

**Embassy of India  
Ashgabat**

**May 12, 2023**

**Economic & Commercial Report 2022-23**

**BILATERAL**

**Turkmenistan's foreign trade with India during 2022-23 (In US \$ million)**

Items	2022-23 (April – February) *
Total Trade Turn Over	168.05
Imports (Turkmenistan to India)	83.00
Exports (India to Turkmenistan)	85.05
Balance (deficit for Turkmenistan)	-2.05

\*(as per MoC data)

1. Embassy in association with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan, and Export Promotion Centre (EPC), Madurai organized a video-conference between Indian and Turkmen business entities on June 15, 2022. More than 70 business entities engaged in food, agriculture, textile and engineering sectors participated in the event which was held in the Chamber's premises. Representatives from Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Textiles as well as Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan were present during the video-conference.
2. The Embassy of India, Ashgabat, in association with the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and Indian Association of Tour Operator (IATO) organized a hybrid B2B meeting between Indian and Turkmen businessmen in hospitality sector on September 13, 2022. Around 30 business persons from both the sides participated in the event.
3. In a virtual meeting between Anipra Impex LTD (Indian Company) and Türkmendeňizderýaollary (Turkmen Maritime and River Transport agency) potential of cargo transportation through the Turkmenbashi Seaport was discussed.
4. Embassy hosted VC on Strengths & Opportunities in Indian Electronics & IT Sector on March 14, 2023. More than 80 businessmen & companies from India and Turkmenistan engaged in Electronics & ICT sectors participated in the event.
5. Embassy organized two virtual meetings on 16.03.2023 & 05.04.2023 between NIC and 'Turkmentelekom' Telecommunication Company and STPI and Agency of Turkmenistan <<Turkmenaragatnasyk>> (Communications of Turkmenistan) respectively. The main objectives of meeting was to help in increasing the level of skills of Turkmen specialists on creation of IT Technopark and Startup platform in order to move to digital economy.

**UPDATE ON COVID-19**

6. Turkmenistan has officially not recorded any COVID-19 cases and continues to deny the existence of the disease in the country. Restaurants, theatres, shopping complexes, places of worship etc. have been reopened and use of masks in open areas has been discontinued.

7. Turkmen airlines has resumed regular flights to Frankfurt, Istanbul, Moscow, Dubai, Delhi, Beijing, London, and Bangkok. Flights to Delhi currently operate once in a week on Sundays.

**INTERNAL:**

8. Turkmenistan held Presidential elections on March 12, 2022 in which Serdar Berdimuhamedov, son of former President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov (GB) was elected as the new President of Turkmenistan.
9. As on April 1, 2023, the total amount of loans allocated by credit institutions of Turkmenistan to enterprises, organizations and population amounted to 89.2 billion manats (approx. US\$ 25.49 billion) which is 11.5% more as compared to the same period of 2022.
10. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan organized a competition for identifying by competitive means the best proposal for development of national brand "Made in Turkmenistan".
11. Agency for Transport and Communications along with state owned agencies "Türkmen demir ýollary" (Turkmen Railways), Turkmenawtoulaglary (Turkmen Road Transport), Türkmen deňiz derýa ýollary (Turkmen Maritime and River Transport) and Türkmen howa ýollary (Turkmenistan Airlines) agencies, state owned company Transport and Logistics Centre of Turkmenistan (TULM), Turkmen Forum and Turkmen Logistics Association (TLA) organized a two day conference "International Transport and Transit Corridors: Interconnection and Development" on July 18-19, 2022 in Ashgabat in hybrid mode.
12. Turkmenistan hosted an international exhibition and scientific conference on "Healthcare, education and sports in the era of the Revival of a new era of a powerful state" on 10.10.2022. The event featured over 150 foreign manufacturers of pharmaceutical products, medical equipment and supplies, natural cosmetics and baby food.
13. The 27th Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan (OGT) Conference was organized from 27-29 October 2022. The 3-day forum focused on Turkmenistan's oil, gas, and chemical sector prospects, investment opportunities in the country's energy sector & new gas and projects in the Caspian Sea. More than 50 companies participated in the conference. On the sidelines of OGT, Türkmennebit (Turkmen Oil) and the German company Hybrid Innovation GmbH signed a 6-million-euro contract for the supply of technological equipment to Turkmenistan. Türkmennebit and Dragon Oil (UAE) also signed an agreement on cooperation on conducting 3D seismic works on Block 19 of the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea.
14. As per new Law "On Amendments and Additions to the Tax Code of Turkmenistan", the excise rates for alcohol products produced and alcohol and tobacco products imported into Turkmenistan has been increased by 5-20 % w.e.f 01 January 2023.
15. Turkmenistan approved the state budget for 2023 amounting to more than 95.1 billion manats which is 11.1 percent higher than the budget for 2022.
16. The value of online transactions in Turkmenistan reportedly exceeded 12.9 billion Manats during the period January-November 2022.
17. During the cabinet meeting on 12.01.2023, PSB approved signing of a contract with Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. (China) to purchase equipment, software and licenses, transportation, installation, commissioning and technical support in the context of expanding the fixed telephone network in provinces and Ashgabat City.

