
WORKING TOGETHER
FOR A
SECURE FUTURE



The 2nd Kazakhstan-US
Convention

10 December 2014 | Washington DC





H.E. Erlan Idrissov, Foreign Minister, meets with Hon. John Kerry, Secretary of State, in New York, September 2014

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Organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the United States
with the support of the Council of Turkic American Associations



A STRONG AND RELIABLE PARTNERSHIP

*His Excellency Erlan Idrissov
Minister of Foreign Affairs Republic of Kazakhstan*

I'm very pleased that the Embassy of Kazakhstan is hosting, to coincide with the celebrations of our country's Independence Day, the second Kazakhstan-US Convention on the theme of "Working Together for a Secure Future."

This is a particularly good moment to discuss the importance of the strategic partnership between Kazakhstan and the United States. It is a partnership based on the regular political dialogue between President Nursultan Nazarbayev and President Barack Obama and which Secretary Kerry and I reaffirmed when we met in New York in September. Kazakhstan's growing role in regional and global affairs and its commitment to a secure world makes the country a strong and reliable partner for the United States.

The world today is undergoing difficult times which are having an impact on every country. As President Nazarbayev said in his landmark State of the Nation address in November 2014, "Kazakhstan, as part of the global economy and a country

situated close to the epicenter of geopolitical tensions, is affected by these forces."

To make the nation's economy more sustainable and diversified, he appealed to the people of Kazakhstan to "work hard and unite our efforts on the way to a better future" just as he outlined a major package of infrastructure investment over the next four years, which, to some extent, can be compared with Roosevelt's New Deal in scope and significance for our economy. While Kazakhstan's economy has been growing at a solid rate of 4 per cent this year, the President's vision is meant to ensure its continued sustainable growth even in the face of external challenges.

A good platform

It is within this context that I view the Convention, which provides a good platform to discuss immediate global challenges such as ISIS, Ebola, the Middle East crisis, Afghanistan, Iraq and the conflict in Ukraine. We have to find quick and lasting solutions

to these current problems while simultaneously creating the long-term strategies needed to keep the world peaceful and stable.

The wider Central Asian region also faces development challenges which we need to address including through greater international economic engagement. The US can play a key role in supporting economic growth through increased direct investment and co-operation in science and technology. The “Working Together for A Secure Future” theme of the Convention strongly resonates with Kazakhstan as we believe that development and economic growth are vital to long-term stability for the region and wider world. We hope policymakers, distinguished academics and business leaders will have substantial and productive discussions on this important issue.

Kazakhstan remains determined to contribute to peace and security, prosperity and sustainability through cooperation with neighboring countries and global actors including, of course, the US. Our successful



partnership on nuclear nonproliferation, global and regional security, energy and environment provides the backbone for our growing and successful relationship. I am sure that the frank discussions which the Convention will encourage will help generate both an intellectual framework and practical recommendations for the two Governments to implement, while we chart a roadmap of comprehensive partnership for a secure future.

I thank you again for your participation in this year’s Convention which I am sure will be a success. /

SHARED GOALS

*His Excellency Kairat Umarov
Ambassador of Kazakhstan*

I am honored to welcome you to the second Kazakhstan-US Convention on the theme “Working Together for a Secure Future”. This event speaks of the ever closer ties between two countries linked together in a strategic partnership to assist progress on a range of bilateral, regional and global issues from boosting US-Kazakh trade and investment opportunities to promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation worldwide.

I am pleased to note that the Strategic Partnership Dialogue is chaired by Foreign Minister Erlan Idrissov, who is a dear friend of the United States, and Secretary of State John Kerry, whose strong personal support for the close friendship between our two countries is much valued by the Government of Kazakhstan. They last met a little over two months ago in New York and agreed to further enhance the Strategic Partnership. Moreover, the Secretary of State was invited to visit Kazakhstan and we hope he is able to do so in the near future.

In just a few days, on December 16,

Kazakhstan will be celebrating its 23rd anniversary as an independent, sovereign state. It is a remarkable achievement for a country which some initially thought may never survive its tumultuous early years, borne, as it was, amidst the confusion and collapse of the former Soviet Union. But it has done far more than survive. It has grown and evolved as a proud, forward-thinking country with a vibrant, diversifying domestic economy increasingly and beneficially integrated into global markets in line with a multi-vector foreign policy, which, at its heart, rests on two all-important dimensions: security and prosperity.

