Kamran Imanov

Report at the Second meeting of the Heads of Intellectual Property Institutions of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS)

Baku – 2026

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Chairman of the Board of the Intellectual Property Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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This booklet has been prepared based on the report of Kamran Imanov, Chairman of the Board of the Intellectual Property Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, at the Second Meeting of the Heads of Intellectual Property Institutions of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), held in Baku on 12 October 2026.

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Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues!

First of all, I would like to sincerely welcome our esteemed guests who have arrived in Baku to participate in the Second Meeting of Heads of Intellectual Property Offices of the Member States of the Organization of Turkic States.

Mr. Merey Mukazhan, Deputy Secretary General of the Organization of Turkic States;

Ms. Sholpan Abdreeva, Chairperson of the Committee for Intellectual Property Rights of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

His Excellency **Mr. Maksat Mamytkanov,** Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Republic of Azerbaijan;

Professor Dr. Muhammed Zeki Durak, President of the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office — TURKPATENT;

Mr. Erkin Yılmaz, Director General of the Directorate General for Copyrights, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey;

Mr. Muzraf Ikramov, Deputy Minister of Justice, Head of the Intellectual Property Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

I sincerely welcome all of you: **"Welcome to Azerbaijan, to Baku!"**

At the same time, I sincerely welcome the **other members of delegations, experts, and representatives** who have arrived in our country together with our esteemed guests.

I express my gratitude to each of you for accepting our invitation and participating in this important meeting.

Dear participants of the meeting,

1. The unstable political situation observed in the world today, the complex processes and various manifestations of tension taking place, and the formation of new political realities once again actualize the significance of close economic partnership, political dialogue, and joint cooperation among states, as well as solidarity based on historical and spiritual roots.

Azerbaijan occupies an important and strategic position in the Caucasus region and the

Turkic world. Our country acts as an initiating state connecting these two large geographical areas through various projects and at the same time plays the role of a strategic center. Following the complete restoration of our country's territorial integrity and sovereignty, the new realities formed in the region have created new historical opportunities for the establishment of sustainable peace, stability, and tranquility.

One of the priority directions of our country's foreign policy is the unity of the Turkic world. Because today, the close integration of Turkic states is a historical necessity dictated by the requirements of the modern period.

It was precisely in Azerbaijan that the foundation of the institutional unity of Turkic countries was laid. In October 2009, at the 9th Summit of the Heads of Turkic States held in the city of Nakhchivan, the foundation of the Organization of Turkic States was laid with the signing of the Nakhchivan Agreement. This historical event fundamentally changed the geostrategic appearance of the Turkic world. Holding the first informal summit of the Organization of Turkic States in July 2024 precisely in the city of Shusha—the cultural capital of Azerbaijan—and the signing of the

historic "Karabakh Declaration" marked the beginning of defining the future direction of development of the Organization.

Azerbaijan, being the only Turkic state in the Caucasus, plays an important role in the Turkic world. To ensure unshakable unity among Turkic states and achieve sustainable economic development, it is necessary to strengthen trade and investment ties. **Indeed, political unions with weak economic ties find it difficult to be long-lasting and stable.** The growth of mutual economic interdependence, the expansion and diversification of ties strengthen the political solidarity of the Turkic world and further accelerate the transformation of the organization into a center of power at the global level.

Currently, cooperation within the framework of the Organization of Turkic States is not limited exclusively to political dialogue, but is deepening in such vital areas as economics, trade, transport and logistics, spiritual and national values, security, and the defense industry. Today, the Turkic world covers a vast geographical space and possesses significant potential. The total territory of the OTS member states exceeds 4.2 million square kilometers, and the population approaches 180 million people.

If we consider the economic indicators of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, and Uzbekistan in aggregate, the total nominal gross domestic product of the OTS member states significantly exceeds 2 trillion US dollars.

If this economic potential is evaluated as a single economy, the OTS member states can enter the ranks of approximately the top 12 largest economic powers of the world. This significant demographic and territorial potential, rich natural resources, and strategic transport corridors transform the Turkic world into an influential subject of global politics.

The idea expressed by the head of our state on September 17, 2026, during the reception of security leadership figures of the OTS member states, clearly reflects the importance of Unity and the significance of strengthening the economic potential and mutual interests of our countries aimed at achieving this goal: **"With Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, we have created joint investment funds, an active process of attracting and mobilizing mutual investments is underway. That is, the bilateral agenda of our country is primarily oriented towards the countries of the Turkic world... ...And including he said**

that the Turkic world is our family, and we have no other family."