18. From March 1, 2023, new tariffs have been introduced in Turkmenistan for filing a Transit Declaration in the ASYCUDA World customs information system and for filling in the relevant information in the Digital Customs Operation software. According to reports, fees for registration of permits and international waybill SMR for vehicle transporting transit cargo from railway station or cargo yard of Turkmenistan or other countries reduced in Turkmenistan.
19. On March 13, 2023, Turkmen delegation led by the Chairman of State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan Mr. Rahimberdi Jepbarov held a series of meetings with representatives of the WTO, the International Trade Center and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The meetings were focused on Turkmenistan's vision for the WTO accession process and the possibility of launching a working program to prepare the initial documentation in lieu of becoming full WTO member.
20. Turkmenistan received the first of two Airbus A330-200 P2F cargo plane ordered– the first such aircraft to be used in Central Asia.
21. According to reports, the State Bank of Economic Activity of Turkmenistan launched a new visa Virtual bank card for e-shopping in foreign online stores.
22. Recently, Turkmen tomatoes received the GLOBAL G.A.P. certificate.
23. As per government reports, during the period January –December 2022, Turkmenistan's GDP grew by 6.2%. For the year 2023, Turkmenistan aims to increase the country's GDP by 6.5% for which President of Turkmenistan approved the Program of Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2023.
24. The foreign trade turnover of Turkmenistan in 2022 reportedly amounted to US\$20 billion.

## **EXTERNAL:**

### **Armenia:**

25. The ninth meeting of the Intergovernmental Turkmen-Armenian Commission on Economic Cooperation was held on 13.09.2022 in Ashgabat. Both the parties agreed to promote increase in trade turnover and expand the range of exported goods by establishing contacts between business circles of the countries and organization of meetings. Reportedly, the trade turnover between Armenia and Turkmenistan during year 2022 amounted to \$11.52 million.

### **Austria**

26. On November 30, 2022, the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Turkmen-Austrian Joint Commission was held in Ashgabat. Both the parties discussed projects in the field of construction, infrastructure, energy, environmental protection technologies and consulting. The possibilities of expanding transport and logistics links between the two countries was also discussed.

### **Azerbaijan:**

27. PSB met Minister of Economy of Azerbaijan (Jabbarov Mikail Chingiz Oglu) in Ashgabat on May 10, 2022 and discussed cooperation in trade, economic, fuel, energy, transport and telecommunication sectors.

28. Reportedly Azerbaijan imported more than 8250 tons of Turkmen gasoline during January-November 2022.
29. Reportedly, in the year 2022, the trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan amounted to \$535.3 million.

### **Bahrain:**

30. The State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Bahrain Development Bank signed a Cooperation Agreement during the visit of the PSB to Bahrain on February 21-22, 2023. An MoU on cooperation in the field of railway transport was also signed in Manama.