The hand of fate has been kind to Kazakhstan. It has gifted the country with vast energy and non-energy minerals and resources. These, of course, have been the building block of the country’s rapid industrial development and diversification – along with internal political stability and strategic global partnerships. Kazakhstan’s GDP grew on average by 8 per cent per annum in the first decade of the new century.

Even though, like all countries, including such great economic power houses as China and India, it has faced difficult times during the recent recession, it continues to grow at approaching five per cent a year.

With good fortune, comes enormous responsibility. But my country does not see this as a burden, more an opportunity – to further engage in all regions and countries of the world; with countries great and small; with international organizations, particularly the United Nations where we are seeking to become a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 2017-18. This quest is based on Kazakhstan’s commitment to four different, but inter-dependent, areas of security – water, food, energy and nuclear security.

Project Sapphire

My country’s commitment to nuclear security began at the dawn of independence when it was decided to dismantle and abolish Kazakhstan’s nuclear weapons capability.



Indeed, 2014 is the 20th anniversary of the completion of Project Sapphire, at the time a top-secret bilateral operation that removed 600 kilograms of weapon grade highly enriched uranium (HEU) from Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan, to Oak Ridge National Laboratory here in the United

States. Project Sapphire, in addition to the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, were essential to eliminating the post Soviet legacy of radioactive materials, military nuclear infrastructure and nuclear weapons on the territory of Kazakhstan.

My country remains a staunch supporter of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Kazakhstan and the United States confirmed their shared commitment to non-proliferation and strengthening nuclear security in a joint statement following a bilateral meeting between President Nazarbayev and President Obama at the Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague in March.

EXPO 2017

Meanwhile, nothing speaks more clearly of Kazakhstan's commitment to addressing the future security of global energy supplies than its successful campaign to host the World Fair EXPO 2017, featuring the theme "Future

Energy." The EXPO in Kazakhstan's capital city of Astana is expected to attract some five million visitors from over 100 countries. US firms are already actively involved. Indeed, Chicago-based Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture Company secured the contract to design the 173.4 hectare EXPO grounds. However, while the EXPO is, of course, an excellent opportunity for international firms, large and small, to showcase the most recent developments in the field of renewable energy and "green" technology, more fundamentally, Kazakhstan seeks to use the EXPO as a catalyst for incorporating alternative energy sources into its national infrastructure.

Energy diversification is key to Kazakhstan's sustainable development. By 2050, Kazakhstan aims to generate half of its energy needs through wind, solar and hydroelectric power. Already a land bridge between Europe and Asia, Kazakhstan is working towards becoming a "green bridge", a crucible of green energy industries from which the region, indeed, the world will benefit.



Our “green” efforts are not limited to preparing for the EXPO 2017. Kazakhs’ strong historical culture of pastoral-nomadism have given them an intimate appreciation of the natural world – in particular and the continuing need to ensure secure supplies of food and water. Hence, in cooperation with the World Bank, Kazakhstan has now completed the first phase of the Syr Darya Control and Northern Aral Sea Project (SYNAS-1), which raised the volume of the Northern Aral sea by 68 per cent, increased

fish production by three times and reduced the salinity of the water by half. The second, five-year phase of SYNAS will begin soon, focusing on the rehabilitation of infrastructure surrounding the water.

Countering global threats

As an upper middle income country, Kazakhstan has used its prosperity to help counter threats to global peace, security and humanity – in the latter case, for

example, by recently donating to the Multi Partner Trust Fund to combat the Ebola tragedy in West Africa.

In addition to providing humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, Kazakhstan is fully engaged in the efforts to promote an ongoing dialogue, deescalate the conflict, and implement confidence-building measures. To that end, Kazakhstan has provided financial support the OSCE’s special monitoring mission in Ukraine.

In Afghanistan, Kazakhstan financed the construction of the Talugan-Kunduz-Shir Khan-Bandar road as well as a school and hospital. Between 2009 and 2015, Kazakhstan is providing scholarships to 1,000 Afghan graduate students to study in Kazakhstan’s universities and then return home to apply their education in local communities. Already, over 650 Afghan students have participated in the program.