On September 15, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, receiving a delegation consisting of members and observers of the Council of Heads of Muslim Religious Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), co-organizers of the International Conference dedicated to Yahya Bakuvi, and members of the Supreme Religious Council of the Peoples of the Caucasus, particularly emphasized: "Our unity will strengthen each of us. Because alone we may face difficulties, but when the Turkic world, the Caucasus, the Islamic world are together, no one can harm us. No one can commit an injustice against us. That is why as a state and within the framework of the state policy pursued by us, we always attach paramount importance to this factor."

The Head of State at this meeting also noted: **"An undeclared war is being waged against our religion, against the Islamic world, and Islamophobia is just a small component of it. Discrediting the Muslim world, smearing it, identifying it with terror, insulting actions directed against our values,**

against the holy Quran—do you really think that all this happens by chance? ... This is a targeted policy. And what should we oppose this with? Only our unity! Therefore, this call for unity is not just a slogan. Azerbaijan is one of the rare Muslim countries participating in European organizations. Therefore, we know what is happening there. As a member of the Council of Europe, we have faced this injustice, we are facing it, and probably we will face it..." So "...we must all strive for unity."

Of special interest are also the following **statements of the Head of State made on September 17, 2026:**

"Another advantage of our organization is that it unites countries of common ethnic roots. There are not so many such organizations in the world. If you look at the list of international organizations, you will rarely see a similar picture. And this is an important factor of consolidation, since not only economic and political interests, but also relations between people, between peoples living on the territory of our countries play an important role in strengthening our interaction. Therefore, such spiritual community, similarity of

cultures, languages, common ethnic roots—all this cements our organization and gives it special significance."

On September 17, 2026, during the reception of security leadership figures of the OTS member states, Mr. President, speaking about the preservation of traditions and spiritual values, noted:

"And, of course, it is also very important to note what else the similarity of our countries and peoples is—that we are committed to our moral, national principles. And in our countries, national principles, principles of national self-awareness prevail over all others that they sometimes try to impose on us from the outside. And this is also very important so that our young generation in our countries is brought up in the spirit of patriotism and commitment to national principles, the principles of our morality..."

Dear friends!

A most important task lies before the OTS – the further strengthening of its positions. In this regard, it is necessary to ensure a more systematic transformation of the

existing potential into economic power. It is necessary within the framework of a single strategic approach to connect the most important mutually complementary resources, including energy resources, transport capabilities, favorable geographical position, human capital, investment potential, and common cultural values, and thereby further increase the influence and weight of the Turkic world in the system of international relations.

The main opportunity lies precisely in combining this potential within a single system. It should be noted that **a common history creates a spiritual basis, economic cooperation gives this closeness material content, coordination in the sphere of security strengthens mutual trust, and political will turns these directions into a strategic goal.**

From the point of view of this strategic approach, **unity means peace and security for the Turkic states.**

We, representatives of intellectual property organizations of the Turkic states, must build our work within the framework of precisely this position. I particularly note that in the period of rapid development of digitalization and artificial intelligence technologies, new challenges arise for intellectual property systems alongside new

opportunities. In accordance with these global processes, Azerbaijan is pursuing a consistent and targeted policy in the field of digital transformation and artificial intelligence.

We believe that artificial intelligence (AI), being one of the greatest inventions of human civilization, in combination with big data analytics exerts a revolutionary impact and represents one of the most pressing issues of our time. Because currently, their use in professional circles and society generates a whole range of debatable ethical and legal issues that require resolution. Among them are the question of the legal personality of AI, moral and ethical aspects of responsibility for damage caused by AI, distribution of rights to objects created by AI, and other issues.

Joint work and exchange of views in this direction would be very useful.

Dear friends!

2. We have put forward proposals for the creation of a regional structure designed to confirm and strengthen our cooperation in the field of intellectual property. I would like to share my thoughts with you on this issue.

The creation of a regional organization can be viewed as a transition from independent decision-making by states to institutionally fixed cooperation.

Let us pose the following question: what advantages exist for states participating in such cooperation? To what extent can these advantages be offset when decision-making powers are transferred to a centralized level?

In fact, the interests of the participating parties may either coincide or not coincide. Along with the common interest of the parties in obtaining such benefits as market expansion, security provision, and infrastructure development, competition may also arise between them regarding the distribution of these benefits and associated costs.

From the standpoint of **game theory without opposing interests**, such benefits are achieved by participants as a result of a compromise, unlike a game based on opposing interests (a zero-sum game), where the gain of one party is achieved at the expense of the loss of another party.

