



**PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT

**by the Delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the OSCE at the Opening Session of the Concluding Meeting
of the 30th Economic and Environmental Forum**

**“Promoting security and stability in the OSCE area through sustainable
economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic”**

Prague, 8-9 September 2022

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished participants,**

At the outset, on behalf of the Delegation of Kazakhstan I would like to thank the Polish Chairmanship and the Office of Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for warm hospitality and for organizing the Concluding Meeting to the 30th Economic and Environmental Forum here in a beautiful city of Prague.

The Delegation of Kazakhstan applauds the agenda for the next two days, which focuses on highlighting the joint achievements of 30 years of interaction within the Economic and Environmental Forum and identifying additional opportunities for cooperation in areas such as sustainable use of natural resources, energy efficiency, and renewable energy in the context of the development of a green economy.

With the outbreak of the pandemic, we have seen how reliant we are on a worldwide scale. This emphasizes the need for coordinated measures to secure economic and environmental security.

Since economic and environmental concerns are less politicized within OSCE boundaries, there is a great potential for dialogue, consensus, and collaboration between OSCE participating states in this area.

**Mr.Chair,
Distinguished participants,**

As you may be aware, in June of this year, Kazakhstan had a countrywide referendum on the adoption of constitutional amendments, which was a crucial milestone in the political modernization of our nation.

As stated by President Tokayev in his September 1st address to the Kazakh people, political modernization must be followed by substantial economic restructuring.

In this context, strengthening the country's transportation capacity is a top priority. Kazakhstan's significance as a crucial land corridor between Asia and Europe is expanding in light of the region's present geopolitical scenario.

Kazakhstan aims to become a transportation hub of global significance by increasing the transit capacity of the country. The Kazakhstan Railway Company will be reorganized into a full-fledged transit and logistics corporation. Moreover, we aim to improve at least 95% of local roads by 2025.

Another part of the development of the country's transport potential is the digitalization and greening of the Aktau and Kuryk ports on the Caspian Sea.

Nowadays, the Sea Port of Aktau is at the stage of obtaining the EcoPorts certificate under the OSCE project “Promoting Green Ports and Connectivity in the Caspian Sea Region”. It is an internationally recognized environmentally best standard by the European port sector.

Bringing the ports to European standards will increase throughput capacity while reducing their environmental impact.

These measures will allow Kazakhstan, being the largest country in Central Asia, to play a key role in Eurasian transcontinental trade, especially within the framework of the EU Global Gateway strategy.

Considering the current situation in the OSCE region, the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, also known as the Middle Corridor, is a valuable contributor to a wider network of transportation corridors that facilitates flow of goods between China and Europe

Over the last 15 years Kazakhstan has invested approximately \$35 billion in the development of the transport industry, which has resulted in more than 2,000 kilometres of railways, 19,500 kilometres of roads, 15 airports and the new port capacities along the Caspian Sea. Moreover, in 2022, Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev announced an investment package worth \$20 billion until 2025 aimed at enhancing the diversification of transit and transport routes, as well as the implementation of integrated logistics solutions.

In this vein, the initiative of Kazakhstan to create an OSCE Thematic Center in Nur-Sultan is worth mentioning. This initiative, aligned with the documents adopted at the OSCE Summits in Istanbul and Astana, is based on the importance of establishing cooperation in the economic and environmental sphere, strengthening the capacities of and implementing all commitments in the second dimension.

The Thematic Center will strengthen the Eurasian vector of the OSCE, as stated in the OSCE Astana Declaration. Moreover, it will contribute to the creation of a unified economic region from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, building political trust and reducing conflicts through the economic and environmental dimension.

The Thematic Centre will implement projects in the fields of good governance, green economy, disaster prevention, energy security, trade and transport facilitation for the entire OSCE area.

We consider strengthening sustainable connectivity to be a priority for the Thematic Centre and we firmly believe that connectivity will make it possible to improve interaction between neighboring countries and strengthen trust and agreement in the OSCE area.

Nowadays, as a result of climate change, as well as the increasing consumption of energy and natural resources, we face an increasing demand for new technologies and modern infrastructures to support liveable conditions for the citizens.

“Smart and resilient city” approaches can be instrumental in dealing with these challenges and can constitute a sustainable environment for the population living and working in them.

“Smart cities” is a multi-sectoral topic that is related to several OSCE commitments as contained in a number of documents.

Today Nur-Sultan is continuing its active work of transformation into a "Smart City" in accordance with the "Digital Kazakhstan" State Program.

The main objectives of the program is to increase the standard of living through the use of digital technologies, accelerate the pace of economic development, as well as create conditions for the transition to the digital economy.

Within the framework of the program six key areas of digitalization have been identified. These are the digitalization of security, utilities, healthcare, education, transport and public services

We have also approved the Smart City Concept to ensure the effective interaction between businesses, government and citizens, which is inline with the European model of smart cities.

Thus, we have identified priority projects in each of the key areas and are implementing them.

**Mr.Chair,
Distinguished participants,**

Today, the OSCE region continues to experience an unprecedented period characterized by intensified country-to-country tensions, ongoing global economic turmoil, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, heightened risks of regional conflict escalation, and a growing number of humanitarian and environmental issues.

Kazakhstan is situated at the center of Eurasia and Central Asia and faces the same challenges and threats. To ensure the security and sustainable development of Central Asia at a new stage, the countries of the region should take coordinated, joint, and operational measures.

We are open to any format of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in such priority areas as transferring national economies to an innovative digital platform; reducing the energy intensity of national economies in

order to adapt the countries of the region to modern, stringent international standards. Kazakhstan is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its accession to the OSCE and is in the process of building "New Kazakhstan" through reforms initiated by President Tokayev. This necessitates profound systemic changes in the economy and the creation of new forms of energy. In this regard, Kazakhstan has embarked on a path toward decarbonizing the economy and formulated a Concept for low-carbon development through 2050. Kazakhstan has set an ambitious goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

To achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, the energy intensity of Kazakhstan's GDP must be reduced by 38.9% by 2030, and the proportion of coal in the structure of electricity generation must decrease from 68.9% to 40% due to the natural decommissioning of capacities.

Concurrently, measures will be taken to advance electric transportation, sustainable agriculture, and other economic sectors.

Within the context of a number of international projects, Kazakhstan is working to align its national emissions trading system with the European system. The republic will gain access to the international carbon market upon completion. The possibility of bringing the Kazakh emissions trading system closer to the European system will encourage domestic reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in order to meet Paris Agreement obligations.

To maintain a high level of competitiveness, Kazakhstan seeks to attract the necessary investments in accordance with global trends.

We sincerely hope that the ExB project "Supporting Green Ports and Connectivity in the Caspian Region" will continue to be implemented, and we urge the participating states to support this important project that will unite and economically benefit many nations.

In conclusion, we would like to note that due to the current difficult state of affairs in the organization, interaction within the second dimension is of particular importance.

Economic and environmental cooperation between participating states must continue not in spite of, but in response to, all misunderstandings and discord within the region.

We wish all participants fruitful discussions over the course of the next two days.

Thank you very much.