

**Statement of the delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan
at the 19th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum
Prague, 24-25 September 2011**

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am glad to greet you all on the part of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Since recently there are many discussions take place on the ways of overcoming the crisis of the humanity, economic, food and ecological. President of Kazakhstan defined new approaches to surmounting global crisis by means of partnership of civilizations. One of the mechanisms of such partnership may become an Astana initiative called “Green Bridge”, which was first proposed by President of Kazakhstan at the 3rd Astana economic forum and then approved by the 6th Conference of the Ministers of Environment and Development of the Asia-Pacific region as a regional initiative to be implemented in 2011-2020.

The main purpose of the Astana initiative of the “Green Bridge” is promotion of a wide scale cooperation and creation of conditions for introduction of the principles of “green economy” in accordance with the changing political and economic conditions and growing demands of Europe and Asia.

Committee on environmental policy of the UNECE has supported the proposal of Kazakhstan on the inclusion of the Astana initiative “Green Bridge” in the draft agenda of the 7th Conference of the UNECE Ministers: “Environment for Europe”. In accordance with the recommendations of the 6th UNECE Ministerial Meeting and of the 17th Session of the Committee on environmental policy, Kazakhstan is preparing the draft Program of the partnership called “Green Bridge”.

This Program is aimed to facilitate cooperation between the countries in the field of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to the climate change, cost-effective use of resources, transfer of technologies for transition to sustainable models of production and consumption. By present, official letters of support of the “Green Bridge” Astana initiative has been received from the Russian Federation, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, USA, Poland, Bulgaria, European Union, Institute of Global Green Growth, and the German Society of International Cooperation and others.

A paragraph on the support and further promotion of the “Green Bridge” Initiative and Partnership Program is also included in the draft of the final document of the 7th Conference: “Environment for Europe”.

By present, in Kazakhstan there are created certain prerequisites for the development of “green economy”.

Quite successfully are being implemented the projects on elimination of consequences from the accumulated within the last “historical” decades of contamination and revival of depressive territories. The Parliament is discussing the draft law on introduction of changes in the “Environmental Code” with focus on preservation resources and tightening requirements to users of natural resources on the decrease of emissions, quality of water, management of wastes and implementation of commitments to the international conventions.

For Kazakhstan it more and more acute becomes the issue of water shortage. Available water resources of the country for its economy have almost expired. The most urgent issue is efficient use of water and introduction of new standards of water saving and use of secondary waters. In this regard Kazakhstan develops draft laws on facilitation of recycling water supply and tightening requirements to industrial enterprises on ration use of water resources.

At present Kazakhstan also suffers from unfavorable impact of the climate change, which worsens the threats of environmental anomalies and catastrophes.

The use of outdated technologies on coal in the industrial production and generation of electricity is the main reason of contamination of atmosphere and deterioration of the health of the population of major cities and industrial centers of Kazakhstan.

President of Kazakhstan has underlined the importance of decreasing energy intensity in the Kazakh economy and has instructed to decrease it by 10% by 2015.

Facilitation of the economically efficient decrease of emissions in post-Kyoto period after 2012 requires the use of different measures – political, economic and technological, which is impossible to make within one country’s efforts. This is why introduction of water saving technologies, instruments of “green economy” are the main constituents of the industrial policies of the countries of Europe, Asia and Asia-Pacific for the nearest decade.

In this regard I would like to emphasize the necessity to promote the Partnership Program “Green Bridge” on the evolvement of the plans of transition of the countries from the traditional models of economy and concepts of the “green growth”.

The key conditions for the commencement and implementation of the Partnership Program and realization of the investment project is to sign a multilateral agreement.

Taking into account the interests of the states in solving growing problems of development and cardinal improvement of the present situation, they could voluntarily create favorable conditions for green investments and technologies, which are necessary for successful implementation of strategic projects.

In many countries of Europe, Northern America and Asia there are many examples of support of “green economy”, which practically have proved efficiency, including on legislative and investment support of renewable sources of energy and enhancement of energy efficiency, water productivity, sustainable tourism, organic farming, and other perspectives of green economy. It is necessary to analyze and colligate such experience and on its basis evolve the draft of the long-term frame agreement on the implementation of the Program for the period not less than 10-20 years.

The basic necessary and favorable conditions for the environmental investments and technologies should be reflected in such and Agreement and then ratified voluntarily by the parties in the form of an International Agreement, which would be of priority over national legislations and normative acts, and eliminating barriers related with narrow sectoral interests and systems of management.

The Agreement should be open to joining by any other country and might be supplemented, renewed and developed without any hindrance.

Private sector should be a fully legitimate party of such an Agreement and have the possibility of financing project on a long-term basis and interests, including receiving incomes from saving and growth of the natural capital and support of eco-systemic services.

Participation of the international organizations in this Agreement is also necessary for rendering neutral platform for trust and cooperation of the parties, international experience, technical and financial assistance, as well as in the form of the international guarantors of fulfillment of obligations of the parties.

Public organizations as parties of the Agreement could play an important role in facilitating transparency of the decisions taken, as well as involvement of wider population into the projects and initiatives on education, enlightenment and support on local levels.

Scientific organizations would facilitate breakthrough technologies for greening economies.

The list of partners allows to admit that this is a new international document, which in the form of the Pact could be adopted at the World Summit Rio+20.

For the purpose of implementing these intentions we have created in Astana the “Green Bridge” Office, which will serve as a platform for dialogue and render support in the evolvement and implementation of the Program.

OSCE is actively supporting all Kazakhstan’s initiatives on the “green” cooperation, including the measures on discussing the future Partnership Program.

In this regard we await from the participants of this forum concrete proposals on the integration of the information space, on regional institutional, economic, financial, managerial, legislative mechanisms of implementation of the proposed Program and on the indicative institutional and productional projects.

We hope that the proposed Program of the “Green Bridge”, that be evolved with your participation, will be our common contribution at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and Environment in Brazil in 2012.

I thank you for your attention.