



KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT

by

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**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the UN
at the forty-seventh session of
the Commission for Social Development**

Priority theme 3 (b) “Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups”

New York, 6 February 2009

Madam Chair,

On behalf my delegation let me congratulate you and the Bureau upon your election. We are confident that the session of the Commission under your leadership will be very fruitful and effective.

**Madam Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Kazakhstan fully supports the recommendations contained in the Report of the Secretary-General on the feasibility analysis of existing mandates for the benefit of vulnerable groups to identify a universal approach to their problems solution. Establishment of a system of social protection with consideration of the results of the World Summit for Social Development and other respective forums can contribute to more effective implementation of those mandates. In this regard, my delegation would like to propose intensifying the further consideration of this issue during the session of ECOSOC.

We believe that sharing of best practices between countries is an important factor in ensuring social protection. Adopted by Kazakhstan the state program "Path to Europe" for 2009-2011 has provisions for cooperation with European countries in the areas of social support for disadvantaged categories of citizens, the disabled, employment, labour migration and the development of social services. In addition, during its presidency in OSCE in 2010, Kazakhstan intends to focus on stabilizing the macroeconomic environment, which should lead to a more sustainable pace of social development.

Madam Chair,

We are witnessing an unprecedented global financial-economic, food and fuel crises. The main challenge now is to prevent the reduction of social guarantees and the loss of the progress made by the States towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals

Based on these provisions, Kazakhstan understands that the main priorities of state policy, at any stage of development are the investment in human capital and improving the quality of life. To this end, the programs implemented by the Government are aimed primarily at maintaining employment and increasing incomes and social protection for vulnerable groups. Even in the current circumstances, the State shall take all measures to steadily improve the well-being of citizens. For example, last year the share of social spending in the national budget amounted to 32,4%, which is 17.6 percent higher than in previous years.

The Government of Kazakhstan is been taking a number of measures to create a society conducive to the social integration of people of all ages. The most effective social policy has been and remains the policy of employment. In this regard, the Government aims, primarily, to reduce unemployment and social protection for the unemployed. As a result, the proportion of registered unemployed amounted to 0,8% of the economically active population.

Madam Chair,

One of the main problems is the provision of social rights and interests of young people in education and health, as well as decent employment. Forming a youth policy, the State recognizes that youth is one of the socially active segments of the population that has serious potential in the long run.

Kazakhstan put forward the incentives for the organizations and enterprises, regardless of form of ownership, to increase employment of young professionals, creating jobs for young people, their training and retraining, vocational training.

To reduce youth unemployment, most of the regions use internship for professional development, as well as nearly thousand vacancy fairs took place recently that resulted by employment almost 27 thousand of young people.

In accordance with the Agreement to promote the principles of the UN Global Compact on social and labour relations, minimum quota for admission to employment of youth compiles not less than five per cent of the normal number of employees.

Although Kazakhstan is recently crossed the threshold of population aging, there are premises for social integration of elderly. First of all: pension system and social protection of old people are on the responsibility of the State. In Kazakhstan the pension system combines both financial defined contributions for currently employed population and pay-as-you-go system for the elderly. Moreover, the government provides family benefits in general and for extended family in particular in order to maintain inter-generational bonds. The latter helps to avoid age-based discrimination. In this context, Kazakhstan deems possible to incorporate the strengthening of the family institution in the agenda of social protection of older people.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, it worth to note that despite the global challenges, the governments must continue its support to social integration and social protection at all levels.

Thank you for your attention.