

THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

SPEECH BY HEAD OF THE DELEGATION

OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

MR. K. M. AITEKENOV

TO THE SIXTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

ON CLIMATE CHANGE

THE HAGUE

NOVEMBER 21, 2000

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Your Excellencies,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Kazakhstan, aware of the necessity for real actions against growing climate change, contributes its active efforts to meeting its commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Kazakhstan supports actions directed at realization of concrete projects on mitigation of adverse effects of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions reduction by use of the flexible market-based mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol. Realizing the global character of this problem, Kazakhstan gives its special attention to coordinating actions of countries all over the world, taking into account their opportunities and common, but differentiated responsibilities on protection of the climate system for the sake of the present and future generations.

Strengthening of the institutional basis to implement concrete activities is a vital step in fulfilling the tasks that stand before Kazakhstan to achieve the final aim of the Convention. The Interagency Commission on Climate Change has been established, which coordinates activities in fulfilling commitments to the UNFCCC and ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. The Chairman of the Commission is the Minister of Economy. The Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection is the Deputy. In March 2000 the working group of the Commission was established as the Climate Change Coordination Center. The inventories of the years 1990, 1992, 1994 and also evaluation of the previous year's emissions have been made. The year 1992 has been chosen as a base year, when net emissions amounted to 314 mln. tons of CO₂ equivalent. As you know, in 1991 Kazakhstan became an independent state and a member of the United Nations Organization, that is why the choice of the base year for further inventories is both politically and economically justified.

Kazakhstan has not changed its stated position on its role in the united efforts to fight global climate change. As you recall, we have declared our wish to actively participate in Kyoto process by joining Annex I to the UNFCCC. As a

result of our experience in the previous Conference of the Parties and taking into account the recommendations of a number of States, in March 2000 Kazakhstan notified the Secretariat of the UNFCCC of its voluntary commitment to be bound by articles 4.2 (a) and 4.2 (b) in agreement with Article 4.2 (g) of the UN FCCC. On the basis of Article 1 Paragraph 7 of the Kyoto Protocol, after the Kyoto Protocol is ratified and comes into force, Kazakhstan will officially become a Party included in Annex I.

In our official note we asked the Secretariat of the Convention to exclude from the Agenda of CoP 6 a discussion of our proposal to join Annex I -- taking into account the importance of the issues to be discussed on realization of the Action Plan adopted in Buenos-Aires and the significant impact of the decisions to be made on the further course of the Kyoto process. In the meantime we reserve a right to come back to this question and do not exclude a possibility of its discussion at CoP 7.

Soon the decision made in Rio-de-Janeiro will see its tenth anniversary, the Kyoto protocol will enter into force, much will have been agreed. There are no doubts that the alarm was not sounded in vain. The agreements are essential, but it is also necessary to act concretely and pragmatically. The position of Kazakhstan is not changing, we are moving in the chosen direction. Our practical steps will be directed at concrete reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by means of domestic measures and the use of flexible economic mechanisms.

Thank you for your attention.