Kazakhstan believes that development aid focused on integrating markets, reducing barriers to trade and improving the prosperity of neighboring states is the

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a year

Kazakhstan has earned the
responsibility *to serve as a*
non-permanent member of the
United Nations Security Council

best policy tool to ensure long-term stability and security in Central and South Asia following the withdrawal of US and other military forces from Afghanistan. Kazakhstan is a pioneer and strong advocate for regional cooperation in Central Asia and wider Eurasian area – a policy which flows from our belief in the free movement of goods, funds, people, and transfer of technologies, good practices and ideas essential for building strong and free economies and societies. That is the main reason for Kazakhstan to initiate and be part of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), an increasingly large market, which can be accessed by the multi-national companies based in Kazakhstan. It is especially so for the citizens of top ten investor countries, including the US, who can visit Kazakhstan without any visa for short trips up to 2 weeks. Moreover, with the United States, we have a bilateral agreement to mutually issue 5-year visas to our nationals.

Kazakhstan has also recently deepened its relations with the European Union (EU),

becoming the first Central Asian state to agree an Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA) with Brussels. Signed in September by President Nazarbayev and (then) EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso, it envisages advanced and mutually beneficial relations in all spheres.

Kazakhstan Security Council bid

Kazakhstan successfully chaired the OSCE in 2010, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in 2011-2013 and is a sitting member of the UN Human Rights Council. And in the light of this strong track record of global engagement and a commitment to international peace and security, Kazakhstan, in my view, has earned the responsibility to serve as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2017-2018.

Finally, Kazakhstan is a sovereign state that welcomes friendly relations and strategic engagement with all willing, peace-loving

partners. I am personally proud of the progress our country has achieved over the past twenty-three years as an independent nation, and I am optimistic about the future. On behalf of Kazakhstan, I thank you for attending the Kazakhstan-US Convention, and I hope, in particular, for those of you participating for the first time that it is the beginning of a relationship with our Embassy, our companies, our think tanks, universities and our people. /

Program

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SECURE FUTURE: 2ND KAZAKHSTAN-US CONVENTION

10 December 2014 – The Willard Intercontinental, Washington DC

07:00-07:30

REGISTRATION

07:30-09:00

BREAKFAST & OPENING CEREMONY

Moderator:

Former [Congressman Don Bonker](#)

Speakers:

[Ambassador Kairat Umarov](#)

[Jerry Nichols](#) [CEO and President, Allen Global](#)

[Christopher W DeWitt](#) [Regional Director Central and Eastern Europe & Central Asia, Sikorski Aircraft](#)

[Congressman Robert Aderholt](#) [R-AL](#)

[Congressman Jim Bridenstine](#) [R-OK](#)

[Congressman Henry Cuellar](#) [D-TX](#)

[Congressman Phil Gingrey](#) [R-GA](#)

[Congressman Hank Johnson](#) [D-GA](#)

[Congressman Billy Long](#) [R-MO](#)

[Congressman Mark Meadows](#) [R-NC](#)

[Congressman Joseph Pitts](#) [R-PA](#)

[Congressman Austin Scott](#) [R-GA](#)

[Congressman Steve Stockman](#) [R-TX](#)

[Congressman Marc Veasey](#) [D-TX](#)

[David M. Rubenstein](#) [Co-Founder and Co-CEO, Carlyle Group](#)

[Islambek Salzhanov](#) [Director General, Altyn Kyran Group](#)

[Alan Spence](#) [CEO, Strategic Matters LLP](#)

10:20-10:45

POLITICAL SESSION:

Turning Great Games into Great Gains

- **Global and Regional Security: Challenges and Opportunities**
- **Non-proliferation**

Moderator:

[Frederick Kempe](#) [CEO and President of the Atlantic Council](#)

Keynote Speakers:

Erlan Idrissov *Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan*
Madeleine Albright *former Secretary of State*

Speakers:

Nisha Biswal *Assistant Secretary of State*
Anne Harrington *Deputy Administrator,
National Nuclear Security Administration*
Daniel Poneman *former Deputy Secretary of Energy*
Andrew Kuchins *Senior Fellow and Director,
CSIS Russia and Eurasia Program*

Q&A

10:45-11:00

NETWORKING BREAK

11:55-12:30

BUSINESS SESSION:

Kazakhstan-Gateway to Central Asia

- **New Investment Opportunities**
- **EXPO 2017: Future Energy and Climate Change**

Moderator:

William Courtney *President, USKBA*

Short Video on Investment Opportunities

Keynote Speaker:

Zhanar Aitzhanova *Minister of Economic Integration of Kazakhstan*
Catherine Novelli *Under Secretary of State*

