

Statement
by His Excellency Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov
Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the UN
at the general debate of the Ministerial segment
of the high-level political forum
on sustainable development under the auspices of the ECOSOC
(20 July 2016, Trusteeship Council Chamber)

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of Kazakhstan [at the first meeting of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development convened by the Economic and Social Council following the UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda]. I thank the Secretary-General for the first annual SDG Progress Report, which provides insights for the HLPF 2016 theme, “Ensuring that no one is left behind”. The report indicates that despite some progress, we are at the beginning of a long journey to implement this Agenda. I also would like to thank delegations who presented and are presenting their National Voluntary Reviews.

Excellencies,

The goals and targets of the new Agenda coincide with the priorities and objectives of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan’s economy currently is adversely affected by external factors caused by the collapse of world markets, resulting in an overall global economic slowdown. Notwithstanding the risks, new opportunities are created. Our response to the current challenges is the "Kazakhstan - 2050" Strategy, which has the ambition of our country joining the ranks of the 30 most developed countries of the world.

As President Nursultan Nazarbayev announced in his latest State of the Nation Address of November 30, 2015, Kazakhstan, despite the crisis, will utilize a proactive anti-crisis strategy, comprising many approaches. They are the Second Five Year Plan of Innovative Industrial Development; the state programme of infrastructure development called “Nurly Zhol” (Bright Path). We are also implementing the National Action Plan for Five Institutional Reforms. It aims to modernize the state apparatus, improve the work of civil and legal institutions and further industrialize the economy, eliminate administrative barriers for small and medium businesses, to improve rule of law, good governance, education and healthcare system.

Despite the current challenges, the government's social spending has almost tripled in real terms. The most vulnerable groups will have upgraded minimum subsistence norms, with intensive investments in human capital.

The second Road Map of Employment with increased funding ensures stability of the labour market. At the same time, expansion of micro loans for entrepreneurial development will be a major focus of the investment policy.

The economic revival of the Silk Road connecting Asia Pacific and Europe is of great importance for the countries of Eurasia. It will benefit many nations, reducing the transportation times and costs for goods. We are creating its infrastructure, building railways and highways linking the Pacific Ocean to Europe and the Middle East.

Kazakhstan invites all Member States to participate in the International Exhibition EXPO-2017 with the main theme "Future Energy" to be held in Astana from June 10 to September 10, 2017. The event's main goal is to demonstrate equal and fair access to energy sources, mainly by the developing and the least developed countries, with an emphasis on inclusiveness, social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication.

Excellencies,

We believe that ECOSOC and HLPF should play a stronger role in leading the implementation of SDGs by providing system-wide strategic policy guidance and coordination. Therefore, our President has proposed to transform the ECOSOC into a Global Development Council, constituted of UN Member States elected by the General Assembly, heads of UN Specialized Agencies, including the international financial institutions. The Council should be tasked to become a global economic regulator, carrying out global projects to promote economic growth worldwide. Addressing the SDG summit on 27 September 2015, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev put forward the proposal that each state allocates annually one percent of its defense budget to the Special Fund of the United Nations for Sustainable Development. If implemented this could become a supplementary source of financing for sustainable development in addition to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Agenda 2030 and Paris Climate Agreement.

Kazakhstan is committed to contribute to the multilateral action aimed at enabling humanity to transition to a truly sustainable, just and equitable future.

Thank you.