

**Statement by
Deputy Prime-Minister – Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of
Kazakhstan H.E. Mr. Murat Nurtleu
during the General debate of the 79th session of the UNGA
(28 September 2024, New York)**

**Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,**

Let me first **congratulate** His Excellency **Philemon YANG** on his election as the President of the 79th Session.

I assure him of my country's full support and wish him every success in his noble endeavours.

Excellencies,

As we gather here, the global system is dangerously close to a **breaking point**.

Dozens of our fellow Member States, represented in this august hall, are **gripped by conflict and instability**, claiming many thousands of lives.

Entire continents are affected by the **climate crisis**.

Multilateralism is struggling to keep pace.

And yet, the United Nations is still **the indispensable universal Organization**.

After almost eight decades it remains a **vital platform** for dialogue and cooperation on **the most acute issues of our time**.

This undeniable fact compels states to keep working through the UN towards a **sustainable world**.

It reinforces our determination to seek **global peace and stability**.

And this green podium, this hall, remind us that **no nation, no matter how powerful**, can tackle global problems alone.

Excellencies,

The plight of **millions of conflict victims** worldwide, across the Middle East, Eastern Europe and parts of Africa, deserve **immediate, decisive and collective action**.

But the UN Security Council's **decision-making** process is **paralysed**.

As underscored by the Secretary-General, this sad reality **undermines the credibility, legitimacy and effectiveness** of the Organization as a whole.

Having annual discussions about reforming global institutions is **no longer enough**.

It is time to enact the change our world so desperately needs.

Last year, from this podium, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan introduced the **Initiative of World Unity for a Just Peace and Harmony**.

This visionary framework seeks to cultivate peace, stability, and security through **meaningful and equitable engagement** between the **Global South** and **Global North**.

The **voices of Middle Powers** and **developing nations** are vital in bridging divides and nurturing a **more effective international security architecture**.

It is in this spirit that I **invite all nations to embrace my country's initiative**.

Together, we can pave the way for a more harmonious and united world.

Excellencies,

The **pressing risk of another nuclear arms race** is exacerbating geopolitical polarization.

For over four decades, Kazakhstan's people and land were subjected to the devastating effects of **456 nuclear tests**.

Nuclear disarmament and **non-proliferation** are key pillars of my country's foreign policy.

Kazakhstan is therefore deeply concerned by the **escalating rhetoric of nuclear threats**.

We appeal to all nuclear states to adhere to the **Non-Proliferation Treaty** and **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**.

I also urge those countries who have not joined the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** to do so as soon as possible for the safety, stability and **survival of our world**.

As the Chair of the 3rd Meeting of the TPNW, we will promote **establishment of an International Trust Fund for assistance to victims of nuclear testing**.

Excellencies,

Another **existential threat** no nation can afford to ignore is **climate change**.

This year is expected to be **the hottest on record**.

Droughts, floods, and other weather calamities **continue to cost lives and damage economies** around the globe.

We therefore **call again on G-20 countries** and **multilateral development banks** to share the burden by providing green technologies and concessional financing to low- and middle-income countries in line with the **Paris Agreement**.

Our region stands on the **frontline of global warming** despite accounting for only **1 percent** of global emissions.

Central Asia will face an above average **2.5 degree increase** in temperatures by **2050**.

This sober reality has **deepened our commitment** to addressing climate change.

That is why my country will host a **Regional Climate Summit in 2026**, aimed at further enhancing cooperation among UN members on climate resilience and green transition.

Excellencies,

One of the consequences of climate change is **water scarcity** across the world. It undermines **food, energy, and ecological systems** on every continent.

One in four people today lacks access to safe drinking water.

If this trend continues, by 2050 **more than five billion** could suffer **water shortages**.

In Central Asia by that time **water deficiency** will affect **25 to 30% of the population**.

Meeting this challenge requires both **serious political will** and **scientific and economic resources**.

As the **current Chair of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea**, Kazakhstan is working with regional partners on a long-term and sustainable **cooperation mechanism** for the effective use of water and energy resources in Central Asia.

