

Delegation of Kazakhstan

**STATEMENT BY MR. MARAT ZHUMAGULOV,  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE KAZAKHSTAN INSTITUTE FOR  
STRATEGIC STUDIES UNDER THE PRESIDENT OF KAZAKHSTAN,  
AT THE CONCLUDING MEETING OF THE 25th OSCE ECONOMIC  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Prague, 7 September 2017

**Greening the economy and  
building partnerships for security in the OSCE region**

**Session III: Strengthening environmental co-operation in support of  
resource efficiency, renewable energy and energy security**

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen,

I should like to express my sincere gratitude to the organizers of this important Forum for the invitation and opportunity to speak on this topic: Kazakhstan in the implementation of three dimensions: the economy, energy and the environment.

The rapid man-made deterioration of environmental conditions is a feature of the modern-day development of humanity. Environmental protection is no longer a problem concerning individual countries or regions, but goes beyond national borders and is becoming transnational and global in nature, which in turn creates a need for increased international co-operation to solve environmental problems.

The universally recognized environmental principles and areas of international co-operation were set out in the Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment (1972), the World Charter for Nature (1982), the Declaration on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), Agenda 21 (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), the Millennium Declaration (New York, 2000), the Declaration of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) and other international instruments. These instruments are of enormous international importance and are implemented in the form of international conventions, in the national law of many countries and in the national legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In total, according to our calculations, over 30 ratified or equivalent treaties (60 all told) directly or indirectly concern environmental protection. They include international treaties to protect the environment and resources (protection of the atmosphere, climate and ozone layer, protection of land and mineral resources, protection of living resources and protection of water resources) and human rights conventions.

A regulatory and legal framework has been established in Kazakhstan and institutions set up for the rational use of natural resources and for environmental protection. The provisions for international co-operation in this area are enshrined in the Environmental Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The basic principles of international co-operation enshrined are:

- Implementation of international commitments in good faith;
- Respect for the sovereign right of States to develop their natural resources;
- Integration of environmental protection and economic development to achieve sustainable development;
- Responsibility of the State to ensure measures to prevent environmental damage to other States or areas outside the jurisdiction of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- Precautions and adoption of preventive measures;
- Peaceful settlement of international disputes;
- Prior notification and mutual consultations on activities with a potential significant transboundary environmental impact;
- Complementarity of efforts taken at the global, regional, national and local levels;
- Responsibility of the polluter for expenses connected with environmental pollution.

The importance of these principles can also be seen in the Concept of Environmental Security of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which provides for our country's accession to the relevant international conventions and the adoption of practical measures for the implementation of their provisions as a priority area in the implementation of environmental policy in the field of international co-operation.

Kazakhstan is a member of and an active participant in various international commissions and processes aimed at drafting and implementing international agreements on environmental protection and sustainable development issues at the global and regional levels. These include the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, the Inter-State Commission on Sustainable Development of Central Asia, the regional Eurasian network of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the Inter-State Environmental Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Kazakhstan also participates in the Environment for Europe and Environment and Sustainable Development for Asia processes and in the development of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Caspian Sea and the CIS Convention on Environmental Security. Co-operation is evolving with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Wide Fund for Nature and other international organizations.

In addition to this, Kazakhstan promotes a number of environmental initiatives at the international level. In particular, a proposal was submitted at the OSCE Summit in Astana for

holding an OSCE Environmental Forum, which would help to solve environmental problems such as the preservation of the Aral Sea and the redevelopment of the territory of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. The development of a programme entitled “Water and Rights” for those countries experiencing water shortages was proposed with a view to legally regulating water problems.

As part of the preparations for the Rio+20 Summit, Kazakhstan proposed for consideration initiatives such as “Green Bridge” and the “Global Energy and Environmental Strategy for Sustainable Development in the Twenty-First Century”.

“Green Bridge” is a bridge between the Asia-Pacific and European regions. The initiative is aimed at creating political frameworks for transition to a green economy in the vast Eurasian area and in various parts of Europe, Asia and the Pacific. The programme focuses on the need to support inter-State and intersectoral co-operation.

