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Culture of peace

Sustainable development

Social development

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Zone of peace, trust and cooperation of Central Asia

## Letter dated 25 April 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement by the participants in the second meeting of the Youth Dialogue of Central Asian Countries, which was held on 16 April 2025 at United Nations Headquarters in New York on the theme "Tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security: voices of youth for peace and trust" (see annex).

I would be very grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 14, 18, 26, 61 and 64, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aksoltan Ataeva Ambassador Permanent Representative



## Annex to the letter dated 25 April 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

## Statement by the participants in the second meeting of the Youth Dialogue of Central Asian Countries

We, the participants in the second meeting of the Youth Dialogue of Central Asian Countries, held on 16 April 2025 at United Nations Headquarters in New York on the theme "Tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security",

Based on our commitment to the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations and guided by the principles of the culture of peace and trust,

## Declare the following:

- 1. Recognizing the importance of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015), which was the first document in history to formalize the role of youth in the maintenance of peace and security, we note its historical significance. Over the past 10 years, the international community has made significant progress in implementing the provisions of the resolution, including developing national strategies and action plans, organizing international youth meetings and launching initiatives to engage young people in peacekeeping activities. We reaffirm the relevance of the youth, peace and security agenda and the commitment to further realize its goals.
- 2. We note that 2025 was declared the International Year of Peace and Trust by General Assembly resolution 78/266 of 21 March 2024. This is a global initiative to highlight the importance of strengthening peace initiatives and dialogue among peoples and generations, and of promoting a culture of trust in international relations. Particular importance is attached to the role of youth as agents of social change capable of building inclusive and sustainable communities. We highly appreciate this initiative and intend to contribute to its realization by promoting the ideas of peace and trust at all levels.
- 3. Recalling the landmark thirtieth anniversary of the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan established in 1995, which was recognized by General Assembly resolution 50/80 A of 12 December 1995 and reaffirmed twice, by Assembly resolution 69/285 of 3 June 2015 and the Assembly resolution of 21 March 2025, we emphasize that the policy of neutrality has become an important contribution to strengthening peace and stability in Central Asia. Neutrality, which has become a symbol of the commitment to peaceful principles, today serves as a solid basis for the development of an atmosphere of trust and good-neighbourliness in the region. We welcome the efforts of Turkmenistan and other countries of the region to promote the ideals of peace and mutual respect, including through the annual celebration of the International Day of Neutrality on 12 December and the work of the Group of Friends of Neutrality at the United Nations.
- 4. We note the importance of the Economic and Social Council youth forum, which contributes to strengthening the role of youth as active participants in positive changes in the Central Asian region and the world.
- 5. We emphasize the contribution of Central Asia to peace, sustainability and inter-State cooperation. The Central Asian region today is a space for active dialogue and creative interaction. Welcoming the declaration in General Assembly resolution 76/299 of 28 July 2022 of Central Asia as a zone of peace, trust and cooperation, we

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note that our States are consistently strengthening regional cohesion. Regular consultative meetings of the Central Asian Heads of States, the work of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia in Ashgabat and other multilateral initiatives contribute to jointly addressing security and development challenges in the region. We are convinced that the further deepening of inter-State cooperation in Central Asia provides a solid foundation for the peace and prosperity of our peoples.

