

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

KEYNOTE SPEECH ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT¹

Belgrade, October 10th. 2007, 14.30-16.30

**Dear Chairman,
Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen!**

On behalf of the Delegation of Kazakhstan let me express the words of gratitude to the Government of Serbia and to the UNECE Secretariat for warm hospitality and wonderful organization of the conference.

We acknowledge that education for sustainable development (ESD) is one of the main national priorities and decisive factor for achieving sustainable development goals in the Republic of Kazakhstan. We strongly believe that ESD is the important tool for shifting from old values and paradigms that have created modern challenges.

¹ The present document is a scanned copy of a statement received on 10 October 2007 during the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Belgrade, 10-12 October 2007). The document has not been formally processed by the UNECE.

The Republic of Kazakhstan has favorable conditions when priorities of international policy on ESD and priorities of national policy correspond with each other;

In the frameworks of Kazakhstan's transfer to sustainable development, entering the number of competitive countries in the world and achieving MDGs, the introduction of sustainable development elements into educational standards, curricula and educational process at all levels **is required**;

During the period after the Kiev and Vilnius High Level Meeting, the Republic of Kazakhstan has adopted national strategic documents on sustainable development (SD):

- In 2006, the "Concept of Transfer of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Sustainable Development for 2007-2024" was adopted by the Decree of the President of Kazakhstan;
- In 2007, the Action Plan for the period of 2007-2009 on implementation of this Concept, which includes activities on capacity-building on SD and introduction of ESD into curricula was adopted by the Government Decree of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- In 2007, the Ecological Code was adopted that raised that status of environmental legislation and introduced the issues of education for sustainable development.

Therefore, basic conditions for implementation of the UNECE Strategy, promotion of ESD into national educational system and development of sub-regional development are prepared.

One of the joint achievements of Kazakhstan, Central Asian countries, and CAREC is the good practice of sub-regional cooperation by holding annual conferences, reviews, joint projects and self-assessment of ESD process whose results are broadly disseminated in Central Asia.

Thus, in 2006 in Kazakhstan, under support of CAREC and OSCE, there was a project implemented within the frameworks of which, the UNECE Strategy on ESD was translated into national language and the National Action Plan of Kazakhstan on ESD was developed, as well as Steering Committee and Expert Group on ESD under the Sustainable Development Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan were established.

In 2007 we expect implementation of the following stage of the project, - "Promotion of ESD into System of Higher Education of Kazakhstan". There were definite proposals made on introducing ESD into state standards of education.

It is significant to outline, that national traditional and cultural values should be comprehended as a methodical base for ESD.

In that connection, we consider ESD goals in the system of education of Kazakhstan also includes a return to natural national and cultural routes through rich experience of people's pedagogy.

Nevertheless, despite the achievements we have some challenges with practical introduction of ESD into the system of formal education due to an insufficient capacity level of different organizations, teachers on SD field. Therefore, capacity-building at all levels **is the important task for Kazakhstan at present time and we count for** assistance and support from our partners.

In conclusion, I would like to point out the significance for further development of cooperation on ESD area at all levels, i.e. global, regional, sub-regional, national and local.

I would like to express sincere thankfulness to all partners and donors supporting efforts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on ESD, i.e. UNESCO, European Commission, OSCE, UNECE, CAREC and we welcome for further collaboration.

Thank you for your attention!