From the point of view of **coalitional game theory**, the regional structure being created will represent a stable coalition if it relies on solutions based on coalitional equilibria or Pareto-optimal

solutions, when participants do not find it expedient to change their decisions (strategies). **The essence of such stable coalitional decisions is that the parties have the opportunity to obtain a result that is unattainable or more costly if they acted each separately.** In other words, in this case, the total gain of the coalition exceeds the sum of the gains of the parties when acting separately, and **this difference in the form of an additional gain is a consequence of cooperation.**

In a word, the gain of a cooperating structure is not the arithmetic sum of the national structures participating in them, i.e., not 2x2=4, but rather 2x2=4 plus "something," and from this "something," each of the parties must have its share born of cooperation. That is, this is a consequence of synergetics, and if this share did not exist, there would be no benefit for each of the parties, and cooperation would become alogical or unstable.

In the classical coalitional model, the core of the game serves to prevent separatist tendencies, that is, such a distribution of gains that cannot be blocked by any coalition.

In our case, the common benefit can be born not only from faster and higher-quality regional examination and legal protection for

all participants in each of their territories, but also at the expense of a more economical protection system, financial revenues, and also introduction to innovations.

Thus, the creation of a new cooperation structure with the transfer of powers to a regional organization is a agreed limitation of independence for the sake of the expected gain from sustainable cooperation (see the experience of the European Patent Organisation and the Eurasian Patent Organization).

Dear friends!

3. I cannot fail to mention yet another issue that concerns us. The majority of the participating five Turkic states manage both traditional branches of IP, i.e., Copyright and Industrial Property (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan), which testifies in favor of the name "Organization of Turkic States for IP," and we advocate for the presence of both directions within the framework of the joint organization.

The registration of industrial property objects, including preliminary examination and substantive examination, is generally carried out on the basis of examination results. The main

feature of the examination is the application of **the principle of opposition and comparison.** At the same time, in countries where voluntary registration of copyright and related rights is provided, such registration has a confirmatory character, since these objects are protected according to the norms of the law on the condition that, being the result of creative activity, they also meet the requirement of being expressed in an objective form. To a certain extent, making a decision on granting legal protection to an industrial property object exclusively on the basis of preliminary examination is similar to the registration of copyright objects. Such an approach is applied in a number of countries.

At the same time, industrial property objects presented for registration, as a result of creative activity, can simultaneously be objects protected by copyright. In this regard, when registering industrial property objects, the consent of the right holders to their use is required, i.e., a license for the right of reproduction upon entering the relevant information into the Register and their publication (printing). Such an intersection of rights also takes place during the process of registration of patents and means of individualization (trademarks and geographical

indications). If the copyright to the industrial property object belongs to the applicant themselves, problems are resolved quite simply. However, if the author (right holder) is another person, the situation becomes complicated, since a necessity arises to attach to the application their consent to use the corresponding object. At the same time, the examination must carry out a check of the declared materials, and if registration is carried out by different agencies (copyright agencies and patent offices), this procedure is significantly complicated due to the absence of a single registration database. If there arises a necessity to check all objects protected by copyright, then, due to the actual absence of such a database, conducting such a check, as a rule, becomes impossible.

The situation becomes even more complicated when the question arises about the possibility of **simultaneous or parallel legal protection of an object by copyright and industrial property law.**

And indeed, in a changing world, if previously parallel protection was rejected and this was motivated by the fact that the applicant themselves had to choose in what capacity the IP object declared by them is protected, nowadays a trend towards parallel protection

under various legal regimes has emerged. For example, the US Patent and Trademark Office in its Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, in cases of intersection of copyright and patent rights, indicates that an ornamental design patent may also be protected by copyright, and for this, the applicant is required to include a copyright notice by means of the symbol © in the registration application.

The copyright holder must declare that they do not object to the reproduction of the patent document or the description of the invention in the form in which it entered the Patent Register, and then they retain copyrights. **And this means that copyrights are protected in parallel with rights to the industrial property object.**

Let us consider an example of a collision of copyrights with rights to an industrial design in the case when the copyright holder is not the applicant, but another person. In such a case, the consent of this right holder must mandatory be attached to the application documents. Otherwise, they can not only challenge the registration for the industrial design but also demand the suppression of actions for the use of the corresponding object. Consequently, when registering rights to an industrial design, **priority is given to the presence of copyright.**

However, when considering cases in courts on the violation of industrial design rights, priority is given to examining the violation of industrial design rights, in particular from the standpoint of originality and novelty. In the absence of such a violation, the question of violation of exclusive copyrights is then considered. The indicated doctrine of the hierarchy of rights is connected with the criteria for granting legal protection. At the same time, due to the lack of the possibility of verification on the part of the registry examination of all protected copyright-law objects, publication and objections submitted in this regard **serve to reveal unfair presentation of information.**

Dear friends!