On 30 September 2013, the International Conference on the Green Bridge Partnership Programme organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan in co-operation with the UNDP was held in Astana. At the end of that conference, eight countries – Kazakhstan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Mongolia, Georgia, Germany and Montenegro – signed the Charter on the Green Bridge Partnership Programme. Later, Latvia acceded to the Charter, and a number of other countries are considering doing so. The Charter provides for the establishment of an international association to implement the Green Bridge Partnership Programme and also for the establishment of an information and analysis centre in Kazakhstan to carry out research, develop and transfer technologies and develop incubators.

The Green Bridge project also involves the implementation of similar domestic projects, such as:

- The Arnasay Green Valley project, a pilot project to equip villages with advanced technologies;
- The People’s Academy of Green Technologies, a centre for the diffusion of knowledge on green technologies;
- The International Centre for the Development of Green Technologies and Investment under the aegis of the United Nations.

In September 2007, Kazakhstan submitted a proposal to the United Nations General Assembly for the development of a global energy and environmental strategy and its discussion at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012. The scientific basis for the proposal was discussed at the Civilization Forums in Moscow in 2007, in Astana in 2008, in Almaty in 2009, at EXPO-2010 in Shanghai and at the third and fourth Astana Economic Forums in 2010 and 2011.

This initiative was set out in the book by Nursultan Nazarbayev *Global Energy and Environmental Strategy for Sustainable Development in the Twenty-First Century*.

Let me read out an excerpt from that book: “The past few years have cured many people of ‘market romanticism’. Today, public consciousness is focused on State planning

and public-private partnership. Energetic and environmental sustainability in the world involves fundamental principles and methods for achieving a threefold balance: the economy, energy and the environment.”

The Strategy is aimed at achieving an optimal level of satisfaction of the needs of all countries for energy and other natural resources by saving energy resources. At the same time, it is recognized that it will be possible to achieve such a result only through a twofold reduction in greenhouse gases and other forms of environmental pollution. We need to find ways to produce and use energy resources that would ensure harmony between the human world and the environment.

The importance of environmental protection and the Kazakh Government’s understanding of it have been reflected in the country’s long-term strategy. In 2012, Kazakhstan employed a strategic planning approach to develop and adopt a new strategic document entitled the “Kazakhstan-2050 Strategy”. Taking account of the modern-day challenges, the Strategy identifies a number of areas for the country’s development until 2050, which fully reflect the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations three years later. For example, in Kazakhstan, most of the SDGs have already been incorporated into the 2050 Strategy, five institutional reforms and other national programmes. Of the 126 SDGs, 71 are priority national programmes in Kazakhstan. Furthermore, horizontal links between government programmes reinforce the priority goals, especially in the area of socio-economic development.

In addition, the Concept for the Transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to a Green Economy, a logical extension of the strategic guidelines adopted for the country’s development until 2050, was adopted in May 2013.

The main objectives of transition to a green economy identified in the Concept are:

- Improving resource efficiency and management (water, land, biological and other resources);
- Modernizing the existing infrastructure and building a new one;
- Increasing the prosperity of the population and the quality of the environment through cost-effective reduction of environmental impacts;
- Increasing national security, including water security.

It is expected that the Concept for the Transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to a Green Economy will be implemented in three stages:

Stage 1 (2013 to 2020). During this period, the Government’s main priority will be to optimize the use of resources, increase the effectiveness of environmental protection activities and create a green infrastructure.

Stage 2 (2020 to 2030). The reform of the national economy geared towards careful use of water, the promotion and stimulation of development and the broad-based introduction of renewable energy technologies, and the construction of facilities based on high energy efficiency standards, will begin on the basis of the green infrastructure established.

Stage 3 (2030 to 2050). The transition of the national economy to the “third industrial revolution” principles, which will require the use of renewable and sustainable natural resources.

