

**Statement by**  
**H.E. Mr. Erlan Idrissov,**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan**  
**at the Third International Conference on**  
**Small Island Developing States**  
**Apia, Samoa 2 September, 2014**

**Mr. President of the General Assembly,**  
**Mr. Secretary-General,**  
**Excellencies and distinguishes guests,**  
**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I commend the Government and people of Samoa for convening the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and wish the country peace and progress! This Conference is most timely and significant as it allows the international community to come together in solidarity with SIDS, and support them in overcoming some of their severest vulnerabilities on their path to development, in addition to the economic difficulties which they already encounter, similar to those of other developing countries.

The six High-level Multi-stakeholder Partnership Dialogues, which run parallel to the General Debate, provide specific areas of focus. At the same time, we recognize that these six themes have common, interconnected issues. It is therefore my delegation's conviction that we have to find ways to help the SIDS overcome basic and fundamental difficulties, such as those of limited fresh water, biodiversity and land resources, resulting in rapid depletion and degradation which affects waste management. The SIDS need help in reducing their heavy dependence on precious and restricted food, water and energy resources, and in building their resilience to climate change, natural disasters and external shocks due to global developments. Kazakhstan as a member of international community makes its own contribution to combat the effects of natural disasters has taken place in the SIDS.

Developing transport and telecommunications to overcome isolation from global markets, cutting down high freight costs, enhancing competitiveness in international trade, strengthening domestic markets and expanding export volumes are all crucial building blocks for the development of the SIDS. Thus, we have to seek out just and advantageous economic opportunities within the forces of globalization, so as to prevent the further marginalization of SIDS from the global economy.

Kazakhstan will work together with the Office of the High Representative regarding the SIDS, CARICOM, ESCAP, ECLAC, FAO, ITU, UNCTAD and other organizations and funds. The objective of such partnership is to promote regional cooperation, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, technology transfer,

technical cooperation and institutional development, wherever applicable and to promote economic and social policies and regional exchanges.

In the light of the above, Kazakhstan welcomes the participation of the SIDS in the Astana Economic Forum that is held annually in the month of May. We can begin dialogue today on how new partnerships can be formed through the Forum. The SIDS, isolated by geographical dispersion, can join Kazakhstan's G-Global - a virtual forum to share strategies and approaches with other Member States. Thus, virtual communities will be created around a relevant set of issues, commonalities or interests, with a designated space for discussion, file sharing, and the posting of articles. The Astana Forum, at a future meeting, can consider the implementation of recommendations emerging in Samoa, and Kazakhstan can serve as catalyst in forging public private partnerships to promote substantial investments in the SIDS, and matching needs with opportunities.

Kazakhstan has made considerable advances in the energy sector on various fronts. We invite the SIDS to participate also in the cross regional Green Bridge Partnership Programme, initiated together with ESCAP and unanimously accepted by the 2012 Conference on Development (Rio+20). Our initiative is supported by a number of countries, and brings together governments, international organizations and private businesses to find transnational solutions to sustainable growth, by exploring and implementing the best available green technologies and latest green practices.

Kazakhstan will continue to promote the ideals of the sustainable growth and actively participate in international events and initiatives to reach this goal. **If Kazakhstan is elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2017-2018**, we will actively promote green economy and sustainable development in this important UN body.

The SIDS are heavily dependent on imported petroleum products, largely for transport and electricity generation, and indigenous biomass fuels for cooking and crop drying. However in the long term, like all developing countries, the SIDS will have to explore more economically and environmentally beneficial and diversified energy uses with the appropriate technology and energy policies. In the spirit of forming enduring partnerships, Kazakhstan in cooperation with ESCAP and Government of Samoa is a donor of project which involves training (self-help and faith-based sustainable living) and installation and maintenance of biogas systems and related activities.

To strengthen our cooperation with the SIDS Kazakhstan invites the SIDS to participate in EXPO 2017, to be held in Astana with the theme of "Future Energy". This international event will present innovations in the worldwide energy industry, and seek to address the critical global shortage in the coming decades with a view to averting the impact of climate change, depleted energy resources, and ever increasing poverty levels and gross inequities. It is only then that we will have just and fair sustainable development.

Indeed, it is to be hoped that the Conference will bring about historic and enduring alliances that will shape the destiny of the SIDS, for as Eleanor Roosevelt has said, "ideas move people".

Thank you!

