

**Trans-Altai Sustainability Dialogue**  
**Session on “International Perspectives on Trans-Altai Studies”**  
**Speech by TURKPA Secretary General Mehmet Süreyya ER**

*13 June 2023, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia*

*Thank you, Mr. Danuu.*

**Dear participants,  
Distinguished scholars,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

First of all, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Mr. Gombojav Zandanshatar, Chairman of the Parliament of Mongolia, for his invitation to this significant event. It is a great pleasure to represent the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States here, to be a part of this event and to address such a distinguished audience.

It is pleasant to visit this friendly country. As is known, relations of Mongolia with the Turkic world are not the product of the modern period, but have an ancient history. Close roots, geographical neighborhood, commonalities in terms of culture and traditions necessitated the close relations between the peoples. Intensive relations and exchanges contributed to the enrichment of culture.

From this point of view, Altai may be considered as a point of contact between the Turkic and Mongolian peoples, where the common values were formed. Researches in this field are important in terms of shedding light on the history of relations between the peoples and the values that bound them.

Altai, which has been the cradle of various cultures since ancient times, occupies an important place in the history of the Turkic world. Altai, which gave these cultures a spirit with its spiritual and biological energy, is also one of the most ancient homelands of Turkic peoples.

Altai is a spiritual value inspiring Turkic peoples who gave the humanity great states and outstanding personalities lived and created in all spheres. These lands bear the indelible traces of our ancestors, the Turkic Khaganate.

Study of these traces, preserving the rich heritage and passing it on to future generations are our important task.

In this context, I would like once again to emphasize the significance of the commendable joint archaeological expedition conducted by the Turkic Academy and the Mongolian Academy of Sciences in August 2022. Such researches and findings contribute to the new approach to the history of the Turkic world that eternally engraved its glorious traces in the world civilization.

Altai is not only a geographical and historical phenomenon, but also a cultural and spiritual phenomenon. Altai is a priceless treasure in terms of history, ethnography, culture and nature. These lands which have witnessed different periods of development of humanity, are rich with signs of culture. Unique examples of culture such as stone sculptures, rock carvings, runic script, mounds are of universal significance.

Ethnographic diversity of the region, original customs and traditions testify to harmonious intercultural interaction over the centuries. In this sense, Altai is an example of positive interaction of diversities and an environment of genuine dialogue of cultures. This factor is of great importance against the backdrop of global trends and the promotion of intercultural dialogue.

**Dear participants,**

The foregoing allows us to say that today, cooperation of Mongolia and Turkic states is a natural process. Studies emphasizing the importance of Turkic and Mongolian factors in Altai are the scientific basis of centuries-old relations between our peoples. Development of Altai studies could contribute to the further deepening of existing cooperation between the countries and passing it on to future generations.

In this context, interaction within the framework of Turkic cooperation platform could also play an important role. Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States is a cooperation organization of Turkic states bound by common history, culture, language, traditions and values. These commonalities which are the heritage left to us by our ancestors, give impetus to the development of our cooperation in all spheres.

TURKPA aims to develop multilateral cooperation in areas such as political, legal, economic, socio-cultural, education, environment and health protection among the Turkic states through parliamentary diplomacy. At the same time, the Assembly attaches great importance to the interaction with other parliaments and international organizations. In this context, participation of Mongolia in the activities of the Assembly in the future could have a positive impact on the development of cooperation between our countries.

**Dear participants,**

Prominent representatives of scientific community are participating in our session and I look forward to hearing their speeches and valuable opinions on the theme. Concluding my speech, I express my gratitude to the organizers for the high-level organization of the international forum and the warm hospitality, and wish success to the work of the event.

Thank you for your attention.