussions on the case-law of the respective Courts/Councils on annual or biannual basis and to contribute to strengthening the solidarity and cooperation among these respective institutions;

2. Officially launch this forum under the name of “*Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of the Member States of the Organization of Turkic States*” (in Turkish called as “*Türk Devletleri Teşkilatı Üyeleri Anayasa Yargısı Konferansı-TÜRK-AY*”);

3. Prepare the “*Statute of the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of the Organization of Turkic States (TÜRK-AY)*” prior to the next meeting of the Constitutional Courts/Councils of the Member States of the Organization of Turkic States in consultation with the respective Courts/Councils with particular regard to its flexible form and nature as mentioned above in Point 1. of the present Declaration and to be presented during the next meeting;

4. Hold the next Meeting to be hosted by Turkish Constitutional Court until the end of this year in order to adopt the Statute of the TÜRK-AY and to decide on the first term presidency and the preparation of the first Congress.

Istanbul, 27 April 2022

Signed on 27 April 2022 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey by:

..... Mr. Farhad ABDULLAYEV

Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan

..... Mr. Kairat MAMI

Chairman of the Constitutional Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan

..... Mr. Karybek DUISHEEV

Vice-Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Kyrgyz Republic

..... Prof. Dr. Zühtü ARSLAN

President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Turkey

..... Mr. Mirza-Ulugbek ABDUSALOMOV

Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan