



KAZAKHSTAN

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**Statement
by**

H.E. MR. NURLAN DANENOV

**Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

**at the general debate
of the ECOSOC High-Level Segment**

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**Distinguished Mr. President,
Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today, economic growth, social development, environmental protection, as well as ensuring an optimal balance between them are a most important precondition of the sustainable development of States and one of the key factors of the international stability.

In addressing this serious challenge we now have to tackle new difficulties.

As it was rightfully noted in the report, entitled "World economic situation and prospects as of mid-2008", "the unfolding food crisis, which is not only a grave humanitarian issue, but also a serious threat to social and political stability in some developing economies, endangers the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals."

We share the view that the current **food crisis** has been brought about by a number of closely interrelated factors that were reflected in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. As the causes of the crises are numerous and intertwined, dealing with them requires a **holistic and coherent approach**. International community should act in unison and consistently, and Governments, the United Nations system, development banks, non-governmental organizations, scientific community, and private sector have an important role to play in this common endeavour.

We believe that first of all **it is important to ensure expeditious provision of all pledged contributions to finance emergency food aid.**

All Member States should demonstrate the necessary **political will and flexibility** in order to bring about a new trade regime, the one that would strengthen food security by promoting food production and investments in the agricultural sector of the developing economies. In this regard, we think it important to **intensify efforts to complete the Doha round of the trade talks.**

It is also important to ensure **effective work of the international financial institutions**, and to review carefully programmes promoting biofuel use in order to prevent these programmes from undermining food security.

It is also necessary to develop closer **regional cooperation** in order to strengthen food security.

Mr. President,

Being a part of the world economy, Kazakhstan has also felt the negative consequences of the food prices increase. The Government is implementing necessary measures **to meet the internal demand** for staple foodstuffs and to curb the price increase. Funds are being allocated to create a reserve of the basic foods and some regulatory measures in the areas of customs and tariffs are being taken. A draft law on food security is being prepared.

The Government is **taking a number of additional measures to strengthen agricultural production** within an adopted Concept of the sustainable development of the agro-industrial complex until 2010.

According to World Bank figures, **the agricultural sector in our country is second only to oil sector in terms of efficiency of investments.** In the last five years, investments growth rate in agriculture more than doubled. Agricultural sector has become attractive for business, and this is another incentive for developing a modern and competitive agro-industrial complex in our country and increasing its export potential, as well as living standards and wellbeing of the rural population.

Kazakhstan has already proved itself as a major grain supplier in the world and participates in programmes aimed at providing food aid to the countries in need.

It should be noted that the agricultural sector of the country has an enormous potential for further increase of production, subject to attracting necessary investments and introducing advanced technologies and scientific achievements.

Mr. President,

Now let me draw attention to the steps being undertaken by Kazakhstan to achieve sustainable development.

A Concept of Transition By the Republic of Kazakhstan to Sustainable Development for 2007-2024 has been adopted. Implementation of the Concept is aimed at ensuring further economic growth in Kazakhstan by using resources more efficiently and providing a higher level of environmental protection. For the first time specific quantitative indicators have been adopted to measure the progress in economic, social, demographic and environmental areas. The Concept provides for creation of transboundary zones of sustainable development based on the "basin principle", which would allow neighbouring States, business community and local populations act as one in preserving sustainability of environmental systems. In cooperation with China and Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan is already making efforts to create the first such zone.

We believe that this initiative could find support within the United Nations.

In order to introduce principles of sustainable development into strategic and programme documents of the country, and to ensure inter-sector and inter-agency coordination a Council on Sustainable Development was established which works under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

An **Environmental Code** was adopted in Kazakhstan that would make it possible to harmonize environmental legislation of the country with the best international practices. It contains articles in which for the first time relevant environmental principles of sustainable development are legislated, and a separate chapter on regulating greenhouse gas emissions. We think that Kazakhstan's experience in developing and adopting the Environmental Code could be useful for other countries of the world.

It is known that Kazakhstan has voluntarily assumed obligations under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** and has initiated the process of ratification of the **Kyoto Protocol**. Compared to 1992, despite the industrial growth, carbon intensity of our economy decreased by half, and industrial emissions decreased by 50 percent.

By 2004 we plan to decrease by two thirds carbon emissions per a unit of the GDP, compared to their current levels, and to achieve 250 times increase of the share of the alternative energy sources (sun, wind, and hydro-energy). Large-scale projects are being implemented in the country aimed at improving land use and forestation. This will lead to increase in the number of carbon sinks. New forests have been planted on 100 000 hectares in the last five years.

Access to **clean drinking water** is still one of the priority problems in the world. Kazakhstan believes that there is an urgent need to develop and adopt a United Nations convention on the access of people to clean drinking water that would become a legal basis for providing people with drinking water, including through transfer of relevant new technologies to developing countries.

Today, 76.8 percent of Kazakhstan's population have access to drinking water. For this purpose, the country spends quite a lot of resources from its budget. But the problems of efficient water use and waste water management are still acute. An **Euro-Asian Water Centre** has been established in Kazakhstan, which is a large research and production association dealing with water management technologies and environmental problems in the region's basins.

Kazakhstan has been very successful in reviving the notorious Aral Sea, having restored its northern part. Once lifeless, the Aral Sea is now again receiving the water from the Syrdarya River, which led to the revival of fisheries and the return of local people to abandoned villages. This proves that people can withstand even the most terrible environmental disasters.

An active international stance of our country in the areas of environment and sustainable development allowed us to get support from other countries that we need to organize in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, a conference of the Asian-Pacific countries on environment and sustainable development (2010) and a Pan-European ministerial conference "Environment for Europe" (2011).

At these conferences Kazakhstan will put forward an idea of integrating European and Asian processes on environment by harmonizing goals, strategies and plan within a single Eurasian continent.

Mr. President,

The problems of food security and sustainable development were addressed in various forums, including the FAO Summit in Rome. We think that the main factor in achieving the goals that we set in order to find the way out of the prevailing situation is the political will of leaders of all States to implement recommendations adopted in different forums in the past, as well as an active support from international and regional organizations, including the United Nations.

We are looking forward to close and consistent cooperation in solving the above mentioned important problems, both bilateral, and within international organizations.

Thank you for your attention.