



# KAZAKHSTAN

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**Statement**  
**by**  
**Mr. Yerlan Nigmatulin**  
**Chairman of the Environment Committee**  
**of Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan**  
**at**  
**High-Level segment of the 19-th session of the UN**  
**Commission on Sustainable Development**

**New York**  
**11 May 2011**



Mr. President!

Dear participants of the 19-th session of the Commission!

Ladies and gentlemen!

First of all let me express my special thanks to the Chair and Secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the excellent arrangements made for its 19-th session.

I would also like to note that the Secretariat's draft outcome document has provided a good basis for serious consideration and multilateral discussions and for the adoption of balanced policy recommendations.

For its part, Kazakhstan, having supported the decisions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, has been focusing its efforts on advancing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the Summit in 1992.

Since becoming a sovereign state in the late twentieth century, Kazakhstan has taken, as a matter of priority, the decision to shut down the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site. The strategic choice in favor of a nuclear-free future has been of crucial importance both for our young state, and, indeed, for the whole world community.

This decision has demonstrated that the **policy of security and a commitment to the principles and initiatives of sustainable development is a priority for Kazakhstan**. It has found proof in the address by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev at the OSCE Summit in Astana in December 2010 calling to adopt a **Universal Declaration of Nuclear-Free World**.

The thematic cluster addressed at the current session is of special significance both regionally and globally to create the necessary preconditions for transition by the international community towards sustainable development models.

**Sustainable consumption and production providing for efficient and prudent use of resources and energy** has been recognized as an important condition for sustainable development. **The economy of Kazakhstan is highly energy- and resource-intensive**. Therefore, the Government pays a lot of attention to addressing issues of energy efficiency, to establishing necessary legal frameworks.

The main policy document in this area is the **Kazakhstan Strategic Development Plan through 2020**, adopted in 2010. This ten-year plan calls for **reducing energy intensity of gross domestic product by 2015 by no less than 10 per cent compared to the level of 2009, and by 2020, -- by at least 25 per cent**.

These guidelines have formed the basis for the implementation of principles and models of sustainable development in all areas of public life.

Let me to describe briefly measures taken in Kazakhstan to create conditions for sustainable development.

**First, the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED6) was held in Astana from 27 September to 2 October 2010.** As part of this forum the Astana Green Bridge Initiative was launched and approved as a concept aimed at bringing closer together the processes of European and Asian cooperation.

**Second, Kazakhstan has stepped up work on the environmental dimension of the OSCE.** At the Astana Summit our Head of State Nursultan Nazarbayev proposed the establishment of the **OSCE Environmental Forum**. We hope this Forum would contribute to addressing environmental problems, including those of saving the Aral Sea and the revival of the territories of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site.

**Third, in 2010, the Zhasyl Damu national program was adopted, aimed at applying the progressive principle of "green economy".**

**Fourth, in 2010, the Government of Kazakhstan adopted a policy document on modernizing housing and utilities infrastructure by 2020, that provides for an upgrade in thermal efficiency of houses to reduce heat loss, the restructuring of energy sources, etc.**

**Fifth, in 2010, the National Program for Accelerated Industrial Innovation-Based Development was adopted, aimed at introducing environmentally friendly, low-waste and resource-saving technologies.**

**Sixth, in 2009, the Law on Supporting the Use of Renewable Energy Sources was adopted. Drafting of a revised version of the Law on Energy Conservation is under way.**

**Seventh, in 2010, a national version of the Central Asian multimedia educational resource "Green Package" was launched, it is aimed at providing education for environment and sustainable development and has already been implemented in 16 countries of Europe and the CIS.**

**Eighth, we attach particular importance to waste reduction. Kazakhstan occupies one of the top positions in the world in terms of the amount of accumulated and newly generated waste. The bulk of it represents waste from extractive industries, the so called man-made mineral formations. Issues of recycling and waste management of extractive industries, unfortunately, still have not been properly addressed at the global level. Nevertheless, at present the Government has drafted a bill providing for updates and amendments to existing legislation on waste management.**

**Ninth. The 7-th Ministerial Conference on "Environment for Europe" is scheduled for September 2011 in Astana to discuss a program of partnership for the**

implementation of the Astana Green Bridge Initiative aimed at developing regional, interregional and intersectoral cooperation and creating conditions to implement the "green" economy principles.

The Astana Green Bridge Initiative and the Partnership Program for its implementation will represent an inter-regional contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in May 2012 in Rio de Janeiro.

Addressing the participants of the 19 th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the Republic of Kazakhstan calls for support for Astana Green Bridge Initiative and the Partnership Programme for its implementation, and invites participation in the 7-th Pan-European Conference of Environment Ministers.

We encourage all potential partners (countries, businesses, scientific, international, public and academic organizations) to get actively involved in the development and implementation of the Partnership Program as the basis for "green" economy.

Thank you!