- 6. We note demographic trends in the region, where young people make up a significant proportion of the population. In today's world, more than half of the population is under the age of 30, and Central Asia is no exception. Young people are not only beneficiaries of peace, but also active participants and leaders in peacebuilding processes, with great creative potential. We call for the energy, skills and innovative ideas of the younger generation to continue to be harnessed for the benefit of the region's sustainable development.
- 7. We call for regional environmental cooperation to be intensified and for the exchange of technologies and best practices for "green" development to be expanded. Young people in Central Asia are ready to participate in promoting the environmental agenda, including initiatives on biodiversity conservation, renewable energy development and building a culture of environmental stewardship.
- 8. We welcome the efforts of our States to develop cooperation in the water and energy sector for example, within the framework of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and through bilateral agreements and call for the further strengthening of this cooperation. Young professionals and activists are ready to make their contribution from scientific research and innovations in water conservation to public education to ensure that water resources in Central Asia are used equitably and sustainably for peace and development.
- 9. We recognize the importance of digitalization and of developing new technologies for the prosperity and consolidation of our region. Digital transformation offers a wide range of opportunities for education, entrepreneurship and increased access to information and services for young people. Already today, the digital economy and innovation are driving growth in our countries. We recognize the potential of digital diplomacy and online communications as tools for peace consolidation. We call on Governments, the private sector and international partners to work together to ensure that the fruits of digitalization benefit all: to invest in information and communications infrastructure and digital literacy, especially for rural youth; to counteract online hate speech and violence; and to create safe online spaces that promote dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation among different groups of young people. For their part, the young leaders of Central Asia pledge to utilize the power of social media and technology to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and mutual respect, and to unite young people for positive change.
- 10. We reaffirm our determination to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable development and peace are mutually reinforcing progress towards the Goals helps to address the root causes of conflict, while a peaceful environment makes it possible to focus on development. Central Asian countries have already made significant progress in achieving some of the Goals. We encourage further joint work to achieve the Goals in our region. Young people in Central Asia are ready to play an active role in the achievement of the Goals at the local and national levels and to bring innovative approaches to these processes.
- 11. We believe that it is extremely important to further strengthen the participation of young people in public and political life and in decision-making at all

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levels, from local to global. We welcome the steps taken by our States to strengthen the role of youth, including the establishment of youth parliaments and councils, the adoption of national youth work programmes and the creation of volunteer movements. This dialogue platform - the Youth Dialogue of Central Asian Countries - is itself a testament to our determination to institutionalize youth interaction in the region. The establishment of this Dialogue in October 2023 in Arkadag, Turkmenistan, was a landmark event that laid the foundation for regular meetings and the consolidation of youth efforts for peace. We express our gratitude to the Government of Turkmenistan for taking the initiative to create this platform and support the idea of holding such forums on a regular basis in the future. In this regard, the participants support the idea of preparing draft regulations on the procedure for holding the Youth Dialogue of Central Asian Countries, providing for annual meetings on a rotational basis in the States of the region, and defining the objectives, structure and principles of this platform. Such a document will contribute to strengthening the sustainability and coherence of youth cooperation in the region. We are confident that the consistency and continuity of our meetings will allow young people to be more systematically involved in addressing the pressing challenges of the region and will expand their opportunities to influence positive changes.

- 12. We declare our readiness to contribute to upcoming international events aimed at promoting peace and sustainable development. We call on United Nations Member States and their youth representatives to actively participate in the Youth Forum of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3), to be held in August 2025 at the Avaza National Tourist Zone in Turkmenistan. We see this upcoming forum as an important opportunity to bring the voice of our region's youth to the world agenda, to share our ideas and initiatives with the youth of other countries and to contribute to addressing common challenges facing landlocked countries, including Central Asian States. At the forum we intend to present the results of our dialogue and our jointly developed best practices and project proposals, in order to enrich the global discussion and to emphasize the role of youth as a partner in implementing LLDC3 solutions.
- Asia are determined to continue to be active participants in the movement for peace, trust and sustainable development. We call on United Nations Member States, United Nations system entities and international partners to support our efforts and initiatives. This statement reflects the consolidated position and aspirations of the young leaders of our region. We request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the United Nations in all six official languages of the United Nations so that the voices of Central Asian youth can be heard globally. We believe that by strengthening partnership and dialogue between the young generations of our countries, we are laying a solid foundation for peace, trust and prosperity in Central Asia and throughout the world.

New York, United Nations Headquarters 16 April 2025

On behalf of the participants in the second meeting of the Youth Dialogue of Central Asian Countries

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