

THE DECLARATION ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF STATE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

PREAMBLE

The Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan,

Realising the historic significance of the attainment of independence by Kazakhstan for the successful establishment and strengthening of its statehood,

Expressing the commitment to constitutional values and policy of the first President of the country – the Leader of the Nation Nursultan Nazarbayev, aimed to benefit the people,

Sharing the responsibility before the present and future generations in building and improving the foundations of Kazakhstan's statehood,

On the basis of the constitutional task of establishing Kazakhstan as a democratic, secular, legal, and socially oriented state,

Solemnly adopts

THE DECLARATION ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF STATE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

During the period since the adoption of the Constitutional Law "On State Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan" on December 16, 1991, Kazakhstan has realised itself as a successful state with a democratic political and legal system, a stable economy, and high level of living standards.

As a result of the implementation of its own model of ensuring interethnic, inter-religious harmony and tolerance, and the patriotism of the people of Kazakhstan, domestic political stability and sustainable socio-economic growth have been achieved by the country.

The commitment to universally recognised principles of international cooperation, the renunciation of weapons of mass destruction and efforts to deepen integration processes have contributed to the high reputation of our country in the international community.

The historic mission of building a sovereign Kazakhstan, which was a centuries-long dream of our ancestors, was performed by the first President – the Leader of the Nation Nursultan Nazarbayev, who was unanimously elected Head of State on December 1, 1991.

Large-scale economic, political, and social reforms have been carried out under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

As the founder of Kazakhstan's statehood, the first President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev has made a significant contribution to the process of consolidation of people, strengthening peace and harmony, as well as to the definition of the right foreign policy course of the country, becoming the author of global and regional initiatives that won recognition and respect of the international community.

Thanks to the carefully calibrated domestic and foreign policy of our state, we have managed to overcome all difficulties and trials of the transition period of the sovereign state development, avoiding political and socio-economic turmoil, and enter the path of sustainable growth and progress.

By the 20th anniversary of independence, the people of Kazakhstan have made impressive achievements that create the basis for a competitive economy in the new century.

The Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, adopted on August 30, 1995, at a republican referendum, represents the legal basis for the successful development of Kazakhstan.

The adoption of the Constitution laid the political and legal foundations of the state sovereignty that is based on the recognition of people, their lives, and rights and freedoms as its highest values, enshrined key principles and foundations of the organisation of the society and the state that have allowed it to implement strategic goals and objectives of the modernisation of the material and spiritual life of the society of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan has created its own model of political system that takes into account national interests and global trends of political development.

As a result of the constitutional evolution and the phased reform of the legal system, the country created a balanced and effective system of government.

State power in the Republic is carried out according to the principle of its division into legislative, executive, and judicial branches. The institution of the presidency plays a system-forming role in governance. The President of the Republic is a reliable guarantor of the Constitution, the initiator and conductor of the country's modernisation.

The development of Kazakhstan is implemented based on strategic plans and programmes, among which the President's Strategy "Kazakhstan – 2030," aimed at ensuring the prosperity, safety, and improving the welfare of all Kazakhstan citizens, has a central place.

The basic policy documents of the Republic and the President's annual state-of-the-nation addresses reflect key aspects of the country's development, allowing the nation to systematically and consistently achieve established goals.

Kazakhstan has systematically and consistently striven to achieve and comply with international standards in the sphere of human rights.

The Republic has formed an effectively operating system for the protection of its people and citizens. It has ratified the basic international treaties, defining the fundamental rights and freedoms.

The Constitution guarantees equality of human and civil rights, regardless of one's origin, social status, race, nationality, language, religion.

The main social values of the state are the political stability and unity of the people of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan has managed to avoid social and ethnic conflicts.

Kazakhstan has created favourable conditions for the development of institutions of civil society and local self-government and continues to gradually improve the legal bases of functioning of political parties and public associations.

The ideology of Kazakhstan patriotism is fully supported in the country.

The people of Kazakhstan are proud of the achievements of their country, its rich historical traditions, of friendship and solidarity of its multi-ethnic nation.

The Assembly of People of Kazakhstan stands as a unique institution, representing the interests of the multi-ethnic population of the country that seeks to form the national identity of Kazakhstan through the consolidation of ethnic groups of the Republic on the basis of civil and spiritual and cultural commonality. The Republic has established all conditions necessary for the return of Kazakhs to their historic homeland from abroad.

The period of independence was marked by the revival and further development of the Kazakh language. The state language is an important factor of consolidation of the people of Kazakhstan.

The state fully supports the preservation and development of the diverse cultures and languages of ethnic groups living in Kazakhstan.

During the years of independence, the country's economy has achieved high growth rates. It has harmoniously integrated into the world economic system and gained a solid margin of safety that has allowed it to adequately counter the effects of external economic crises.

