

# world/Kazakhstan independence day

## Kazakhstan urges global security

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Kazakhstan is a young country that appeared on the map just 18 years ago. But the depth and magnitude of the changes during these years have become for us equal to epoch. From a poor part of the former Soviet Union, Kazakhstan has become an economically advanced and dynamically developing democratic state, which is a worthy partner of the international community in solving urgent contemporary problems.



Kazakhstan, which experienced the negative effects of nuclear weapons use, has been and remains an active participant in the wider international cooperation aimed at nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.

On Dec. 2, 2009, the U.N. General Assembly approved an initiative by Kazakhstan proclaiming Aug. 29 — the date of closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site — as "International Day against Nuclear Tests." This appropriate resolution was originally proposed by President Nursultan Nazarbayev. The resolution was co-authored by 26 nations, including Japan.

We see the adoption of the resolution as a recognition by the international community of the significant contribution of Kazakhstan to strengthening international security and nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The experience of Kazakhstan is particularly relevant today, when the world faces the further spread of weapons of mass destruction.

We believe that time has come for a major strengthening of the nonproliferation regime and the reduction of weapons of mass destruction. In particular, Kazakhstan stands for the soonest entrance into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

The world needs to join in efforts to revive the chances of the CTBT for existence as an effective measure of containing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Through joint efforts, we must convince the countries that have so far either not signed or ratified the treaty and without whose participation it is meaningless to make those steps.

We believe it is critical to launch negotiations over the

Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty as soon as possible.

Kazakhstan proposes to strengthen and make more effective the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The world needs to recognize that NPT became asymmetrical, providing sanctions only against non-nuclear-weapon states. Calling for banning the development of nuclear weapons, nuclear powers themselves should show an example of reduction and renunciation of nuclear arsenals.

In this context, we welcome recent initiatives of the U.S. and Russian presidents, Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev, in this area, which echo approaches outlined by President Nazarbayev on numerous occasions at the U.N.

The future of the nonproliferation regime and prospects of global nuclear disarmament will, to a great extent, depend on the outcome of the NPT Review Conference in New York next May.

Yet we are convinced that mankind should take an even more far-reaching step. Our president has called for the development of a new treaty on universal horizontal and vertical nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

Recent developments in the world, including in Asia, demonstrate that the absence of effective mechanisms and tools to prevent conflicts is fraught with serious consequences.

Asia has become a focus for various conflicts that repeatedly lead to armed clashes and tensions that surely have a negative impact on global security. Hence the need to develop a system for regulation of regional relationships in Asia is more relevant than ever.

One of the tangible steps in this direction was the initiative to convene the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) proposed to the international community by the President Nazarbayev on Oct. 5, 1992, during the 47th Session of the U.N. General Assembly. This initiative serves as an effective instrument for maintaining security and cooperation in Asia. Its viability is based on the sincere aspirations and hopes of the people of the continent to live in a safe world.

Today, the main objective of CICA is to strengthen cooperation through elaborating multilateral approaches toward promoting peace, security and stability in Asia. The working paper "The cooperative approach to the implementation of the CICA CBMs" adopted in March 2007 in Bangkok marked

the transition to the practical implementation of specific measures and building confidence among members in four dimensions: economic, environmental, humanitarian and combating new challenges and threats.

In the immediate CICA agenda there are preparations for the Third Summit of Heads of States and Governments of CICA member countries in summer 2010.

CICA brings together 20 states, which occupy 90 percent of Asia's territory with half the world's population. We very much hope that Japan, which currently is an observer in CICA, will also actively participate in the forum. Taking into account the expansion of the main areas of the forum's activity, Japan could join the work on the development of one of the dimensions of the meeting. Participation of the minister of foreign affairs of Japan in the upcoming Third CICA Summit in 2010 would be very useful in terms of the exchange of opinions on topical issues on the regional agenda.

