

Statement by H.E. Mr. Kapparov Nurlan Zhambulovich, Republic of Kazakhstan

Dear ladies and gentlemen!

I would like to thank organizers of the forum for the given opportunity to participate in the 2-nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit.

Household water security is a basic requirement of a quality of life, and would be ensured only with an established universal access to water and sanitation, necessary for human and environmental health and a livelihood creation.

On behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan I welcome this conference and express our interest in the theme of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit - “Water Security: Leadership and Commitment, with special focus on water disaster challenges”.

All over the world issues related to water conservation and efficient management are gaining crucial importance given the pace of the climate change and continuous increase in demand from the developing countries. Central Asia is one of such regions facing serious challenges in sustainable water resources supply for development purposes. In Kazakhstan we are now taking state policy actions to create a situation where we do not over-use water resources – rivers, lakes, aquifers – and where we use our precious water as effectively as possible. If we do not take action, many parts of our country will face severe water shortages in 20-30 years and severely limit our ability to grow. We will do four things:

- a. First, we will establish ‘water efficiency programs’ across agricultural, industrial and municipal water users.
- b. Second, we will improve water quality and safety by adopting standards in line with developed countries.
- c. Third, we will strengthen water resource management by strengthening our basin-level water committees; they will have the executive power to preserve supply-demand balance.
- d. Finally, we will negotiate with our neighbors on trans-boundary water flows, to ensure they also act ambitiously to preserve our joint water resources.

Improving business and investment climate of the country and transition to a “green” economy are among top priorities for the Government of Kazakhstan.

Transition to “green” economy needs joint efforts to reform the existing economic model and tackle regional cross-border issues that go beyond the capacity of individual parties.

In recent years President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbaev has repeatedly stressed the need for a strict economy of resources, and above all energy in the post-crisis development.

Today the country is adopting the Green Economy Concept, which is aimed at making our economy more resistant to global challenges and protecting our environment. In this respect, we would like our international partners to identify Kazakhstan not only as a mere supplier of hydrocarbons and mining resources to the world market. It is important to open a “two-way street” when it comes to technology and knowledge transfer in the field of green growth and sustainable development.

Therefore, speaking at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2011, President Nursultan Nazarbayev proposed to reconsider basic provisions of the existing paradigm of development. Initiatives of the Head of our state – Global Energy and Environment Strategy and the large-scale “Green Bridge” environmental program – were recommended for the World Summit “Rio+20” as the National proposal of the Republic of Kazakhstan and were reflected in the final document of the UN conference.

The “Green Bridge” partnership program is a mechanism of transition to a «green» economy through promoting transfer of technology and environmental management expertise, based on the principles of voluntary participation for all interested countries, companies and organizations.

You are also aware that Kazakhstan plans to host an international EXPO exhibition in Astana in 2017. EXPO in Astana named "Future Energy" will address an issue of energy consumption on a global scale. We hope it will help global community to find solutions of energy security problems.

EXPO Seventeen will create an unprecedented opportunity for our city to become a "thought" leader in this important area. We want Astana to be seen as not only the geographical center of the Eurasian continent, but also as the regional center of technological, scientific and cultural exchange between Europe and Asia. As the world awaits commercial-scale projects to demonstrate the potential of alternative energy sources, Astana can become the right place for many countries to showcase and demonstrate achievements and latest developments in the field of energy. EXPO will make Astana the world's first live Third Industrial Revolution demo-platform, which will then provide an impetus to cultural and industrial transformation in Central Asia and beyond.

In conclusion, I would like to say that it is important that we don't miss the time and join our efforts for sharing of a wide breadth of experiences and visions at the highest policy level on critical issues such as securing water for food security, human well-being, and disaster risk reduction.

I wish all participants of the conference success and fruitful work!