

الدورة الثالثة لمنتدى الاقتصاد والتعاون العربي
مع دول آسيا الوسطى وجمهورية أذربيجان
الدوحة، دولة قطر - 30 ابريل 2024

The Third Session of the Arab Economic and Cooperation Forum
with Central Asian Countries and the Republic of Azerbaijan
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أصل الكلمة باللغة الإنجليزية

كلمة

كلمة سعادة السيد بابانياز يالاكوف
نائب وزير المالية والاقتصاد - تركمانستان

في الجلسة الافتتاحية

للاجتماع الوزاري للدورة الثالثة لمنتدى الاقتصاد والتعاون العربي
مع دول آسيا الوسطى وجمهورية أذربيجان

الدوحة - دولة قطر:

الثلاثاء 30 ابريل/ نيسان 2024

Speech by Mr. B. Yalakov, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan, at the Third Session of the Arab Economic and Cooperation Forum, Doha, 30 April 2024

His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is a great honor for me, on behalf of the delegation of Turkmenistan, to address the Third Session of the Arab Economic and Cooperation Forum with the countries of Central Asia and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

First and foremost, we would like to stress the high relevance of the issues being considered during this third meeting. Please allow me to highlight certain of them.

Today more than ever, it is important to coordinate our efforts in order to ensure sustainability and stability in the economic development of our countries. Energy and transport infrastructure and connectivity can be priority areas of our cooperation.

The energy policy of Turkmenistan is aimed at the comprehensive and integrated development of its fuel and energy sector, diversifying this sector and dynamically integrating it into the global energy system. A key aspect of the country's energy strategy is the expansion of the export geography of Turkmen energy deliveries to the world markets.

In this connection, I would like to highlight Turkmenistan's initiative to create a new international legal mechanism aimed at ensuring reliable and stable energy supplies to global markets, which has received the full understanding and support of the international community.

Achieving stable and reliable energy connectivity is one of the main priorities of Turkmenistan in the international arena. This is evidenced by three resolutions of the UN General Assembly on energy sustainability initiated by our country. The latest resolution, adopted in December 2023, outlined several important areas in relation to international energy, including the creation of a new international platform for the cooperation among governments, energy companies and financial institutions, as well as the development of effective tools to address global and regional disruptions in energy supplies.

In line with these goals and objectives, Turkmenistan suggests to the governments of interested countries that *Alliance for Cooperation on Global Energy Security and Sustainable Development* is established. The main principle of the partnership within such an alliance should be the indivisibility and interrelatedness of goals to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy sources for all.

Also, I would like to note that the development of sustainable transportation systems, logistical interconnectivity, building a reliable transport and communication infrastructure at the global level are of particular importance, especially in the context of global economic transformation.

At the World Government Summit in Dubai in February this year, the delegation of Turkmenistan headed by Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov announced the initiative of our state to create *Global Atlas of Sustainable Transport Connectivity*.

One of its main elements is to strengthen a multi-stakeholder partnership involving governments, international organizations, research institutions, the private sector and civil society to identify and implement a clear-cut sequence of long-term collaborative practical steps. What is also intended is to continuously analyze information and, based on that, develop mutually agreed solutions.

We also consider environmental issues to be an important area of cooperation.

Looking at the contemporary human development agenda, it would be hard not to notice that issues directly or indirectly related to the environment and environmental protection are becoming central and increasingly frequent in that agenda. These include climate, biodiversity conservation, risks of natural disasters, including floods, dust storms and sandstorms, land degradation and an even more acute issue of water scarcity.

All these challenges are real threats to the economic development and well-being of the peoples throughout the world and, in particular, in our region of Central Asia, including Turkmenistan. In order to confront these threats, all Central Asian states carry out active and large-scale work both at the national level and through mutual cooperation and collective measures by using various regional mechanisms and platforms, for example, such as the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development or the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination.

Thus, the problems of environmental protection are of paramount importance for the countries of our region and, in particular, for Turkmenistan, and require the involvement of efforts and cooperation from external partners, including such prominent and reputable partners as the Arab countries.

Today, we can note with regret that there is [still] a huge untapped potential in the cooperation between Turkmenistan, Central Asian countries and Arab States in the field of environmental protection.

I would also like to note that speaking at the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov said that “as a responsible state, Turkmenistan realizes the need to continue the focused work at the international and national levels to ensure further progress in combating climate change and its consequences”. In this regard, the Head of State announced Turkmenistan’s accession to the Global Methane Pledge.

Issues related to the reduction of methane emissions and the opening of the Regional Climate Technology Center [in Ashgabat], as well as the whole range of modern climate challenges could become important areas for further cooperation between the countries of the Arab world, Turkmenistan, Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan, both in the form of joint

environmental projects of national scale and in the form of active partnerships on regional and international platforms. In the same format, we propose to intensify cooperation in such major environmental areas as biodiversity conservation, combating desertification and land degradation, development of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.

In conclusion, I would like to once again wish us that this session becomes a new important milestone in the relationships between our countries in all areas of cooperation for the development and prosperity of our nations.

Thank you for your attention.