



KAZAKHSTAN

STATEMENT

by

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

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OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (UNCSD)

RIO+20

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Excellencies,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

Today, I have the honour of making this statement on a very special day for Kazakhstan, for it is today that our Republic celebrates the 20th anniversary of its Independence.

Kazakhstan possesses a vast territory situated in the centre of the Eurasian continent, and has historically played the role of a bridge connecting Europe and Asia.

Since the first steps of its independence, Kazakhstan has firmly followed the road of peaceful cooperation with all countries of the world. Our first international initiatives included the voluntary renunciation of nuclear weapons and closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site.

During all the years that have followed, Kazakhstan has consistently pursued a policy aimed at solving global and regional problems on the basis of partnerships with all nations and supported the programmes of the United Nations aimed at solving them.

In his statement to the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly in September this year, the President of Kazakhstan, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, put forward a proposal to develop and adopt a Global Long-term Energy and Ecology Strategy as a new paradigm for the development of humankind. . Our country, together with its international partners, prepared the Green Bridge Partnership Programme as the first step towards practical implementation of the Global Strategy.

The Programme has received support at two ministerial regional conferences: ESCAP (2010) and EEC UN (2010), which our country had co-sponsored and hosted.. Following our conferences, regional preparatory committees for Rio+20 in Seoul and Geneva proposed that this initiative be used as a contribution to the outcomes of the forthcoming Summit.

Our experience of the past twenty years has demonstrated that existing approaches based on fragmented actions do not solve the ever-growing problems of environment and development. We need more effective and practical mechanisms linked to the real sector of economy and the involvement of businesses and public sectors on the basis of partnership.

It is for this reason that Kazakhstan proposed a multilateral and long-term Green Bridge Partnership Programme designed to support the efforts of economies in transition and developing countries. They are aimed at conducting reforms and renewing sectors of their economy as they advance towards a transition to green economy, combating poverty and creating stable employment opportunities

Today, the world possesses vast experience of successful reforms, effective market and regulatory tools, and technologies and innovations ensuring stable energy for all, food security, health improvement, education. They also were directed to

other sectors that can be widely distributed especially among the most **vulnerable and** poor segments of the population

Therefore, the core of our initiative can be summed up as follows: it is a practical mechanism based on voluntary participation s aimed at renewing sectors of the economy, and the transfer of successful experience, innovations and technologies.

The partnership proposed under this initiative does not replace, nor to duplicate the existing processes but rather complements them. It does so through creating a predictable and long-term basis for sustainable investments, development of green markets, supporting ecosystem services and solving social issues. Strengthening the potential for transition to green economy is an important task of the initiative.

In pursuing our initiative, Kazakhstan, jointly with interested countries and organizations, will also prepare a package of regional and long-term projects for transition to green economy as a practical contribution to Rio+20. In this connection, we invite all interested partners to join us and discuss these projects at a round-table that will be organized in February 2012 in Kazakhstan's capital, Astana.

The Green Bridge Partnership Programme comprises a 10-year Road Map and mechanisms of management, coordination and monitoring. More detailed information on Kazakhstan's initiative can be obtained at United Nations website and will be also provided during a side-event organized today at the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations.

Ladies and gentlemen, Kazakhstan supports all proposals made by the esteemed delegations regarding the need for strict fulfillment of all previously adopted international decisions and obligations. We also believe that Rio+20 should adopt a more precise programme of joint actions. We are of the conviction that it is necessary to strengthen UN agencies and organizations, including the United Nations Environmental Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and other agencies to ensure sustainable development at all levels. Moreover, it is proposed to consider, in conjunction with global financial institutions, the possibility to create World Energy Ecological Bank as an institutional base for sustainable development.

We invite all interested governments, international organizations, private sector and other parties to join Kazakhstan's initiative for the sake of ecologically sustainable, equitable and prosperous future.

Thank you for your attention!