

## **Mitigation ambitions in times of New Climate Agreement**

*Ms. Gulmira Sergazina, Ministry of energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan*

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen!

The Republic of Kazakhstan is fully committed to the UNFCCC negotiation process with a view to adopting a global legally binding agreement applicable to all parties at the Paris Conference, with the ultimate aim of ensuring that global temperature rise does not exceed 2°C from the preindustrial period.

The appropriate mitigation ambitions by all countries are considered to be the core for the new climate change agreement we are elaborating here in Paris these days. Recognizing this and taking responsibility, Kazakhstan intends to contribute to international efforts to mitigate climate change consequences in an ambitious manner.

While doing so, Kazakhstan takes into account the level of economic and technological development and social impacts and implications of transition to a low-carbon development pathway to ensure "win-win" development through improving the quality of economic growth and living standards, and at the same time, contributing to the global effort to mitigate climate change impacts.

This September, Kazakhstan submitted its intended national contributions, namely, unconditional target of minus 15% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to the base year 1990. We also put forward a conditional target of minus 25%, subject to availability and access to climate financing and additional international investments into low carbon technologies. This target is ambitious, as Kazakhstan has undergone a period of consistent growth from 2000 – 2010 during which GDP growth reached 8.3%.

The ambitiousness and fairness of the target are concluded by the current emissions of Kazakhstan that reached 81% from 1990. At the same time the aim of the government's economic policy of Kazakhstan is to faster growth of GDP per capita to reach the current level of development of the countries of the OECD by 2030.

This ambitious commitment requires comprehensive measures to decarbonize national economy and introduce innovative "green" technologies. To make this all happen, Kazakhstan has developed a "Concept for becoming one of the 30 most developed countries in the world" which emphasises sustainable development through the transition to a "green economy". This concept specifically foresees that minimizing emissions to the environment will be achieved through transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to a "green economy", based on the "Green Bridge" initiative and the fulfilment of the obligations of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and other agreements.

In the long term, industrial emissions standards will be expected to be in line with those of the European Union. The “vision for Kazakhstan in 2050” presents key indicators for long-term development of Kazakhstan, some of which are related to emissions of GHGs. This is to be achieved through the modernization of generating capacity and an increase to 50% in the share of renewable and alternative energy sources in total energy production.

It is also expected that by 2050 economic efficiency and rational use of natural resources will increase, with the GDP energy intensity being reduced by half, from 0.4 to 0.2 tons of standard coal per thousand USD of GDP.

The above policies and concepts for transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to a "green economy" present clear and phased milestones for improving energy efficiency and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. For example, GDP energy intensity is expected to be reduced by 25% by 2020, by 30% by 2030 and to reach 50% reduction by 2050. This stepwise progress is clear and well planned, and is reflected in targets which are proposed in Kazakhstan’s INDC.

In order to emphasize its commitment to low carbon growth, Kazakhstan has adopted a Concept on transition to a «Green» Economy. For the implementation of the Concept, an action plan is developed, under which government programs on waste management, modernization of housing and communal services, development of sustainable transport, conservation of ecosystems and enhancement of forest cover were adopted.

The laws on extended responsibility of entrepreneurs and greening of vehicles are being formulated. The implementation of the «Green» Economy Concept, and adoption of related legislative acts, should lead to modernization of key infrastructure and production technologies based on energy-efficient technologies, and will make a significant contribution to reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

As mentioned by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, earlier this week, at the Leaders Event, we also put a lot of hopes in mitigating GHG emissions for the National Emission Trading System, set in operation in 2013. We are pioneers in the region in this field and hope that our lessons learned and barriers encountered could be of a help for others who would wish to follow.

And to conclude, I would like to emphasize that Kazakhstan has put a lot of efforts and established the framework for decoupling from business as usual scenario for GHG emissions and we will do our best to achieve the mitigation goals set domestically and announced internationally.

Thank you!