



# KAZAKHSTAN

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Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting  
“Launching the Preparatory Process for the Comprehensive Ten-Year Review  
Conference of the Almaty Programme of Action”

10 February 2012

**REMARKS**

By

**H.E. Mrs. Byrganym Aitimova**

**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

**to the United Nations**

**on the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries,  
and the High-Level Meeting on International Trade, Trade Facilitation and  
Aid for Trade**

**to be held in September 2012 in Almaty, Kazakhstan**

Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Under Secretary-General and High Representative,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to His Excellency, Ambassador Jose Antonio Dos Santos, Current Chair of the Group of Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), for his able leadership, and to His Excellency Ambassador Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under Secretary-General and High Representative for inviting me to share some remarks about the forthcoming meetings my country going to host later this year.

The Almaty Programme of Action (APoA) has been since 2003 the key United Nations guideline to overcome the special problems of landlocked developing countries, contributing also to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and long term global sustainability. The Mid-Term Review indicates strides in improved economic growth and infrastructure, increase in commodity exports through enhanced partnerships, and in achieving some MDG targets.

However, the hurdles to full implementation remain just as daunting due to inherent geographical difficulties of direct access to seaborne trade. The challenge before us is now to address the disadvantaged development path the landlocked developing countries find themselves in, compounded by the long distance from major international markets, cumbersome transit procedures, inadequate transport networks, and dependence on the political stability, infrastructure and institutions of neighbouring transit countries. These obstacles not only affect economic growth, but have major ramifications for social and environmental aspects of development and impede integration of LLDCs into the global economy and market. They are aggravated by the recent financial worldwide economic and financial meltdown and devastating effects of climate change – two new developments since 2003.

My Government has at its heart the issues and concerns of the LLDCs, given that we are part of this group and therefore committed to advance the APoA. To support the preparatory process for the Ten-Year Review, Kazakhstan recalls its preliminary commitments to host, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative, the 4th Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries, which will be preceded by the High-Level Meeting on International Trade, Trade Facilitation and Aid for Trade in Almaty from 10-12 September 2012, as a pre-conference event but of equal significance. Official confirmation will be communicated following our internal procedures, pending definitive decision.

The two meetings will review the accomplishments made since the meeting held in Ezulwini, Swaziland in 2009. We hope to further our action plan for trade needs and priorities, with corresponding policies and measures for harnessing transnational trade through improved transit policies, infrastructure development and maintenance, and trade facilitation support and implementation measures. There will also be a focus on the aid-for-trade agenda in areas such as

capacity-building for strengthening trade negotiations and increasing productive capacity.

The recommendations of the Almaty deliberations will provide valuable inputs for the draft Outcome Document of the 2014 Review Conference. We hope to also outline a three-track strategy of intergovernmental, UN system and private sector action. We express our gratitude to all the United Nations agencies and international organizations for the support provided and hope that you will continue to collectively strengthen with redoubled and committed effort this multilateral and multidimensional process in the future. Your respective institutions may consider holding side events related to the review process as well as creating future momentum. Ideas are welcome to ensure successful outcomes for these events.

Since hosting the first United Nations conference in 2003 in Almaty, Kazakhstan has striven tirelessly to promote the APoA at the national level, thus serving as one of the models for country-level implementation. Firstly, the Transport Strategy of Kazakhstan until 2015 has been adopted, with a view to integrate the transport system into the Eurasian network and creating a favorable climate for investment. Secondly, the National Programme of Accelerated Industrial and Innovative Development (2010-14) envisages establishing a transportation link between Europe and Asia with highway and railroad infrastructure development, with the “Western Europe-Western China” mega-project as an example, in collaboration with the ECE and ESCAP. We now have a Customs Union between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan resulting in more than 25% trade growth.

In conclusion, I reiterate that we will continue to provide full and robust support to the activities of the United Nations in advancing the interests of land-locked countries and make every effort to realize their effective implementation.

Thank you for your attention.