



KAZAKHSTAN

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
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RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL**

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
H.E. MR. NURLAN KAPPAROV**

Your Excellency, Ms/Mr. President
Mr Chairman
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor for me to speak here on behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In the 20 years since our country became independent, we have achieved many results: in particular, we became an active participant in the solution of regional and global problems. President Nursultan Nazarbayev's initiatives on renunciation of nuclear weapons, the closing of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and the rescue of the Aral Sea as well as others gained support at international level. Kazakhstan has already made significant contributions to global security and environmental sustainability.

At national level we introduced strong measures to decrease pressure on the environment, to improve the population's health and quality of life. We adopted programs for economic and social development, preservation of natural resources and protection of ecosystems as part of our long-term strategy of development till 2030.

Kazakhstan has fulfilled its obligations on most Millennium Development Goals, including poverty reduction, providing primary education and expanding women's rights. New laws were adopted for strengthening economic competitiveness, increasing energy efficiency and developing sources of renewable energy. The National Council on Sustainable Development as well as, the Civil Forum and Kazakhstan's Ecoforum which is an independent association of ecological NGOs actively operate in the country. In partnership with international organizations and the governments of other countries, hundreds projects have been implemented.

Since RIO-92 we have increased the areas of national parks and specially protected territories more than 20 times.

At the same time, many problems remain unsolved. These include trans-boundary issues. Volumes of waste and emissions are still growing, and ecosystems are suffering. There are real threats to the country's development from climate change. Thawing of glaciers caused by climate change in Central Asia has led to a reduction of water resources and degradation of ecosystems.

Central Asia states created sub-regional mechanisms to solve these issues such as International Fund for the Aral Sea saving and Interstate Commissions on sustainable development and water coordination. However, these efforts are not enough, and new approaches are required.

Kazakhstan, as well as other states in the region, has enormous potential for energy saving and development of renewable energy sources. There are also considerable opportunities for investing into raising the efficiency of the use of water and soil. Billions of tons of accumulated waste can be also a source of raw materials, and extensive areas of clean farmlands and water reservoirs provide possibilities for organic agriculture and fishery as well as for ecotourism. Green investments of this kind can form a basis for modernizing the economy and create new jobs.

Kazakhstan's experience shows that to achieve potential of this kind we need joint actions by the developed countries and the developing world.

We also need to create a reliable and long-term basis for reforms and for investments.

When President Nazarbayev addressed the 66th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2011, he proposed reviewing the basic provisions of the existing paradigm of development, and adopting the Global Energy Ecological Strategy, as well as implementing the "Green Bridge" Interregional Partnership Program.

The Global Energy Environmental Strategy is a long-term program for moving to sustainable development based on conflict-free energy supply of all countries without damage to the environment. It provides for acceptance of unified norms and standards in energy production and consumption as well as global financial mechanism for support of sustainable energy supply.

The "Green Bridge" Partnership Programme is a voluntary mechanism open to any country, company or organization to provide practical assistance in transferring the best management experience, green technologies and innovations.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to all countries, organizations and Brazil as the host country, for supporting our President's initiatives in the Rio+20 outcome document.

Implementing these initiatives will undoubtedly make an essential contribution to global efforts to transition to a green economy based on sustainable development goals.

Mr Chairman,

Let me conclude by saying that Kazakhstan believes that there is no alternative to a green economy. Economic development is a priority for all countries, but it must not destroy the ecosystem and undermine the natural basis of life on Earth. We must take all measures we can to create the conditions needed to pursue a model of sustainable development at all levels.

We owe it to our children and future generations to make a decisive break with the past.

We invite all interested countries to work with us.

Thank you for attention!