

**Statement to the Commission on Population and Development  
Acting as Preparatory Committee for the Special Session  
of the General Assembly**

**As written**



# KAZAKHSTAN

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Commission on Population and Development  
acting as the preparatory committee for the  
special session of the General Assembly for  
the review and appraisal of the implementation  
of the Programme of Action of the  
International Conference on Population and  
Development

## STATEMENT

by

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Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
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New York

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Translated from Russian

Mr. Chairman,

I should like first of all to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election, and to wish each of you success in the leadership of the Preparatory Committee for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Mr. Chairman,

The Programme of Action of the Conference, which marked the beginning of a new era in population and development, made the well-being of human beings, rather than human numbers, the focal point.

In this context we should like to support the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Secretary-General presented for the consideration of delegations at today's meeting, and to comment briefly on the report of the **Secretary-General** on proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/1999/PC/4).

This document contains, in our view, key actions to be carried out by the international community for the further implementation of the goals and tasks of the Cairo Conference and constitutes a good analytical basis for its subsequent discussion. It reflects in an objective way the basic trends in world population, the priorities, progress and constraints, and key future actions for further cooperation. The document deals to a certain extent with the problems of countries undergoing a transition.

At the same time, we should like to draw attention to the insufficient light shed by the document on a number of population problems which characterize the Central Asian region and Azerbaijan. This situation was discussed at the regional preparatory meeting of experts from Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan for the special session of the General Assembly on population, held at **Almaty** on 11 and 12 March 1999 as a follow-up to the Hague Forum. At that meeting, a **discussion** took place of the prospects for developing cooperation between countries with a view to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Cairo Conference, the practical difficulties involved in its realization, and the preparation of proposals and recommendations to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee for the special session of the General Assembly on population and development. In the view of the participants in the meeting -- Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan -- the references to natural disasters in the report of the Secretary-General do not sufficiently reflect the problems relating to the long-term impact of environmental catastrophes. In this connection we consider it necessary to note the issues of their negative impact on the demographic situation in the region as a whole and on the state of health of the population, especially

the reproductive health of women. The advisability of such an approach is graphically confirmed by the fact that the incidence of anaemia observed among women of child-bearing age living in the region is 80 per cent and shows no tendency to decline.

Of special concern to the Central Asian States and Azerbaijan is the problem of the continuing degradation of the environment stemming from the tests conducted at the former Semipalatinsk nuclear facility, the burial of radioactive waste from the former USSR, the drying up of the Aral Sea and the rise in the level of the Caspian Sea.

The large flow of refugees and displaced persons, which puts a significant strain on the development of human resources, is a burning issue for the region.

In this connection we consider it necessary to draw the attention of the Preparatory Committee to the problems raised at the regional meeting so that they may be taken into account in the further elaboration of the concluding document of the special session of the General Assembly.

The participants in the meeting urged the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to take regional priorities fully into account in the preparation of UNFPA country programmes for the next quinquennium. They called upon the United Nations to provide assistance to the Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan in attracting support from the international community and in the granting by donor countries, international organizations and financial institutions which engage in aid to development of financial and technical assistance for the solution of regional problems.

This is also dictated by the fact that the financial crisis in many developing countries, coupled with declines in official development assistance (ODA) and a levelling-off of international population assistance, have slowed the rate of progress in the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action. In this connection we fully share the view of the Secretary-General that the international community must intensify the efforts to realize national population and development potential and transfer the relevant technology and know-how to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

There can be no doubt that reaching the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product for ODA and allocating a minimum of 4 per cent of ODA for population activities will contribute to progress and the achievement of the goals and tasks of the Programme of Action of the Cairo Conference.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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