



KAZAKHSTAN

Statement

by Mr. M. Kazhyken, Chairman of the Committee
on industry, scientific and technical development of
the Ministry of industry and trade of the Republic
of Kazakhstan
at the ministerial segment of the 14th session of
the Commission on Sustainable Development

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Mr.Chairman,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of the fourteenth session of the Commission and express our confidence that, under your stewardship, the Commission will be able to work out decisions on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the XXI century and the decisions of Johannesburg summit.

Kazakhstan is strongly committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and successfully implements the long-term national development strategy. The main goal of the Government of Kazakhstan in the sphere of economy is joining, within the next ten years, the 50 most economically competitive countries in the world.

Energy plays a critical role in reducing poverty and achieving MDGs. We share the opinion of some delegations that, for foreseeable future, oil and gas will continue to play a dominant role in the energy supply. In this regard, efforts to develop cleaner and more effective technologies of exploration and use of oil and gas are important for ensuring sustainable development. Strengthening cooperation to eliminate gas flaring and venting would make, in our view, a great contribution to reducing emissions, conserving energy and increasing energy supply.

It is especially important to devise the right strategies to supply power to industrial facilities, introduce energy-efficient technologies and reduce energy-output ratio. Such strategies should include efforts to ease the burden on women, including by facilitating their access to sources of energy for heating and cooking.

The issue of diversification of the economy to reduce its dependency on oil and gas exports is of growing importance. It is due to limited natural energy resources and the need to use renewable sources of energy. Hence, assistance by advanced economies to developing countries in the development and use of new technologies and equipment to adequately meet energy needs by using renewable sources of energy will be of paramount importance.

Mr. Chairman,

Attaining environmental sustainability is one of priority tasks of the Government of Kazakhstan. The Government is planning to adopt this year an Environmental Code intended to adapt national environmental legislation to international norms, introduce new standards and tighten state controls. Measures to protect environment will facilitate promotion of new technologies for industrial enterprises and reconstruction of old ones.

In order to diversify its economy, Kazakhstan adopted in 2003 a strategy for innovative industrial development. A number of new national development agencies, like a development bank, investment and innovation fund and a fund for support of small and medium-size enterprises, have been established in recent years. Last March, they were integrated into a holding called the Fund for Sustainable Development. These funds are intended for financing investment projects to establish high-

technology enterprises. It will increase energy efficiency of enterprises, decrease energy intensity of GDP and create additional jobs in the regions with excessive working-age population. During the selection of projects to be financed special attention is being paid to gender issues.

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to international cooperation in the implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. The process of ratification of the Kyoto Protocol is nearing completion. We believe that wider use of the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol will facilitate national efforts to develop ecologically friendly and efficient energy resources. In this regard, simplifying CDM should become, in our view, one of the main tasks in the short term.

In order to facilitate transition to sustainable development in Kazakhstan and Central Asia, Kazakhstan, jointly with UNESCO, is organizing an international conference on the role of renewable energy resources in sustainable development in Central Asia, which will be held in Almaty from 17 to 19 May 2006. The conference is to identify forward-looking activities to develop renewable sources of energy that could be served as a basis for a future regional Central Asian plan of action on renewable sources of energy.

Thank you for attention.