

**Statement of the Republic of Kazakhstan
at the general debate of the ministerial segment,
71st session of ESCAP
(Bangkok, 29 May 2015)**

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, I would like to express gratitude to the host country Thailand for excellent arrangements and warm hospitality.

The world economic crises clearly demonstrated the need for profound economic reforms to improve competitiveness, innovation and productivity while at the same time ensuring effective mechanisms to ensure balance between the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, environmental and social.

In order to implement these tasks at the national level, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev has outlined five institutional reforms aimed at:

- *ensuring the economic programmes and providing the public services;*
- *industrialization and diversification of the economic growth;*
- *development of the nation of common future;*
- *creation of a transparent, liberal and accountable state, based on*
- *the rule of law.*

Mr. Chairman,

In 2015 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be launched. As a responsible UN Member State, we share the aspirations of the states of Asia-Pacific region and consistently contribute to the issues of climate change, transition to green economy, poverty alleviation, inclusive growth as well as reduction of economic inequality in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

With the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters and their global impact, Kazakhstan shares the view that more attention should be paid to improve early warning, preparedness and response to disasters.

We express our deep condolences to the Government and People of Nepal on the victims and other worst consequences of the recent tragic devastating earthquake. The Government of Kazakhstan made a decision to provide financial support in the amount of \$200.000 to Nepal for its early recovery and overcoming the crisis.

Kazakhstan is the only net contributor among the countries of Central Asia. Currently, Kazakhstan is creating its National Agency for Official Development Assistance (KazAID). One of the priorities of its activities will be the implementation of projects in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries in Central Asia. Already one thousand Afghan students are studying in Kazakhstan universities and the total sum of USD 50 million was allocated for their training.

Together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), my country initiated a joint project on supporting a number of African, Pacific and Caribbean countries to develop important sectors of their economies. This project aims to compensate the lack of knowledge and technical skills through educating representatives of the afore-said regions in the universities of Kazakhstan and training them in the leading companies of my country.

Given its geographic location in the region, as well as its proneness to natural disasters, Kazakhstan has offered to transform Almaty, its former capital, into the regional center of the United Nations. We hope that this Hub will significantly support Central Asia and Eurasia in providing humanitarian support, sustainable development and building resilience.

Mr. Chairman,

Important aspect of cooperation between Kazakhstan and UNESCAP are issues of implementation of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), which was established by the initiative of President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev. Projects undertaken in the framework of SPECA, directed at a specific socio-economic needs and practical needs of the Central Asian region. Kazakhstan is the strong supporter and the main driver of regional economic integration.

One of the main tasks is to strengthen the ESCAP trade and economic cooperation of its Member States. In this connection, we propose that the activities of ESCAP need to be in the following directions:

- Addressing physical and non-physical barriers to trade facilitation.
- The development of transport corridors in order to accelerate and reduce the cost of logistics and transit of goods.
- ESCAP should strengthen its work upon investment growth cooperation. Investments play a crucial role in the economy of any country and are the engine of the development of the economy as well as important tool for the transfer of innovation in technology and management.

Within the framework of our borders, we are working to achieve a National Plan for

the Transition to a "Green" Economy and took voluntary commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

We are also committed to supporting sustainable development on a global scale. Kazakhstan initiated the Green Bridge Partnership Program (GBPP) and calls on countries of the Asia-Pacific region to join the Charter on Joint Implementation of the GBPP.

Realizing that energy will have a greater impact on our collective security in the future, Kazakhstan has chosen "The Future of Energy" as the theme of the International Exhibition EXPO-2017. We intend to provide support to 60 developing countries to participate in EXPO 2017.

Together with ESCAP Kazakhstan launched a project to install biogas systems in ten Small Island Developing States of the Pacific region (P-SIDS). We hope that this project will promote the development of regional policies and guidelines for the promotion of renewable energy in the Pacific.

Kazakhstan is among the countries that have limited water resources, and is experiencing considerable difficulties in water supply. We stand for a comprehensive study and application of international experience and the principles of international water law. Ensuring regional stability, environmental sustainability and resolving the problems of collective management and protection of trans-boundary rivers is only possible on the basis of common legal positions and mutual respect for the interests of all countries within the trans-boundary basin.

Kazakhstan highly appreciates the cooperation with the ESCAP Subregional Office, in Almaty. We continue to expect a strengthening the role of ESCAP in the mobilization of resources and support for projects on Water Security.

In this regard, let me request the support of all delegations to our initiative to introduce draft resolution "Strengthening cooperation in the field of sustainable water management in the Asia-Pacific region" in the framework of 71st session of ESCAP.

Mr. Chairman,

As the largest land-locked country, Kazakhstan is interested in improving the infrastructure and empowering the connectivity to international markets by all the "geographically vulnerable countries."

In Kazakhstan the new economic policy "Nurly Jol" (The Path to the Future) is the main tool for medium-term counter-cyclical economic policy and that will provide large-scale construction of transport, energy, industrial, social and housing infrastructure.

In 2014, we launched the railroad route Kazakhstan - Turkmenistan - Iran - Persian Gulf, with the capacity of up to 10 million tons of cargo per year.

Last year, we opened a joint Kazakh-Chinese terminal in the seaport of Lianyungang and launched a railroad on the route Lianyungang-Almaty. Through this transit flow Kazakhstan unites Asia-Pacific countries with Central Asia, Gulf states, Russia and Europe.

This year we will complete the construction of the Kazakh section of the international highway corridor Western Europe - Western China, which will offer the shortest path from China to Europe and reduce transit traffic to 10 days.

Mr. Chairman,

The energy crisis, limited access to food and water pose a serious threat to sustainable development and stability, and needs the world's attention. Therefore, food, water and energy security are priority pillars of Kazakhstan's campaign to a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council to the period of 2017-18.

Kazakhstan has been a committed, responsible and supportive UN Member State, contributing to international peace and security; human rights and rule of law; and sustainable development.

If elected, Kazakhstan is resolved to make its mark by a most significant contribution to the work of the Security Council and its mandate for stability, peace, security, and human and sustainable development, not only in 2017-2018, but beyond.

I thank you for your attention.