Kazakhstan has successfully implemented a programme of transition to a market economy and formed effectively functioning financial and banking systems and institutions of development and economic management. During the years of independence the gross domestic product of the nation has increased ten times.

The necessary conditions for entrepreneurial activity have been created with guaranteed legal protection of business interests while enhancing their social responsibility to the state.

The country has achieved a favourable investment climate that has succeeded in attracting significant amounts of foreign investment and to implement joint economic projects.

The country is successfully implementing projects on the development of transport and the transit potential of the country and on the widespread introduction of modern information and communication technologies. The agricultural sector demonstrates sustained progress. Kazakhstan is among the leading group of countries that provide global energy and food security.

New tasks to diversify the economy and shift it towards a non-commodity, high-technology path have been currently assigned, and the State Programme for Accelerated Industrial and Innovative Development is gaining momentum.

During the years of independence, the country implemented measures to develop its social infrastructure and to improve the living standards of its population.

Kazakhstan is included in the top fifty countries of the world in a global ranking of public wellbeing and it has become one of the three fastest growing economies in the world.

The stable growth of wages, pensions, student stipends, and social allowances is ensured through economic stability. The volume of the state budget allocated to the development of social infrastructure, health services, education, science, culture, and sports is annually increasing. The nation's youth policy is carried out purposefully.

By its twentieth anniversary, the Republic has achieved significant progress in the field of national security. It has established effective Armed Forces, and formed bodies of law enforcement and the protection of national security of the country.

Kazakhstan has resolved the issues on the legalisation and delimitation of its state border and formed a belt of good neighbourliness around the perimeter of its territory.

The demarcation of the border was made possible due to an adjusted international policy of the state and the personal authority and efforts of the first President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev. It represents one of the invaluable achievements in the history of the country since achieving independence.

The Republic is actively participating in global and regional international organisations for security and cooperation and it is building harmonious relationships of strategic partnership with the world's leading countries.

The creation of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia on Kazakhstan's initiative has turned into a significant contribution to strengthening global and regional security.

The Republic's multi-vector foreign policy has proved its effectiveness. Kazakhstan has established equitable and mutually beneficial cooperation with states of the Commonwealth of Independent States and other foreign countries, international financial institutions, and is deepening regional and interregional

relations. The Republic is actively promoting dialogue between the West and the Islamic world as a link in the negotiation process between civilizations.

Kazakhstan's chairmanship of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation, two of the most influential international organisations today, has become the evidence of the high authority of Kazakhstan.

The holding of the OSCE summit in Astana after a long break was a tangible result of Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the organization.

The Astana Declaration adopted at the summit, introduced to global policy a new understanding of security and cooperation reflected in the concepts of "Eurasian security" and "the spirit of Astana".

Kazakhstan has made a significant contribution to the OSCE and to the convening of a global inter-confessional dialogue.

Congresses of leaders of world and traditional religions held on the territory of Kazakhstan are becoming an important link in the development of cooperation between nations and civilizations.

The Independent Kazakhstan has become one of the leaders of the global anti-nuclear movement.

At the initiative of the Head of State, the world's largest nuclear test site at Semey was shut down and the world's fourth nuclear weapons arsenal was eliminated in Kazakhstan. This was the first case of the total voluntary renunciation of nuclear weapons by any nation in world history.

The country strictly observes the non-proliferation regime, and promotes global initiatives for the universal prohibition of nuclear weapons, safe use of peaceful nuclear energy, and prevention of threat of international nuclear terrorism.

The Eurasian idea of the President of Kazakhstan justifying the need of integration on the post-Soviet space has confirmed its historical correctness.

The creation of the Customs Union with a further transition into the Single Economic Space facilitates the tasks of creating a competitive economy.

The Republic is at the forefront of integration processes in Central Asia, provides economic and political assistance to the countries of the region, and actively uses its influence in the international organizations to support common regional interests.

The pride of independent Kazakhstan is its new, dynamically developing capital of Astana.

The grand construction of a new centre of Kazakhstan has become an unprecedented undertaking in scale and in daring: It is a project of the first President of the Republic.

The new city situated in the heart of Eurasia symbolizes the successful and stable future of Kazakhstan. Astana has become the embodiment of a cherished dream, the national idea that has united the people of Kazakhstan and given them confidence in their own creative potential.

* * *

The first 20 years of Independence have provided the evidence of Kazakhstan's success achieved under the leadership of a most distinguished statesman of our time, Nursultan Nazarbayev, and owing to the patriotism, indomitable will and selfless efforts of all the people of Kazakhstan, their unity and solidarity for the sake of prosperity and for the well-being of their Motherland.

The present achievements of the country are the legacy for future generations, and a reliable basis for building a strong, independent and dynamically developing Kazakhstan in the 21st century.