

Kazakhstan and the UN institutions

In relations with the UN Kazakhstan also focuses on countering non-traditional threats that bear a crossborder nature. Taking into account international experience, we should note that there is no country (regardless of its political, economic and political might) that is capable of independently countering the serious modern challenges of terrorism, religious extremism, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destructions, weapons smuggling, drugs and so on.

This is primarily linked to the fact that these problems have international, crossborder nature and need appropriate collective solutions. In connection with this, in January 2005 Kazakhstan hosted a UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee special meeting to consolidate efforts to fight terrorism threats.

Kazakhstan's election to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 2 November 2006 became an important event in cooperation between Kazakhstan and the UN and this was the recognition of the country's constructive role in the activities of the UN. During a plenary session of the UN General Assembly Kazakhstan's candidacy was supported by 187 countries out of 192 and, along with 53 other countries, it became the first Central Asian country to be elected to ECOSOC.

Thus, from 2007 Kazakhstan represented Asia's interests in this structure.

In May 2006 the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) held its 63rd session in Almaty. Over 500 delegates, including heads of governments and ministers of member states of ESCAP, representatives of UN specialized agencies, international and nongovernmental organizations, discussed issues of reforming ESCAP, regulating globalization processes and eliminating poverty and exchanged views on future cooperation in the spheres of transport, trade, energy, information technologies and environmental protection.

This meeting resulted in the adoption of the Almaty declaration devoted to the 60th anniversary of the commission and nine resolutions aimed at expanding cooperation in the region. Assessing the results of this meeting, Kazakhstan's former Minister of Foreign Affairs Marat Tazhin noted that the delegates' active involvement in discussing the Almaty declaration proved the existence of collective political will and determination of countries to develop regional cooperation to improve the lives of the millions of people in region living in poverty.

Kazakhstan's standing in the UN is based on the country's interests in the entire set of issues discussed by the UN. Particular attention is drawn to cooperation with the UN in the spheres of economy, environment protection, social development, the progressive development of international law, the observation of human rights and fighting organized crime and drug trafficking.

Thus, during the years of close cooperation with the UN Kazakhstan has acquired significant potential in working with the UNDP, UNICEF, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the WHO and other organizations as part of attracting the UN's expertise and technical and financial assistance to Kazakhstan.

Regarding the issues surrounding the reformation of the UN Kazakhstan advocates the adaptation of the organization's institutions to modern geopolitical and economic realities and rational transformations taking into account the opinions of all states in solving the main international problems.

Kazakhstan's participation in the work of international organizations is one of the foreign policy priorities of the country. That is why Kazakhstan's integration to the UN system became an important step on the path of implementing the young state's foreign policy objectives.

In particular, Kazakhstan's membership of the UN helped strengthen its sovereignty and independence and offered favourable external conditions for further transformations and modernization in the socio-political, economic, humanitarian and other spheres of public life.