Speakers:

Ainur Kuatova *Deputy Chair, Astana EXPO-2017*
Assel Yergaziyeva *Deputy Chair, KAZNEX INVEST*
Robert Hormats *former Under Secretary of State*
Stiven Green *President, Guggenheim International*
Sabr Essimbekov *Executive Secretary,
National Chamber of Entrepreneurs*

Q&A

18:30-20:30

NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION

At Ritz Carlton Hotel

CLOSER AND INCREASINGLY DYNAMIC

The United States and Kazakhstan are working closely together to grow their dynamic partnership against the background of a changing political landscape

Furkan Kosar, President, Council of Turkic American Associations

The Council of Turkic American Associations (CTAA) is very excited to co-organize the second Kazakhstan – US Convention. The theme of the convention – “Working Together for A Secure Future” – is very important because of the changing political landscape in Central Asia. Kazakhstan is as dynamic as the political climate that surrounds it, particularly in relation with the United States. Already sharing many mutual interests and long-term goals, working together towards increased partnership will be of enormous benefit to both nations.

The United States and Kazakhstan have enjoyed twenty-two years of dynamic and growing partnership. Working closely and cooperatively together, since December 25, 1991 when the US was the first country to recognize Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan’s growing role in the region has played a significant role in advancing US-Kazakhstan partnership. Kazakhstan is helping transform Central Asia and the Caspian region.



We were delighted to co-host the first Kazakhstan-US Convention last year in honor of the successful strategic partnership between Kazakhstan and the United States with many notable attendees and guest speakers. I believe that the Kazakhstan-US Convention provides an excellent opportunity

to take the dynamic and growing partnership between Kazakhstan and the United States to a whole new level.

The CTAA is a leading independent umbrella organization committed to advancing the interaction among American and Turkic people to promote and encourage continuing good relationship and understanding through its affiliate organizations regardless of their ethnic origin, religion and other preferences. The vision of the Kazakhstan-US Convention echoes many of CTAA’s goals – to build and support the political empowerment of Turkic Americans by functioning as a powerful advocate for dialogue at the grassroots level among Turkic-American and American communities, as well as at the national level among Turkic states and the United States.

We hope you will enjoy the second Kazakhstan-US Convention! /

PROMOTING PURPOSE-DRIVEN TIES

Frederick Kempe

President, The Atlantic Council

Central Asia sits at the very center of the great land mass that stretches from France's Atlantic coast to the shores of the Pacific in China. It is a region rich in history, strategic value and natural resources. While remote from the United States, it is surrounded by big neighbors with big ambitions. How Russia, China, Iran, India and Pakistan channel these ambitions in the next few years will be major factors in the way in which Central Asian countries seek to evolve their own, independent foreign, economic and security policies. All of this will have global implications.

Ever since the attack of September 11, the United States has devoted substantial attention to Afghanistan and Central Asia. Not surprisingly, the US/coalition troop withdrawals from Afghanistan are giving rise to considerable concern that the Transatlantic Community and particularly the US will demonstrate much less interest in Central Asia. The extension by the US Administration of direct action by US troops against the Taliban beyond the original end-2014



deadline has brought some comfort, but has not greatly diminished this concern.

It would be a great strategic error for the United States to turn away from the region at this time – or at any time. Its geopolitical location, beside two of the world's great powers at a time of increased uncertainty, will become only more important over time. Whether the threats are those of radical extremism or revisionism, whether they are of economic underdevelopment or of access to natural resources, the United States has

enduring interests in the sovereignty and stability of all regional players.

Against this background, the Atlantic Council believes that the new and urgent work is required by the Atlantic community of nations to promote purpose-driven ties and engagement with Eurasia, and the Atlantic Council is specifically committed to the region in a bid to help catalyze common action to build a prosperous and stable Central Asia. And it inevitably follows from this Atlantic Council commitment that it is set to become more involved with Kazakhstan, given its core strategic and economic role in the region. This will be the springboard to greater Transatlantic engagement throughout Central Asia. /



PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION



 President Nazarbayev and President Obama met at the Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, March 2014. In a joint statement the Republic of Kazakhstan and the United States of America confirmed a shared commitment to nonproliferation and strengthening nuclear security.

