

## Uzbekistan – Turkmenistan: a new stage of cooperation

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**On April 23, the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov arrived in Uzbekistan on a state visit at the invitation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev.**

At the meeting in a narrow format, the need to further strengthen cooperation in countering terrorism, extremism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and other threats to international security was noted.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev expressed gratitude to Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for supporting the initiative of holding the first consultative meeting of the heads of states of Central Asia, which was held on March 15 this year in Astana.

During the negotiations at the extended format, issues of further development of trade and economic cooperation, strengthening bilateral relations in petrochemical, transport-communication, agricultural, cultural, humanitarian and other spheres were discussed.

Following the negotiations at Kuksaroy residence, a ceremony of signing bilateral documents took place. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov signed the Joint Statement.

17 documents aimed at further strengthening and progressive development of bilateral cooperation in political, trade-economic, investment, transport-communication, educational and sports spheres were signed.

In particular, an Intergovernmental agreement on interregional cooperation, intergovernmental cooperation programs in the field of transport for 2018-2020 and scientific technical cooperation for 2019-2021, agreements on establishment of trading houses in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, creation of the Business Council between the chambers of commerce and industry of the two countries, a program of cooperation between the ministries of foreign affairs of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan for 2019 were signed.

Documents have also been adopted on strengthening bilateral cooperation in agriculture, sport, science, technology, and other spheres. They include an agreement on cooperation in the field of plant quarantine, memoranda of understanding between trade unions, women's committees and youth organizations of the two countries.

Within the framework of the visit, 15 documents were also signed between universities and in information and communication sphere.

At the meeting with representatives of the mass media, the Presidents noted that the negotiations were held in the spirit of openness, sincerity and constructive atmosphere, the signed documents will serve to further development of multifaceted and friendly relations in the interests of people of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

In May 2017, as a sign of eternal friendship and brotherhood of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan people, one of the streets of Tashkent was named after Makhtumkuli and a monument was opened in his honor.

In the second half of the day Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov visited this street. The heads of states laid flowers at the monument to the outstanding Turkmen poet and thinker Makhtumkuli.

This alley, having acquired the appearance of a single ensemble, made a great impression on Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. He expressed gratitude to the President of Uzbekistan for the respect shown to people, literature and culture of Turkmenistan.

On the occasion of the visit of the President of Turkmenistan to Uzbekistan, the Ashgabat Park was created on Makhtumkuli Street. The heads of states took part in the opening ceremony of this park.

Presidents got acquainted with conditions created here, planted trees with good intentions.

On April 24, the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, who is in Uzbekistan on a state visit, arrived in Khorezm region.

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