### **China:**

31. PSB met President of the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) Hou Qijun in a meeting on June 20, 2022 and discussed the development of 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the Galkynysh field and 4<sup>th</sup> branch of the Turkmenistan-China transnational gas pipeline.
32. Turkmenistan supplied more than 334 bcm of natural gas to China since the commissioning of Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan-China pipeline in 2009. China-Central Asia Gas Pipeline has delivered more than 400 billion cubic meters of natural gas to China over a period of more than 12 years.
33. The Chinese locomotive manufacturer CRRC Ziyang signed a contract for the supply of locomotive spare parts worth more than \$30 million to Turkmenistan on 09.01.2023. This is the largest locomotive spare parts contract signed between China and Turkmenistan since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the countries.
34. Reportedly, in the year 2022, the trade turnover between Turkmenistan and China amounted to more than \$11.181 billion, a 52% year-on-year jump.
35. The two-day forum on industrial and investment cooperation China + Central Asia was held in Qingdao on February 16, 2023 under the theme "Jointly promoting high-quality regional economic development based on mutual benefit and win-win progress".

### **France:**

36. PSB met President of Bouygues Group of Companies Martin Bouygues in Ashgabat on March 16, 2023 who briefed him on the progress of work at the facilities, the construction of which was entrusted to the company.

### **Georgia:**

37. State Customs Service of Turkmenistan and the Customs Department of Georgia held an online meeting on April 5, 2022 on the issues related to "Single Window" system for custom clearances.
38. Trade turnover between Turkmenistan and Georgia amounted to US\$ 186.4 million in 2022.

### **Germany:**

39. On 23.11.2022, the German business delegation and Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Turkmenistan discussed ways of making transport and logistics an integral part of the Turkmen-German partnership. It is reported that German companies are keen on implementing major projects in Turkmenistan in the near future, with transportation and logistics playing an essential role.

### **Iran:**

40. On June 15, 2022, PSB, during his visit to Iran, met President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi and discussed the start of electricity supply from Turkmenistan to other countries through Iranian electricity system.
41. Deputy Chairman of trade and textile complex Batyr Atdayev met Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade of Iran Seyyed Reza Fatemi-Amin in Tehran on June 14, 2022 and agreed to establish a joint trade center aimed at facilitating economic ties.
42. Trade turnover between Turkmenistan and Iran for non-oil products amounted to approx. \$460 million during the last Iranian year (March 21, 2022-March 20, 2023)

### **Italy:**

43. An online meeting was held between Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Italy Toyly Komekov and Director of International Relations of the Office of the Governor of Italy's Veneto Region Annalisa Bisson on 27.04.2022 and discussion were held on the matters related to organizing a business forum with participation of representatives of trade-economic agencies and business circles of Turkmenistan and Veneto.

### **Japan:**

44. During the visit of the National Leader GB to Japan, an agreement on the supply of Toyota automobiles with the preliminary cost of \$90 million and Komatsu earthmoving machinery worth over \$470 million was signed.
45. Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov visited Japan on Dec 21-24 and attended the 14th meeting of the Turkmen-Japanese Committee. He met with Nobuhiko Sasaki, CEO and Chairman of Japan External Trade Development Organization (JETRO) and proposed the possibility of opening a JETRO office in Turkmenistan to attract small and medium-sized Japanese companies to do business in Turkmenistan. He also proposed opening a trading house of Turkmenistan in Japan to attract Japanese companies to export high value-added products from Turkmenistan.
46. Central Asia-Japan business dialogue was held in Tokyo on 21.02.2023. The dialogue aimed at inviting Japanese companies to commence new projects in Turkmenistan.

### **Kazakhstan:**

47. The national gas companies of Kazakhstan (QazaqGaz) and Turkmenistan (Türkmengaz) signed a contract for the import of Turkmen natural gas to Kazakhstan.

### **Kyrgyzstan:**

48. According to reports Kyrgyzstan's foreign trade turnover with Turkmenistan in 2022 amounted to more than \$82.16 million, a 117.1% increase compared to 2021.

### **Pakistan:**

49. A delegation of the State Customs Services of Turkmenistan visited Pakistan from March 14-17, 2023 to study the best practices of Pakistan in the field of cargo transportation control.

## **Qatar:**

50. During State visit (March 19-20, 2023) of PSB to Qatar, he met with executives of leading Qatari companies and investment institutions. Possibilities for developing investment activities in areas such as energy, agricultural complex, textile, scientific and innovative industries, urban planning, and the use of renewable energy sources were discussed.

## **Russia:**

51. Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov met with Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Alexey Overchuk on April 9, 2022 in Ashgabat to discuss about the role of Intergovernmental Turkmen-Russian Commission on Economic Cooperation in improving trade relations.

