

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

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AND

CHAIRMAN OF KAZAKHSTAN'S DELEGATION ON
THE THIRD SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE

KYOTO, 1-10 DECEMBER, 1997

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As it is known, the Republic of Kazakhstan was one of the first Parties to support, sign and ratify the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC). Having assumed obligations pursuant to this Convention, Kazakhstan seriously takes all measures to implement and analyze processes taking place at the present time and expected in the future.

Being located at the center of the Euro-Asian continent, Kazakhstan has a unique diversity of different landscape and climatic zones: from the Siberian taiga to Middle Asian deserts. In mountainous areas of the country, occupying about a fourth of the territory, the diversity of zones is broader and clearly distinguished. Such a variety of the nature of Kazakhstan gives an opportunity to study processes related to the climate change on a comparative basis.

The obtained results are disappointing. In plains soil degradation processes (including desertification) and associated phyto-zoocenosis disturbance prevail including reduction and change in the biodiversity composition. In mountain areas, in addition to degradation processes, rapidly reducing glaciers are the main cause of shallow rivers and shrinking plants. As a result, this year in Kazakhstan forests have burnt out on the territory of more than 200 km².

Preliminary estimates made by Kazakhstani scientists on the basis of retrospective analysis show that the average annual temperature increase is approaching to 1⁰C. It should be noted that the intensity of negative processes is increasing each year. In a similar way we consider processes in other parts of the world, such as increasing frequency of flooding, forest fires, typhoon strengthening, etc.

Within the FCCC commitments a prognostic analysis of greenhouse gases emissions in Kazakhstan has been carried out. It shows that as a consequence of the economy recession the emission volumes considerably reduced as compared to **the base year of 1990**. Under existing conditions emissions will be gradually going up and reach the base year level by the year 2010. After that a further increasing can be expected if new energy-saving technologies are not widely introduced.

Kazakhstan had always high demand for energy since its industry is basically related to mineral resource extraction and processing.

It seems that now the best rational option for industry is a gradual transfer to less polluting technologies, energy saving and introducing alternative energy sources such as solar, wind and hydraulic power. In Kazakhstan the energy-saving program is adopted and the bill prepared. A number of measures are envisaged by the long-term strategy of the development of Kazakhstan, including an increase in CO₂ absorbers by means of rehabilitation of pastures, forests and organic farming. However, Kazakhstan being the country with economy in transition do not have funds to implement these measures without external financial and technological support. Therefore, Kazakhstan is interested that trading greenhouse gases emissions is introduced **at earlier time**.

Supporting on the whole the initiative of the World Bank, USA and other countries, Kazakhstan makes a proposal to begin trading emissions in the nearest future not in 2008-2012 when greenhouse gases emissions into the air will be significant. By that time an economic potential of Kazakhstan and other countries with economies in transition will be realized, and the greenhouse gases emission reduction in developed countries, which are the main sources of greenhouse gases emissions, will not be essential. This time unbalance can lead to even greater climate change and irreversible effects.

Recognizing the humanity of Conference ideas on concerted efforts among all Parties to prevent climate change, Kazakhstan emphasizes that countries with different levels of the economy development are under unequal conditions. In this relation our country supports an amendment to the Convention on an early transfer of new technologies by developed countries, submitted by the representative from Tanzania on behalf of group 77 in Bonn. In our opinion, implementing this commitment would be an example of joint efforts among the Planet's countries in preventing further climate change.

Finally, we would like to wish all the parties come to consensus for the sake of the main goal: preventing further irreversible consequences of climate change and sign the Protocol right now in Kyoto. Kazakhstan will support every rational proposal of the Parties.