

## **Foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

The foreign policy of the republic was formulated after gaining the Independence by Kazakhstan on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, 1991. Nowadays, it is represented as the diversified and multi-vector country. The main institutions exercising the activity of foreign policy of the state is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan as the head of the system of bodies of diplomatic service and such foreign establishments as the embassies in foreign countries, diplomatic missions, representative offices of Kazakhstan in international organizations and consulates of the Republic of Kazakhstan abroad. The state has got over 70 diplomatic and consular offices all over the world. As the first and the only one President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev underline the main goal of the national diplomacy which is to produce and sustain the stable development of the republic both in political and economic aspects.

The major objectives of the Kazakhstan's foreign policy are stated in the following. First of all, it is the protection of national interests, then, provision of complimentary provisions for political and economic development, improving the strategic collaboration with the developed countries and regions worldwide, developing of the assistance with the international and regional organizations, reinforcing the processes of democratization in the new world and endorsing both human and social development, contributing to global and regional security by opposing such threats as extremism, terrorism, separatism, drug trafficking and the organized crime, regional and global economic integration, and fortification of the environment.

Within one of the most important steps into the successful integration into the outer world and joining a number of leading countries in the matters of mutual assistance and cooperation became the refusal of the use of the nuclear power on the territory of the republic. More than 460 nuclear explosions were carried out in Kazakhstan. The figure is not diminished, it is real, that is why, the abovementioned aspect became the most significant one in the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In August 1991 President Nazarbayev signed a historic Decree to close the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. Since April, 1995 Kazakhstan became the denuclearized zone with the support of the nuclear-powerful states. In September, 1996 the Foreign Minister Kasyzhomart Tokaev signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

The Republic of Kazakhstan sustains the Treaty of the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which permits people to carry out nuclear research and use atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Nevertheless, they have to collaborate with the United Nations (UN) and go along with the transparency and non-proliferation safeguards under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Kazakhstan considers all the countries worldwide must all cooperate in a diplomatic manner to solve the problem on the international level concerning Iran's nuclear development program.

As for the principles of the contemporary international relations, it can be mentioned that they are prescribed in the documents of the most authoritative organizations, among which are the UN Charter, Declaration of Principles of International Law in 1970, Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in 1975. Kazakhstan as a democratic republic follows the tendency to strengthen the relations among states on the basic principles of international law. Among them is the principle of the sovereign equality of the states, principle of non-intervention into the domestic affairs of other states, principle of international cooperation of the states, principle of conscientious execution of the international obligations, principle of non-usage of the power or the threat by force, principle of inviolability of the boundaries, principle of the territorial integrity of the states, principle of the peaceful solution of the international arguments, principle of the self-determination of nations, and principle of the respect of the rights and basic freedoms of the human. Moreover, there are some other principles determining the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, but they are of a minor importance.

The principles helped Kazakhstan to create positive relations with less than 200 countries worldwide and to be a part of approximately 70 international political and economic organizations, they are the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations (UN), and others. Regarding the first international organization it will not be worthless to point out that Kazakhstan chaired the OSCE in 2010, as for the second – the OIC in 2011.

Kazakhstan signed more than 1,300 international and intergovernmental contracts and agreements with foreign countries both within the region and with farther countries. The republic has no access to the ocean and is situated in the

heart of the Eurasian area. It became the zone of communication between the Euroatlantic and Eurasian countries. Thus, it can be indicated that there are several main directions in the foreign policy of Kazakhstan.

The first one is the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). On December 21, 1991 the leaders of Central Asia and some post-Soviet countries as Russia, Belorussia, Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan signed the Alma-Ata Declaration and the Protocol about the creation of the CIS. The main objective of the CIS creation became the provision of integration of post-Soviet republics to jointly solve the political, economic and social issues on the mutually beneficial terms. Russia is the strategic partner in this aspect for the Republic of Kazakhstan concerning bilateral cooperation due to a number of reasons, among which is the geopolitical, Russia adjoins Kazakhstan in the north of the republic, also the closeness in the political prospects, culture, economic and social development.

As for the priority in the foreign policy within the CIS the relations with Central Asian countries are of the most importance for Kazakhstan. The southern countries are situated next to Afghanistan – the place from which drugs are transferred to Russia and further to European countries through the territory of Central Asian countries. Furthermore, there is the threat of terrorism, organized crime and illegal gun turnover. Thus, the cooperation with the southern partners with the same post-Soviet legacy is transferred even to the international level as the countries applied to the Security Council of the UN and other international organizations with the claim to condemn terrorism and take certain measures in order to annihilate it.

The second direction concerns the Asian-Pacific Ocean region. The priority on the given direction is given to the Kazakhstan-Chinese relations as China is regarded as the influential partner mainly in the economic sphere. The major importance is given to the laying of the oil-pipe line from Western Kazakhstan to China. Additionally, the functioning of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in the Central Asian region is of a high importance for China and Russia on the one hand and Central Asian countries including Kazakhstan with the exception of Turkmenistan not being a member of the organization on the other. The relations of Kazakhstan with other countries of the given region such as Japan or Korea are gradually improving especially in the sphere of economy and security.

The third is the Asian direction. In this area, specifically in the Arabic East and Middle Asia Turkey occurred to be the first country that recognized the

independence of Kazakhstan. And as far back as September, 1991 Turkey and Kazakhstan accepted the Declaration about Principles and Obligations of Interrelations between Kazakhstan and the Republic of Turkey. The relations between states are based on economic and energetic issues. Also, Kazakhstan improves relations with India, Pakistan, Iran and other countries of Asia. The important issue in the abovementioned point is the problem of security which is unanimously discussed by the countries of the region; the precise measures to prevent the evil are taken.

The fourth is the European direction. The European Union being the powerful political and economic unit worldwide became the economic partner of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The key partners of the republic in Europe are the Great Britain and Germany. Besides, the relations with Norway significantly improved during the last time. The Kingdom of Norway became a strategic partner in the assistance to the Central Asian countries in the sphere of education by becoming a significant partner in the accordance of the internship possibilities for students.

The last direction is the American one. The USA being a global leader is of a high importance for Kazakhstan as a way out to the North-American region. The states and Kazakhstan signed the Charter on the democratic partnership between two states. The adherence of both countries to the principles of democracy, private property, free market, respect of human rights was taken into consideration. One of the main provisions of the Charter is stated in the Article 3, where the USA guarantees Kazakhstan the secure development of Kazakhstan by recognizing the “safety, independence, territorial integrity and democratic development are the issues of the high significance”.

In the end, it should be mentioned that the Republic of Kazakhstan became the most developed state in the Central Asian region lately in consequence of the improved foreign policy and growth in oil. The President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev managed to follow the balanced policy by keeping positive relations with such powerful countries as the United States of America, Russia, and China. All of them are of a great advantage for Kazakhstan, while the relations with the USA and China are perspective and growing due to the Washington’s War on Terror in which the republic is being an integral part and the increase in economic turnover with Beijing, with Russia Kazakhstan has got the mutual historical past, culture, and geographical location, moreover it disposes to Russia the oil on the less price.

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