

**ЭЫҰ мүше мемлекеттері
Сыртқы істер министрлерінің
27-ші отырысындағы
баяндама**

(Шуша қ., 2023 ж. 10 қазан)

**Dear Excellences,
Esteemed colleagues,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,**

At the outset, let me express my sincere gratitude to our good friend and colleague, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, **Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov**, for a warm hospitality and excellent organization of today's meeting in beautiful **Shusha** – the “**crown of Karabakh**”, **symbol of strength and unity of your nation.**

Taking this opportunity, I also **congratulate** our hosts on the occasion of the upcoming **32nd Anniversary of the Restoration of Azerbaijan's Independence (18 October).**

In reaffirming my country's full support for **Azerbaijan's sovereignty and territorial integrity**, I underscore that joining efforts to ensure **peace and stability** in our wider neighbourhood is among Kazakhstan's **top foreign policy priorities.**

Kazakhstan attaches **utmost importance** to all activities aimed at building lasting bridges of brotherhood and friendship between ECO states.

Kazakhstan expresses its **deep concern** over the **serious aggravation** of the **Palestinian-Israeli** conflict, which has caused **numerous casualties and deaths** among civilians.

We call on the parties to seek **political tools** to resolve the situation **peacefully** and not resort to actions that could lead to **further escalation** of the situation not only between the two sides, but also in **the Middle East as a whole**.

Dear friends,

Today I look forward to our discussions and exchange of ideas on ensuring a **brighter future** as partners.

Our Organization encompasses an area of **7 million sq. km.** and has a combined population of **over 300 million** people.

Given the political influence and growing economic potential of our Member States, Kazakhstan believes the ECO **can and should play a greater strategic role** in regional affairs.

In this regard, I would like to highlight **several promising areas for our closer interaction** and

reiterate Kazakhstan's readiness to work for a common good of all ECO Member States.

FIRST, despite geopolitical turmoil and multifaceted challenges, in 2022 our combined trade grew almost **40%** and exceeded **16 billion dollars**.

Анықтама: СИМ ақпараты бойынша, ү.ж. қаңтар-шілде кезеңінде ҚР мен ЭЫҰ мүше-мемлекеттері арасындағы сауда айналымы 8,8 млрд. долл. құрап, 2022 ж. тиісті кезеңімен салыстырғында 0,4% төмен болды.

However, there is still untapped potential for intensifying **intra-regional cooperation** in the coming years, namely through **ambitious infrastructure** and **transportation** projects.

To this end, Kazakhstan is actively involved in building **cross-border hubs** that take advantage of our geostrategic location on the crossroads of **five international railways** and **eight automobile transit corridors**.

We are successfully operating the **International Centre for Industrial Cooperation** on the Kazakh-Uzbek border.

A similar **complex** will be built in **Kyrgyzstan**, and agreements to create **distribution centres** and **grain terminals** have

been reached with **Turkmenistan** and **Tajikistan**.

Kazakhstan currently exports more than **500** items of **food products** to about **70** countries, including all Central Asian states, Türkiye, Iran, and Afghanistan.

Анықтама: АШМ ақпараты бойынша, АӨК-тің өңделген өнімінің экспорты ү.ж. бірінші жартыжылдықта 1,1 млрд. долл. құрады (+5%).

Сыртқы нарықтарға жеткізілетін АӨК-тің үздік 5 өніміне бидай, ұн, күнбағыс майы, зығыр тұқымы және арпа кіреді.

By becoming a **logistics hub**, our country can play a vital role in ensuring **food security** in our regions.

We are **ready to explore technological and regulatory aspects** of increased collaboration in this sphere.

SECOND, Kazakhstan sees emerging opportunities in **infrastructure cooperation**.

New, **more efficient** and **sustainable** transport routes are being formed between China and Europe via Central Asia and the Caucasus.

At present, Kazakhstan and its international partners are giving priority to **removing bottlenecks** along the **Trans-Caspian International Transport Route**.

Our plan is to systematically expand cargo traffic through this route and bring it to **500 thousand containers per year by 2030**.

Moreover, Kazakhstan is committed to further **diversifying transport routes** in the **North-South** direction.

By utilizing the **Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran (KTI) railway**, our countries can increase cargo flows by up to **10 million tons** per year.

These are encouraging figures in light of the wide use of railways in ECO Member States' transportation systems (*up to **80% of freight** and more than **50% of passenger traffic***).

The **continued expansion and integration** of transport corridors can thus ensure sustainable economic progress for all ECO members.

We encourage all interested parties to join Kazakhstan and our partners in implementing mutually beneficial **infrastructure projects**.

THIRD, as the **ECO's "Vision 2025"** road map is gradually nearing completion, we propose to include in its **successor document** priorities like **IT, artificial intelligence, and creative**

economy.

***Анықтама:** «ECO Vision 2025» – ортамерзімді перспективаға Ұйым қызметінің басты бағыттарын белгілейтін негізгі құжат.*

In particular, Kazakhstan's **new economic policy**, announced in September by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, is focused on creating conditions for growth in **manufacturing**, as well as **science** and **technology** sectors.

My country also plans to become one of the **IT** powerhouses and boost exports of its domestic hi-tech sector to **500 million dollars** by the end of this year.

I invite member states to explore opportunities with the “**Astana Hub**” **international technopark**, for example, through possible cooperation with the **ECO's Science Foundation** and **Educational Institute**.

FOURTH, in its capacity as Chair of the **Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**, Kazakhstan stands ready to assist in fostering economic interaction between the ECO and CICA.

We believe **relevant joint projects** could potentially focus on the aforementioned fields of

transportation and logistics, energy, and digital technologies, as well as **agriculture, finance and tourism.**

NOW, I turn to the **situation in Afghanistan.**

In the past year, Kazakhstan's Government provided humanitarian and financial aid to the Afghan people within the framework of the **Islamic Organization for Food Security.**

Furthermore, Kazakhstan's initiative to establish in Almaty the **UN Regional Centre for Sustainable Development for Central Asia and Afghanistan** will provide long-term impetus in this direction.

I call upon ECO Member States to **join Kazakhstan** in mitigating the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and providing necessary assistance to its long-suffering people.

LAST but not least, we see increased public demand to address **climate change.**

Our country is pursuing a bold strategy to reach **carbon neutrality** by 2060 and is ready to **share its expertise.**

Kazakhstan also fully shares concerns of ECO Member States over **extreme droughts,**

floods, heat waves, and forest fires in our region.

Of course, we constantly discuss our regional threats and challenges **on various platforms and forums.**

However, the further consolidation of our joint efforts is still an acute and long-overdue task ahead of us.

With this in mind, Kazakhstan initiated convening of **a Regional Climate Summit under the UN auspices in 2026.**

We would **warmly welcome** the participation of all ECO Member States in the upcoming important event.

Dear friends,

I am confident that our bilateral and collective cooperation in various fields will contribute to reaching universally accepted **sustainable development goals** and **greater global economic competitiveness** within the ECO space.

Kazakhstan is ready to **work together** with

all Member States to achieve these noble ends.

Thank you for your attention.