

**Opening Statement at the Meeting of  
IRU Liaison Committee to Eurasia (CLEA)**

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*by*

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Mr. Chairman!  
Mr. Secretary General!  
Excellencies!  
Distinguished Guests!  
Colleagues!

I'm very grateful first of all to the International Road Transport Union, especially to IRU Secretary General Umberto de Pretto for giving this opportunity to participate and make an opening statement at the meeting of Liaison Committee to Eurasia.

I would like to take this opportunity to express the gratitude of Government of Turkmenistan to the IRU for being one of the co-organizers of the International Conference «Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation, stability and sustainable development», which was held on 3-4 September, this year for its valuable contribution to and support for this event.

Today, development of transport has become a serious geopolitical factor, a powerful integration resource that can provide greater economic and political preferences for states and regions and promote a compatibility of their strategic interests by joining the vast spaces and production and resource potentials.

All this creates an opportunity to turn the transport segment in one of the main factors of the development of the world economy.

Creation of a modern, extensive and safe international transport infrastructure thus becomes an objective imperative of the global development, imposes the necessity of placing the discussion of this issue at the inter-regional and international levels as a separate long-term direction of multilateral cooperation.

For Turkmenistan, as a country located in a favorable geographical location, the development of transport and transit infrastructure is of particular importance. Based on this, our country has been consistently increasing its transport capacity, initiating and implementing major international and regional projects in the field of transport, designed to bring international economic and trade cooperation to a completely new level. Our activity also aims to ensure that impetus is given to inter-regional relations in the long term and that a foundation of architecture of a new geo-economic space on the Eurasian continent is laid down. In this sense, Turkmenistan stands as an economic bridge between Asia and Europe.

The key concept of determining the strategy of Turkmenistan in the transport sector is diversification which we consider as a decisive factor in the formation of a multivariate international transport infrastructure. Its development is one of the absolute priorities of Turkmenistan's policy, carried out by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

In this context, our country stands for the creation of new transport, transit and trade corridors for both «East-West» and «North-South», allowing integrating national transport systems of various regions of the continent into the global international communications network.

In this regard, importance is given to the implementation of the initiatives of the President of Turkmenistan to develop effective transport routes between the Caspian, Black and Baltic Seas.

Along with this, activities are being implemented on the formation of a transport network bringing together regions of Central, South and Southeast Asia with the Middle East and the Mediterranean.

The practical implementations of these ideas come to life through the construction of new railways and roads, as well as the activation of sea routes. An example of this is the construction of the railway Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran.

The initiative to create and implement this project belongs to the President of Turkmenistan. On the proposal of the Head of the Turkmen state, Presidents of the three countries - Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Iran, in October 2007 signed a Joint Declaration «On the Construction of the Railway Line «Uzen» (Kazakhstan)-Kyzylkaya-Bereket-Etrek (Turkmenistan) – Gorgan (Iran). As a result, on 1 December 2007 in Turkmenistan a trilateral intergovernmental agreement on the construction of this railway line was signed. On the same day, the Turkmen side started construction works on its territory.

As it is known, the longest section of the railway Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran with the length of about one thousand kilometers was constructed by Turkmen construction workers. Today, by this road and through the territory of Turkmenistan it will be possible to connect a large number of countries and regions in the North, West and East Eurasia with the South of the continent through the shortest and most economical routes.

Along with this, at the initiative of the President of Turkmenistan all necessary conditions have been currently put in place for the realization of another important transportation project, as transit corridor Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Oman. Its legal basis was quadripartite intergovernmental agreement «On establishment of a Transport Corridor «Central Asia-Middle East», signed in Ashgabat in April 2011.

At the same time, our country began construction of a new railway Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan, which is designed to serve as a link between the Central Asian region and South Asia.

The abovementioned transport corridors and other projects in the transport and communication sector in the nearest future will allow to expand the market of transport services. In its turn, this is due to an active foreign trade policy, marketing support, optimization) of transport tariffs between member countries of international transport corridors, and other issues.

An effective international cooperation in the field of transport plays an important role in this process. This was the subject of the International Conference at ministerial level, held in Ashgabat on 3-4 September this year, which was attended by the delegations from more than 30 countries and 16 international organizations. During a two-day event, participants discussed a wide range of issues concerning the development of effective cooperation in the transport sector. Its outcome was the adoption of the Ashgabat Declaration, which reflected the general approaches and principles for further cooperation in the transport sector of economy.

Based on the foregoing, our country notes that Turkmenistan will continue to pursue active transport policies, aimed at addressing the global challenges facing the international community in the context of sustainable development.

Thank you very much for your attention!