4. With your permission, I would like to dwell on our initial proposal put forward by Azerbaijan regarding the protection of our Turkic traditions.

As is known, traditions accompany us from the mother's womb to our final resting place.

Traditions are diverse in themselves, but what unites them is that they are elements of our socio-cultural heritage. Such are customs, behavioral norms, rites, etc. And in our socio-cultural tradition, a special place is occupied by

"morality," evolutionarily connected with ethics and morals and acting as the core of our culture, filling our traditions, rites, and customs.

The elements of our cultural tradition, in turn, **find reflection one way or another in our folklore (traditional cultural expressions - TCEs and traditional knowledge - TK).**

Since the desire to know and feel one's roots is inherent in the very nature of human beings, and precisely this method of expressing belonging to a certain culture is folklore, based on tradition and permeated by it. This is an important argument of our identity.

Covering all aspects of cultural heritage, folklore is rightly called the **"archaeology of the human spirit."**

Traditions arise naturally, just like climate, vegetation, mineral deposits in a certain territory, in a certain geographical niche, and only the course of the historical process makes them a most important resource and a most precious part of national wealth.

Folklore indeed does not face death from old age, since it is evidence of the past, without which the present has no future. For this reason, folklore represents a living and constantly evolving tradition. It is not just a herald of the

past, folklore develops, is born today as well, and is simultaneously both a past system, the basis of today's functioning system, and a source for creating a new one.

Everything new that is born in folklore is formed within tradition and in interaction with it.

And just as today's tradition is progress in the past, so too today's progress will become tomorrow's tradition.

In a word, folklore is the focus of our cultural traditions and a constantly replenished treasury. **Let us emphasize once again that folklore is such a heritage of our past without which our future is impossible.**

In order to skillfully manage such a resource, it is necessary to preserve it, create a legal protection field for it, develop it, and save it for subsequent generations. Consequently, the wealth and diversity of cultural traditions is not only spiritual soil for the development of the ethnic unity of a people, but also a resource of its economic flourishing.

It was precisely for the purpose of creating a legal mechanism for the protection of folklore in the Republic of Azerbaijan that the Law **"On the Legal Protection of Expressions of Azerbaijani Folklore"** was adopted in 2003, and

currently a set of measures for its implementation is being carried out.

The international community has shown great interest in the legal measures undertaken in Azerbaijan in the field of folklore protection and gave them high appreciation. In particular, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in its concluding document of 2004 particularly noted the positive work carried out in connection with the adoption of the specified law.

Traditional knowledge is protected within the framework of the public domain of the Law "On Copyright and Related Rights."

The considerations expressed by me relate to the protection of intangible cultural heritage.

I want to say a few words about the protection of tangible cultural heritage and the traditions established in Azerbaijan in this sphere:

The results of the many years of occupation of Karabakh and Eastern Zangazur, including the barbaric destruction and desecration of mosques and objects of Islamic cultural heritage, are well known to the whole world. However, after our victory, what was experienced did not become a subject of revenge and retaliatory policy on the part of Azerbaijan regarding the Christian cultural heritage. **Moreover, the preservation of**

Christian monuments is an integral part of Azerbaijan's responsibility for its own historical and cultural heritage. Objects of Christian cultural heritage on our sovereign territory are our cultural heritage regardless of their origin and confessional affiliation. Historical heritage is part of our country's cultural heritage, which has been removed from the framework of confessional confrontation and, as a consequence, must be protected and preserved for future generations. The traditions of religious coexistence, religious tolerance, absence of interfaith confrontations, and respect for various religions in our country go back to the ancient history of Azerbaijan. The territory of Azerbaijan was one of the ancient centers of fire worship, one of the hearths of the early spread of Christianity, and also one of the regions where Islam began to spread at an early stage.

The land of Azerbaijan is one of the ancient centers of fire worship and one of the early hearths of the spread of Christianity, as well as one of the first regions of the spread of Islam. The modern tradition of multiculturalism, being the result of a historically established tradition of religious coexistence, was additionally strengthened by state policy.

I wish everyone success and express my gratitude for your attention.

Prepared in the Intellectual Property Agency
of the Republic of Azerbaijan.