The joint statement also confirmed United States' support for the efforts of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank, establish a Regional Nuclear Security Training Center, and strengthen its emergency preparedness, response and mitigation capabilities. /



Photo: US Department of State

 H.E. Erlan Idrissov, Foreign Minister met Secretary of State in New York, September 2014. During the talks, Secretary Kerry reiterated strong US support for Kazakhstan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and its increasing leadership on the world stage, and thanked the Foreign Minister for Kazakhstan's longstanding support for the security, political and economic transitions in Afghanistan.

Secretary Kerry also expressed his strong support for Kazakhstan's eventual accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). /

Rep Robert Aderholt



Kazakhstan plays a growing role in the global economy by allowing companies to expand and invest in the region and by deepening and expanding economic cooperation in the fields of energy, manufacturing and industry development. /

Rep Mike Honda



US and Kazakhstan share a long social, political and economic ties. Kazakhstan has already proven itself as a great leader in nuclear nonproliferation, and as a Japanese-American whose spouse is from Hiroshima, I understand how extremely critical and significant Kazakhstan's leadership is. /

Dr Ernest Moniz [Secretary of Energy](#)



Kazakhstan has been one of our strongest partners in nuclear nonproliferation... The US looks forward to continuing to partner with Kazakhstan to strengthen nuclear security around the world and pursue our shared vision for a world without nuclear weapons. /
[US PEACE INSTITUTE, SEPTEMBER 2014](#)

Senator Kelly Ayotte



US was the first country to recognize Kazakhstan as an independent nation in 1991. The 1994 bilateral investment treaty between the US and Kazakhstan was the first step to increased facilitation of trade and investment. Since then, Kazakhstan has played key roles in advancing security in the region by preventing terrorism, engaging in peacekeeping and participating in the Steppe Eagle joint exercises between the US, Kazakhstan and the UN. /

Rep Jim Bridenstine



I would like to thank Kazakhstan for its significant contribution to the US during its war efforts in Afghanistan. As a Navy pilot, I flew over Kazakhstan on numerous occasions. Kazakhstan played a very important role with its humanitarian initiatives, such as sending peacekeeping troops to Iraq in 2003 to help in water purification projects. /

Rep Mark Meadows



The mutual respect, trust and friendship between Kazakhstan and the United States are what will make both countries prosperous, and we should recognize Kazakhstan's past, and we must focus on its future. /

Retrospective

1ST KAZAKHSTAN-US CONVENTION

*Hyatt Regency, Washington DC
11 December 2013*



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SECURE FUTURE



THE 2ND KAZAKHSTAN US CONVENTION

KAZAKHSTAN MATTERS

Alan Spence

CEO Strategic Matters LLP

At the outset, some 23 years ago, there were doubts in some world capitals that Kazakhstan would survive as a new, independent country – its post-Soviet era infrastructure and industry arguably no basis for a viable, stable economy capable of meeting the basic needs of a population of 16 million people, let alone improving the quality of their everyday life.

But it did survive. Moreover it has become a country that matters – obviously to the people of Kazakhstan, but increasingly to the Central Asia region and, indeed, to all those countries around the world striving for peace and stability.

The decision by President to dismantle the country's arsenal of nuclear weapons was a declaration to the world that Kazakhstan regarded no-one at its enemy and was a basic foundation stone of the country's policy of multilateral engagement. In turn, this helped underpin foreign direct investment, initially targeting the natural resource sector and later a broad range of diversified industries under a policy



of accelerated industrial development.

As its economic take-off gathered pace, especially in the energy sector, the country sought to increasingly engage, both commercially and politically, throughout Central Asia – and subsequently on the global stage. The country is a successful former chair of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. It has a partnership arrangement with NATO, a close relationship with the European Union, a strategic partnership

with US, observer status at the African Union and is increasingly looking to build ties with South America. A valued partner in the coalition against global terror, it continues to play a key role in helping Afghanistan become a secure state.

Inevitably, over the years, it has played an increasing role in the global nuclear non-proliferation movement – perhaps most significantly helping to facilitate talks between Iran, the US and others on Tehran's nuclear program.

Next year it chairs the Commonwealth of Independent States and is on the cusp of becoming a member of the World Trade Organisation. It successfully bid to hold World Expo Astana 2017 themed "Future Energy", an event thought likely to attract five million visitors.

And now Kazakhstan's campaign is well under to become a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2017/18...

Hopefully, as a country increasingly regarded as one that matters, it will be successful in its UN bid. /

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