52. On May 17, 2022, PSB held meeting with Igor Bukato, head of Russian group of engineering and construction companies “Vozrozhdenie” during which implementation of road transport infrastructure in Turkmenistan and mudflow diversion facilities in Ashgabat was discussed.

53. On May 19, 2022, National Leader (GB) spoke at the XIII International Economic Summit ‘Russia – the Islamic World: Kazan Summit 2022’, and emphasized that companies like KAMAZ, Tatneft, KER-Holding, and the Kazan Helicopter Plant have proven their effectiveness in Turkmenistan.

54. Meeting of joint Turkmen-Tatarstan Working Group on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation was held on June 15, 2022 in Kazan during which Minister of Finance & Economy M. N. Serdarov and Minister of Industry and Trade of Tatarstan (Russia) O. V. Korobchenko discussed cooperation in transport, shipbuilding, petrochemistry, textile industry, agriculture, medicine, science and education sectors.

55. Turkmen-Russian business forum was held in Ashgabat, On January 19-20, 2023, Companies of Turkmenistan and Russia signed bilateral contracts worth over \$2 billion during this forum.

56. “Russian Railways” JSC (RZD) and the “Turkmenemiryollary” Agency (“Turkmen Railways”) signed a cooperation program for 2023-2025. It includes the development of the railway and related infrastructure of the transport complex of Turkmenistan.

57. PSB met with Chairman of the Russian Railways Oleg Belozеров on March 27, 2023 & discussed ways to expand cooperation in the field of railway transport. They also agreed to open offices of Russian Railways Company and Türkmenemiryollary Agency (Turkmen Railways) in Ashgabat and Moscow respectively.

## **Saudi Arabia:**

58. Deputy Foreign Minister Berdiniyaz Matiyev (BM) met Deputy Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Waleed Abdulkarim El Khereiji in Ashgabat on June 23, 2022 to discuss investment plans by Saudi Arabia to Turkmenistan.

## **South Korea:**

59. During the visit of the National Leader (GB) to the Republic of Korea on November 27-29, 2022, numbers of agreements aimed at strengthening bilateral economic and investment cooperation between the two sides were discussed. Currently, it is reported that around 13 projects worth more than 11 billion USD are being implemented in Turkmenistan by Korean companies.

60. Turkmenistan signed several agreements with major South Korean companies on the implementation of new investment projects in gas chemical complex of Turkmenistan during the visit. The sides also agreed on the supply of Hyundai vehicles, including electric buses and cars to Turkmenistan.

### **Tajikistan:**

61. An online meeting was held between Minister of Finance and Economy Muhammetgeldi Serdarov and Minister of Energy & Water Resources of Tajikistan Juma Daler on July 29, 2022 and discussion were held on to increase bilateral trade between two countries.

62. 11th meeting of the Joint Turkmen-Tajik Intergovernmental Commission on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation was held on November 09-10, 2022 in Ashgabat. The Turkmen part of the commission was headed by the Minister of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan Muhammetgeldi Serdarov and the Tajik part was headed by the Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan Daler Juma. Both the parties discussed to strengthen cooperation in the trade-economic and scientific-technical fields, development of cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

### **Turkey:**

63. PSB met head of Turkish companies i.e. Chalik Energy, Polimeks, Ronesans etc. on June 27, 2022 in Ashgabat to discuss issues of implementation of projects by these companies in Turkmenistan.

64. Reportedly, the trade turnover between Turkmenistan and Türkiye amounted to more than \$2.067 billion in 2022, a 21.9% year-on-year jump.

### **Ukraine:**

65. State Agency for Highway Construction Management of Turkmenistan signed a contract with the Ukrainian company Altcom Road Construction LLC (Ukraine) for the design and construction of the automobile bridge across Garabogaz Kel Bay (Caspian gulf) in Turkmenistan.

### **United Arab Emirates:**

66. CEO of State Concern 'Turkmennebit' (Ali Al Jarwan) and Chairman of 'Dragon Oil (Turkmenistan) Ltd.' (Guvanch Agadzhanov) on June 30, 2022 signed a contract on the extension of the Production Sharing Agreement until May 1, 2035 with an investment of US\$ 1 billion.

67. The delegation of UAE based Masdar Company, global leader in renewable energy visited Turkmenistan for discussions on bilateral cooperation in the field of renewable energy.

