

STATEMENT
by H.E. Mr. Nurlan Yermekbayev
the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
at the informal Asia Cooperation Dialogue
Ministerial Meeting in the sidelines of the
64th session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York,
28 September, 2009

**Ladies and Gentlemen,
Colleagues,**

First of all, let me thank the Sri Lanka Government for the excellent organization of today's meeting, and the Kingdom of Thailand as the constant Coordinator of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue process.

**Honorable Rohitha Bogollagama,
Distinguished ministers,**

I would like to note that the issues discussed in the framework of the ACD are global. In this regard, I emphasize the importance of the topic for the forthcoming 8th ACD Ministerial Meeting in Colombo - *The Spirit of Asia: Global economic recovery and development prospects*".

Global economic recession - is a challenge our world is facing.

But I strongly believe that 21st century is the century of Asia. We expect that the growth of the Indian and Chinese economies, despite the crisis, will serve as an engine for the world economy.

To my mind, Global crisis -is also an opportunity for innovations.

As you may know, our President H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev proposed to introduce a new world currency to serve the world economy.

In this context, it should be noted that Kazakhstan is prepared to serve as an anchor in Central Asia and a key state, acting towards further

political, economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation and regional integration.

The Government of Kazakhstan, as we have vast arable farmlands, aspires to ensure a "green revolution" by using environment technologies.

Kazakhstan has enough reserves to overcome the challenges caused by the current world financial crisis. Nowadays, we have attracted 70 billion dollars of direct foreign investment. At the same time Kazakhstan itself became an investor for the regional economy by investing more than 4.5 billion US dollars.

We have opened the door for infrastructural projects in Kazakhstan. Institutional support will be provided through National companies such as "Samruk-Kazyna", and special institutions in agriculture, science and technology, healthcare.

My country is participant of the major international transport corridors as TRASECA, North-South, Central Asian Corridor, Trans-Asian Railway, and started expressway mega project "Western Europe - Western China".

Ladies and gentlemen,

The ACD passed through a formation period, gaining prestige in the Asian region and nowadays demonstrates willingness for further development.

Considering the challenges of the global crisis, the ACD started 20 projects and its implementation will give dynamism for achieving the main ACD goal – setting up the Asian Community.

The fundamentally important issue accepted by the heads of delegations during the 7th ACD Ministerial Meeting in Astana last year was the overcoming the moratorium on accepting new ACD members. And this decision was reflected in the Astana Declaration.

Kazakhstan being a coordinator in three priority spheres - transport, energy security and agriculture contributes to the Asian cooperation. We engaged in supplying energy resources to neighboring countries in Asia. It should be noted that the implementation of "Western Europe - Western China" mega-project will reduce transportation costs. We also suggest to expand other direct routes between Central and Southern Asia.

According to the 7th ACD Ministerial Meeting Declaration, Kazakhstan had planned to hold the 1st ACD Transport Forum at the ministerial level. However, a number of ACD member countries were not able to take part in this event. Therefore we postponed the important gathering till the date, which will be acceptable to all countries. The exact date would be announced in due course. We will continue our work in this direction and I am confident that in future we will be able to submit a plan of action for transport sector.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to congratulate Sri Lanka with its historic victory over the forces of terrorism in May 2009. There is no doubt that the end of the long conflict has opened up new prospects for national development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As it is known, Kazakhstan held the Chairmanship in the ACD since October 2008. Exactly a year ago, Kazakhstan adopted this status during the informal ACD Ministerial Meeting in the framework of 63rd session of the UN GA. Without infringing upon this traditional process, let me officially pass the ACD Chair's seat to Sri Lanka.

In conclusion, I wish all of us success in achieving the goals of the ACD, and once again thank the representatives of the Coordination Group for organizing this Forum.

Once again I would like to express my sincere congratulations to Sri Lanka with obtaining the status of the ACD Chairman-in-office. I am confident that the Chairmanship will give new impetus to the successful development of our Asian Dialogue.

Thank you for your attention.