

Kazakhstan and the UN: start of cooperation

The UN's main goal is to promote peaceful and sustainable development globally. After obtaining independence Kazakhstan also defined peaceful development and expanding neighbourly relations as the key principle of its foreign policy.

The similarity of the goals and tasks of Kazakhstan, as a young state that started making the first steps on the international stage, enabled it to become a full member of the UN on March 2, 1992. This landmark event in the history of the country's diplomacy and foreign policy took place at the 46th session of the UN General Assembly as a result of the adoption of Resolution 46/224.

In autumn 1992 at the 47th session of the UN General Assembly the Kazakh delegation took part in the UN forum as a full member for the first time. At this session President Nazarbayev delivered a speech to define the key principles and aspects of Kazakhstan's foreign policy and the country's plans to enter the international arena as an independent and sovereign player.

This speech could be rightfully described as a historical event in Kazakh foreign policy. In it the head of state stressed the country's readiness to share the responsibility for achieving development goals, strengthening the regime of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, observing human rights and drafting efficient measures to counter modern challenges and threats to stability and security with other members of the international community.

During this speech the president proposed one of Kazakhstan's first initiatives to the international community – one that concerned the creation of a special forum – the Conference for Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

As a result, Kazakhstan started intensive activities in the international area as a player that was capable of influencing the formation of a fundamentally new system of collective security in Asia, based on a dialogue and mutual understanding in solving topical international problems.

Kazakhstan's position and its government's specific steps on nuclear disarmament invited respect in the international community. In particular, at the 49th session of the UN General Assembly in their speeches heads of state welcomed Kazakhstan's move to join the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-1) and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The continuation of Kazakhstan's initiatives on nuclear disarmament was its signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in October 1996. This boosted Kazakhstan's reputation as a young state that adhered to the principles of stability and peaceful development.