Our approach takes into account the interests of all stakeholders in **irrigation, hydropower and environmental protection.**

Excellencies,

As the largest landlocked country, **Kazakhstan actively promotes the interests of all LLDC countries** in addressing the multifaceted challenges our group faces.

Despite **significant strides**, we are still far from implementing the **Vienna Programme of Action.**

We are **lagging on critical indicators** – particularly the adoption of **innovative technologies for trade facilitation** and the development of transit and transport corridors.

These challenges **magnify the vulnerability of LLDCs**, choke off investment, diminish trade, and escalate the debt burden.

Furthermore, our geographical constraints prevent us from integrating fully into global trade and economic processes **on an equal footing.**

We are **dedicated to advancing our group's vital interests** globally and regionally.

My country is already a bridge for **80% of overland** transit cargo traffic between Asia and Europe.

Kazakhstan is committed to strengthening synergies between the **Belt and Road** project, the **Global Gateway Initiative**, and the **North-South and Trans-Caspian International Transport Route** corridors.

Together, we have the unique potential to transform our landlocked status into **land-linked connectivity.**

Excellencies,

The Summit of the Future distinctly highlighted **digital transformation** as the driving force behind the 2030 Agenda.

But the true key to this shift is ensuring every nation has **equitable access** to cutting-edge technology.

The rapid development of AI exacerbates cyber threats and brings new challenges.

This includes its **potential uses in warfare**, the consequences for **data privacy**, the **risks of misuse** for **information wars**, **deepfakes** and more.

Kazakhstan believes the **UN can and must play a leading role** in this revolutionary field.

We urge technologically and digitally advanced states to take an active part in developing **common ethics** and **standards** to govern AI in the most responsible and peaceful way.

The establishment of a **UN AI Office** would be a welcome step in this direction.

Excellencies,

In the current geopolitical landscape, **Central Asia** is increasingly asserting itself **in global affairs**.

Our region is not only a crossroads of cultures and economies but is also rapidly **transforming into a bridge** for cooperation between East and West.

We adhere to the formula: **“Successful Central Asia – Successful Kazakhstan”**.

Along with our partners we are building a more connected and resilient Central Asia through a set of **“C5+” dialogue platforms**.

Today our regional agenda also includes the **development of Afghanistan** into a stable and predictable state, a **reliable trade partner**.

In this context, the **UN Regional Centre** on Sustainable Development for Central Asia and Afghanistan in Almaty will be a **game-changer** for coordinated SDG delivery.

We do hope this **innovative undertaking** will receive broad support from Member States.

Excellencies,

Upholding human rights is not merely an aspiration, but **one of the key prerequisites of sustainable development**.

It is also the **best antidote against those inequalities** that are often the root cause of instability and conflicts.

Our national reforms aim to build a **Just and Fair Kazakhstan** based on inclusivity, transparency and the rule of law.

My country has **abolished the death penalty**, instituted a **zero-tolerance policy against torture**, and **strengthened national preventive mechanisms**.

To reinforce our commitment to the values of life and humanity, Kazakhstan, along with our Central Asian neighbours and Mongolia, is **spearheading the initiative to become the first region entirely free of the death penalty**.

Safeguarding **women's rights** and ensuring **children's safety** are top priorities of my President and Government.

We are advancing the UN Human Rights Council agenda by proposing **impactful resolutions** focused on **child education** and **combating domestic violence**.

Being one of the champions of repatriation of women and children from conflict zones in the Middle East, Kazakhstan will host an **International Conference in 2025 on best practices in the field of repatriation and reintegration**.

Through partnerships with **UN Volunteers**, we are creating new opportunities for young people and actively promoting **2026** as the **International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development**.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Both at home and on the global stage, Kazakhstan and its people stand resolute in our **commitment to build a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future**.

Central to this mission is our **unwavering dedication to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda**, embodying our shared aspirations for humanity.

As we look ahead to the **80th anniversary of the United Nations** next year, I urge all states to unite in fully implementing this ambitious agenda.

We have the chance to transform this **upcoming historical milestone** into a **true celebration** of shared achievements.

Let the Summit of the Future and this UN General Assembly session **mark the beginning of a transformative journey** towards a brighter and more inclusive future for all of us, our children, and coming generations.

I thank you.