Moreover, taking into account the credibility and experience of Japan in promoting preventive diplomacy, Japan's full membership in CICA would be a logical extension of the desire of the new administration of the Democratic Party of Japan and the Cabinet of Yukio Hatoyama to assume greater responsibility for the affairs in Asia. The idea of CICA is not a short-term project, but it is a complex and multifaceted political process for the long-term perspective.

Of particular note is the asset of rich experience that Kazakhstan has accumulated during the years of independence, which is available to all. Kazakhstan being elected as a chairman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2010 has set

its goal of strengthening the OSCE as a forum for equal dialogue, exchanging of positive experiences and seeking effective solutions. Kazakhstan stands for the transformation of the OSCE into a powerful organization in the face of increasing threats and challenges.

Despite the fact that the OSCE, as the world's largest regional structure, has existed for over 35 years, few people in Europe know about this organization and the important role it plays in strengthening security and cooperation from Vancouver to Vladivostok. As a country having good relations with all members of the OSCE, we intend to give a new, strong impetus to all constructive processes within the organization.

Our priorities will include strengthening the European security architecture, development of transit transport potential, stabilization of Afghanistan — regional partner of the OSCE. An important priority will be to promote principles of tolerance and peaceful coexistence. In June in Astana will be held the OSCE High Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-discrimination.

One of the greatest challenges for us that President Nazarbayev has defined is to hold the OSCE summit.

Since the last summit in Istanbul in 1999, the heads of states and governments of the OSCE have not gotten together to discuss current problems and further ways to solve them.

After Sept. 11, 2001, international terrorism stated itself with a new force, overturning conventional ideas of enemies and threats.

In light of the multiple-vector processes, including the expansion of NATO, the lack of unity on the issue of the adapted Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the creation of a new European security ar-



Kazakh splendor: Akorda is the official residence of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan. KAZAKHSTAN EMBASSY

chitecture became a special issue. Unfortunately, there remain unresolved so-called "protracted conflicts" in the OSCE area — in Transnistria, Nagorno-Karabakh, Georgia-South Ossetia and Georgia-Abkhazia conflicts. The risk of exacerbating ethnic and religious problems in the Balkans still remains.

For the past eight years the international community has not succeeded in the stabilization of Afghanistan. Kazakhstan as a country providing humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, and which has recently agreed to train at our expense 1,000 Afghans for peaceful professions, would not only exploit the potential of the OSCE in this field during its chairmanship, but also would lay a good ground to strengthen the OSCE's role in solving Afghanistan's problems.

In addition, the adoption of Declaration on the Corfu process in the recent ministerial meeting in Athens as well as the Corfu process itself demonstrate the OSCE countries' willingness for dialogue and closer interaction. We intend to further develop this undoubted success of the Greek chairmanship, including in the form of holding the OSCE summit.

We believe that holding the summit during the 35th anniversary of the Helsinki Final

Act and the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II will give a strong impetus to all activities of this organization. We are convinced that today, 10 years after the Istanbul OSCE Summit, is the moment when our leaders should assess the current challenges and outline key priorities for security and cooperation in the OSCE area.

Our goal is to breathe the new life into the process begun 35 years ago. In collaboration with our partners we intend to actively work toward transforming this vision into reality.

Globally, the chairmanship of Kazakhstan will promote dialogue across Eurasia. There is no international structure that alone can solve all the complex challenges the world faces. In this regard, as a co-founder and active member of the SCO, CSTO, EurAsEC and CICA, Kazakhstan can make a significant contribution to the harmonization of their efforts with the OSCE to address today's challenges and threats.

Kazakhstan is convinced that only by acting together, we can achieve the noble goals of the OSCE — security and prosperity for our people. Combining our efforts will better meet today's challenges and threats, as well as ensure the formation of the zone of peace and prosperity in the vast Eurasian subcontinent.

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to the People of the  
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on the Occasion of  
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Their Independence*

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