68. Turkmenistan-United Arab Emirates business forum was in Abu Dhabi on 22.11.2022, aimed at ensuring active participation of UAE businesses in implementation of international pipeline projects of Turkmenistan, development of gas-chemical industry, transport systems, effective use of Turkmenbashi International Seaport, and cooperation in industrial sector.

69. During the visit of PSB to the UAE, the Turkmen Logistics Association and the UAE National Freight and Logistics Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate in the field of transport logistics.

70. During the official visit of GB, to the UAE on February 11-12, 2023, the State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan and the First Abu Dhabi Bank (the largest bank of the UAE) signed an agreement on conditions and procedures for opening and operating a correspondent account between the banks. The MoU on Cooperation in the Energy Sector between the state-owned companies Türkmengaz (Turkmen Gas) State Concern and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) was also signed during the visit.

### **USA:**

71. Representatives of State Customs Service participated in a virtual meeting on trade matters organized by the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) of U.S. Department of Commerce on April 21, 2022.

72. PSB met with Executive Director of Turkmenistan-US Business Council (Eric Stewart) on May 24, 2022 and discussed way to enhance trade between two countries.

73. USAID, in partnership with the Ashgabat Stock Exchange (ASE), awarded certificates to professionals for successfully completing training courses on brokerage services and securities issuance on June 15, 2022.

74. On December 05, 2022, Turkmenistan-US business forum was held at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan. The Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan and Nicklaus Companies signed a memorandum of understanding on construction of a golf club in Avaza, Turkmenistan.

### **Uzbekistan:**

75. Trade turnover between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in 2022 amounted to \$926.3 million, an increase of 2.7 percent compared to the previous year.

76. PSB visited Uzbekistan from July 14-15, 2022 on state visit and signed various agreements for increase trade between two countries which includes agreement between state owned "Turkmen Chemicals" and Joint Stock Company "Uzkimesanoat" from Uzbek side for restoration and modernization of "Maryazot" production plant of Turkmenistan, agreement on strategic partnership and development of trade and economic cooperation; protocol for information exchange between state custom services of both countries; agreement for development of transport and transit cooperation; agreement on production of cars in Turkmenistan.

77. Minister of Trade Batyr Atdayev met Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov in Bukhara on July 13, 2022 and an agreement to increase bilateral trade to US\$ 2 billion per year was signed. Turkmen-Uzbek forum also made investment and trade agreements worth US\$ 451 million during the meeting.

78. The Turkmen-Uzbek working group on transport issues met on August 8-9, 2022 in Uzbekistan and expressed interest in the full resumption of the process of transporting cargo by road between the two states. The parties agreed to intensify work in the Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Oman transport corridor. Uzbekistan proposed to create a joint transport company for the transportation of trucks (TIR) with Turkmenistan.

79. A delegation consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan headed by FM Meredov visited Republic of Uzbekistan on January 07-14, 2023 to discuss issues of expanding cooperation in the Agricultural Sector. During their visit, the Turkmen delegation studied the details of fine-fiber varieties of cotton

in Uzbekistan for their further cultivation in Turkmenistan. They also agreed to exchange of experience in the field of horticulture and planned to start cooperation in the field of potato seed production.

80. According to reports Turkmenistan imported more than 2,000 televisions from Uzbekistan in 2022.

81. The seventeenth meeting of the Joint Turkmen-Uzbek Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation was held on March 06, 2023 in Ashgabat led by Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan Jamshid Khodjaev.

### **Vietnam:**

82. Deputy Foreign Minister Vepa Hajiyev (VH) met his counterpart, Nguyen Minh Vu, in Hanoi on June 27, 2022 and discussed the creation of Joint Business Council between two countries. VH met Minister of Construction and the Minister of Industry and Trade of Vietnam in Hanoi on June 28, 2022 and discussed creation of a Turkmen-Vietnamese working group on construction.

83. Federation Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Vietnam (VCCI) in collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan & the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan held business forum Vietnam-Turkmenistan on June 29, 2022 in Hanoi. More than 40 businessmen from different fields such as construction, building materials, transportation and logistics, chemicals, food, import and export, banking and finance took part in the meeting.