One recent major initiative is the international specialized exhibition EXPO-2017. Its theme, “Future Energy”, was selected with a view to pooling the efforts of the international community to find solutions in response to current global energy challenges.

EXPO-2017 is a catalyst for Kazakhstan’s transition to a green, low-carbon and energy-efficient economy and sustainable development. Holding the exhibition will help the country to overcome the “Dutch disease”, when the money of gas, oil and raw material industries makes people complacent and reduces the search for and development of new competitive high-tech industries.

Kazakhstan now has cutting-edge projects in the field of renewable energy sources and green energy-saving technologies which, thanks to the exhibition, will help to advance and launch new export productions. For example, the environmentally friendly production of cheap silicon from coal instead of wood, the production of extremely pure metals for solar energy, green and microwave chemistry, and the production of electronics from beryllium. Kazakhstan has considerable potential for creating an effective solar energy industry based on silicon, cadmium telluride sulphide, gallium arsenide and promising germanium developments.

“Future Energy” as the theme of EXPO-2017 refers to the development of science and technology as the framework of the third industrial revolution on the basis of new physics, theories and paradigms of energy, matter and space connectivity, which will allow Kazakhstan to step up its development of innovations for the transition to the third industrial revolution outlined in the Kazakhstan-2050 Strategy.

Overall, the EXPO-2017 framework highlights the fact that the current post-industrial world requires a change in economic focus to meet the needs of humanity by co-operating with the environment. The development of green energy should be a prerequisite for sustainable development and the basis for preserving natural systems and maintaining the corresponding quality of the environment.

In summing up, it should be mentioned that Kazakhstan is taking active steps to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and, in particular, to ensure the effective use of resources, the widespread use of renewable energy and the development of energy security by participating in and strengthening environmental co-operation through its ratification of international treaties and the implementation of environmental projects.

List of cited references:

1. Nechayeva, E. L., Dusembekova, M. K., Kolezhanova, D.E., “Приоритеты международного экологического сотрудничества Республики Казахстан. Россия и Европа: связь культуры и экономики” (Priorities of international environmental co-operation of the Republic of Kazakhstan: Russia and Europe – the link between culture and the economy), Material of the XVII International Applied Research Conference (28 February 2017), pp. 413–16.

2. Emelyanova, L. A., “Международные обязательства Республики Казахстан в сфере экологии” (International commitments of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the environmental sphere), *Право и государство* (Law and the State) (2013), No. 4 61, pp. 65–72.
3. Environmental Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 9 January 2007 (with amendments and supplements as at 15 June 2017).
4. Concept of the Environmental Security of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2004 to 2015 (2011).
5. Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative: Europe-Asia-Pacific Partnership for the Implementation of “Green Growth” (electronic resource), adopted by the sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2 October 2010, Green Bridge Partnership Programme, <http://gbpp.org/regulatory-documents>, last accessed on 20 March 2017.
6. Nazarbayev, N. A., “Kazakhstan-2050 Strategy: New Political Course of the State”, address by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Leader of the Nation, 27 January 2012 (electronic resource), official website of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan [http://www.akorda.kz/ru/addresses/addresses\\_of\\_president/poslanie-prezidenta-respubliki-kazahstan-nnazarbaeva-narodu-kazahstana-14-dekabrya-2012-g](http://www.akorda.kz/ru/addresses/addresses_of_president/poslanie-prezidenta-respubliki-kazahstan-nnazarbaeva-narodu-kazahstana-14-dekabrya-2012-g), last accessed on 12 December 2016.
7. Concept for the Transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to a Green Economy (electronic resource), approved by Presidential Decree No. 577 of 30 May 2013, section on information systems, [https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc\\_id=31399596#pos=27;-254](https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc_id=31399596#pos=27;-254), last accessed on 12 December 2016.
8. Nazarbayev, N. A., “Глобальная энергоэкологическая стратегия устойчивого развития в XXI веке” (Global Energy and Environmental Strategy for Sustainable Development in the Twenty-First Century), Moscow, *Экономика* (Ekonomika) (2011), p. 194.