### **MULTILATERAL:**

84. PSB met with foreign businessmen who came to participate in the celebrations of the National Turkmen Horse Day on April 24, 2022 at the Ahal-Teke Horse Racing Complex.

85. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) provided loans worth 49 million Euros till April 2022 for implementation of 32 projects in Turkmenistan.

86. On April 6, 2022, Turkmen delegation led by Minister of Finance and Economy virtually participated in a regional forum on sustainable development organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

87. Minister of Finance and Economy Muhammetgeldi Serdarov and Deputy Chairman of the Central Bank Merdan Palvanov held an online meeting with representatives of International Monetary Fund (IMF) on April 22, 2022 during which IMF agreed to provide technical assistance to Turkmenistan for budget reforms and revision of the tax system.

88. Representatives of State Customs Service and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) held meeting on April 4, 2022 on promotion of paperless trade.

89. Iranian Oil Minister (Javad Owji) during his meeting with Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures of Armenia (Gnel Sanosyan) on May 16, 2022 expressed readiness for gas swap with Turkmenistan to increase exports to Armenia.

90. Turkmenistan joined the Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards and the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG).

91. FM Meredov met Country Director of ADB Artur Andrysiak on June 23, 2022 in Ashgabat and discussed implementation of TAPI gas pipeline project in the context of the development of regional and international energy cooperation.
92. A train containing 39 containers from Russia crossed the Sarakhs border of Turkmenistan to Iran on July 13, 2022 for delivering goods at Bandar Abbas port using the North South Transport Corridor.
93. Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov and Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Nayef Falah Mubarak Al Hajraf signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 01 August 2022, for strengthening of cooperation especially in economy, trade, energy, and water and food security.
94. A meeting of railway operators of the International multimodal route of the Asia-Pacific countries - China - Kyrgyzstan - Uzbekistan - Turkmenistan - Azerbaijan - Georgia - Turkiye - Europe was held in Azerbaijan's capital Baku on August 08, 2022. During the meeting, the pilot project on container shipping from the Chinese city Kashgar to Europe by railway operators was also discussed.
95. The Ministerial Transport Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries held in the Turkmenistan's Avaza National Tourist Zone on August 15-16, 2022 resulted in the adoption of the Final Statement which emphasizes the importance of strengthening transport connectivity for sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery of landlocked countries and accelerating the implementation of the Vienna Program of Action for the remaining period.
96. Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Iran agreed to simplify the regime of international cargo transportation. The meeting on the sidelines of the Ministerial Transport Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries held in the Turkmenistan's Avaza National Tourist Zone on August 15-16, 2022 focused on issues of developing mutually beneficial cooperation in transport and logistics.
97. Turkmenistan signed MoUs with the governments of several countries to strengthen cooperation in the transport sector during the Ministerial Transport Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries. For example, with Moldova on international road transport, with Russia & with Georgia on Maritime Transport.
98. Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov confirmed Turkmenistan's interest in joining the North-South transport corridor established by Russia, Iran and India.
99. The meeting between the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) and Central Asian countries in Riyadh on September 07, 2022 adopted a Joint Statement and a Joint Action Plan for 2023-2027 for establishing practical cooperation in trade, investment, education, healthcare, culture and sports.
100. During Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit, Turkmenistan expressed readiness to cooperate with the SCO countries in establishing intercontinental and regional transit routes. Turkmenistan proposed to start planning joint projects to diversify the energy supplies to meet the needs of the SCO countries as well as with the prospect of entering foreign markets.
101. RZD Logistics started transportation of full-length container trains from Russia to Iran along the eastern branch of the North-South corridor using the transport infrastructure of Turkmenistan.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

102. Mr. Begench Gochmollayev has been appointed Minister of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations of Turkmenistan in July 2022.
103. Mr. Germanov Atageldi Kakadurdyevich has been appointed Minister of Healthcare & Medical Industry of Turkmenistan in July 2022.
104. Col. Atagarayev Nazar Muhammetmyradovich has been appointed Minister of National Security of Turkmenistan in February 2023.
105. Mr. Jorayev Serdar Achyldurdyevich has been appointed Minister of Finance & Economy of Turkmenistan in February 2023.
106. Mr. Nurov Toyguly Allanurovich has been appointed Minister of Industry & Construction Production of Turkmenistan in February 2023.

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