**JOINT STATEMENT ON THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

**BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

The relationship between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Kazakhstan (hereinafter referred to as “The Parties”) is based on a mutual will to strengthen bonds of alliance, friendship and mutual trust. The Parties share the same regional and global objectives: the promotion of increased global peace and security, democracy and human rights, freedom and prosperity as well as common interests in a wide range of international issues and global challenges.

The Parties share and confirm their mutual commitment to the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and other documents adopted under the OSCE, including the Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards a Security Community, as well as the objectives and principles of the Council of Europe, and the application of universally-recognised norms of international law and human rights.

The Parties hereby launch a Strategic Partnership and aim to review the bilateral relationship on a regular (preferably annual) basis. The Strategic Partnership will be sustained by various meetings of the Heads of State and Government, by thematic consultations at Ministerial level, bilaterally and in other fora, as well as by meetings between the relevant officials, across the breadth of our shared interests.

**KEY STRATEGIC POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITMENTS**

The Parties aim to enhance their bilateral relations in all fields, and particularly in the sphere of trade and investment. To this end, reciprocal visits will be intensified in the period ahead.

Bilateral trade and investment

The Parties aim to increase the volume of bilateral trade significantly and are ready to work together in developing a strong trade and investment relationship based on free market access, significant two-way trade and investment flows and regular dialogue at senior levels. Various mechanisms already exist to drive progress on these issues.

Economy and business

The United Kingdom supports the Republic of Kazakhstan’s accession to the World Trade Organisation, and looks forward to a positive outcome to that process. The Parties agree to develop and deepen economic links on the basis of open and competitive market principles. Discussion of economic issues should be a regular element in future high level contacts.

The Parties welcome the implementation of joint projects in the field of renewable energy and the green economy, the mining industry, the chemical sector, telecommunications, construction, architecture, transport and other sectors of the economy within the framework of the international specialised exhibition “EXPO-2017.” The Parties also welcome the implementation of joint projects with a particular focus on encouraging Small and Medium Sized businesses (SMEs).

The United Kingdom welcomes the work that the Republic of Kazakhstan has undertaken on the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). Both countries look forward to the Republic of Kazakhstan finishing the validation process shortly and being judged a compliant country. The United Kingdom looks forward to following the example of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Co-operation in the field of science, technology and space activities

The Parties will promote the development of research and technology co-operation through joint projects, taking into consideration national priorities and respect for intellectual property rights, as well as direct contacts between research organisations, and look forward to the conclusion of relevant agreements or the elaboration of joint working programmes.

The Parties welcome the establishment of co-operation in the field of space activities, in particular the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the UK Space Agency and the National Space Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on cooperation in the field of research and the use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

The Parties will strengthen co-operation in the field of remote earth sensing, scientific research, specialist training, and the joint elaboration and development of spacecraft.

The Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union

The Parties highly value the level of co-operation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union, achieved under the Agreement on Partnership and Co-operation of 1995, defining the status of the Republic of Kazakhstan as a priority country for the European Union, and support the early conclusion of a new Agreement on enhanced partnership and co-operation, which will provide the basis for a qualitatively new and mature phase of co-operation.

The Parties attach great importance to the further implementation of “The EU and Central Asia – Strategy for a New Partnership” of 2007, which was updated in 2012. This partnership covers the areas of trade and investment, energy, transport, justice and domestic affairs and political dialogue in areas of mutual interest.

Co-operation in the fields of legislation, justice, and combating crime

The Parties are willing to deepen mutual co-operation in the fields of legislation, justice and combating crime, ensuring co-operation and effective interaction in the promotion of national and international initiatives.

The United Kingdom supports the Republic of Kazakhstan’s aspiration to accede to four Conventions of the Council of Europe in the field of criminal proceedings in respect of the fundamental principles of human rights, subject to the conditions for entry to those Conventions being met. The United Kingdom commits to sharing expertise in the fields of judicial reform, legislation and legal co-operation.

The Parties aim to work together on a bilateral Agreement on mutual legal assistance.

Civil air services

The Parties celebrate the success in the field of air links between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Parties look forward to expanding these bilateral links further.

**KEY STRATEGIC DEFENCE, SECURITY AND STABILITY COMMITMENTS**

Regional stability and peace

The Parties aim to hold regular, sustained and substantive engagement at all levels to support progress on resolving regional conflicts and promoting stability, especially in the Central Asian Region and Afghanistan, as well as the Middle East, South Caucasus and the Western Balkans. The United Kingdom and the Republic of Kazakhstan have a shared vision of a peaceful and prosperous region, underpinned by respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The Parties will continue to work together to ensure the region contributes to efforts to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction anywhere in the world.

Global security

The United Kingdom highly appreciates the contribution made by the Republic of Kazakhstan to UN peacekeeping operation, and encourages the continuation of this activity by supporting programmes of peacekeeping training.

The Parties aim to work together to tackle all forms of terrorism and organised crime. It is important that The Parties work together as much as possible to bring an end to the international terrorist threat, as well as combating organised crime, drug trafficking and the threat from illegal proliferation.

Defence and security

The Parties welcome the progress already achieved as a result of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Co-operation in the Defence Sphere of 2000, in particular in the areas of defence education, English language training and the development of a peacekeeping unit from the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Parties will use best efforts to achieve a stronger defence relationship, including through regular bilateral talks at official and working levels on the relevant issues of co-operation. The Parties aim to increase their co-operation in the field of homeland security.

The Parties support the active practical co-operation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and NATO in the field of defence reforms under the Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) and also intend to strengthen defence co-operation under the Planning and Review Process (PARP).

In order to provide security in the region of Central Asia, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Kazakhstan will develop co-operation, including through the assistance of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the withdrawal of British military equipment from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United Kingdom’s provision of military technical assistance to the armed forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Export controls and the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons

The Parties recognise the importance of applying export controls as a means to combat illicit trade and diversion of weapons, materiel and sensitive technologies. In this vein, the Parties aim to combat the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons that pose a significant threat to peace and security as well as to socio-economic development worldwide. The Parties supported the UN General Assembly Resolution on an Arms Trade Treaty in April 2013 which will allow the regulation of the trade in conventional arms.

Energy co-operation

The Parties welcome energy co-operation to date in such areas as the Closed Nuclear Cities Partnership (CNCP) and aim to increase future commercial and scientific co-operation between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Kazakhstan in the fields of energy resources and energy security. The Parties encourage further business investment in each others’ energy industries. The Parties stand ready to work together to strengthen bilateral engagement and co-operation in the area of civil-nuclear energy.

Tackling illegal migration

The Parties share a common interest in ensuring that legal migration is allowed and encouraged in order to benefit business, educational, social, and cultural exchange and understanding. In addition, the Parties aim to step up their existing and fruitful co-operation to fight illegal migration, including sharing expertise, experience, and technology. Progress against shared migration objectives will be reviewed regularly by the relevant high level authorities.

In the framework of co-operation on the prevention and control of illegal migration, the Parties will continue co-operation on the visa regimes for citizens of the United Kingdom and of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

**KEY STRATEGIC SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL COMMITMENTS**

Culture and education

The Parties aim to forge stronger cultural and educational links, including supporting long-term partnerships between British and Kazakh higher educational institutions, increasing research collaboration, especially in technical fields including sustainable energy, nanotechnology and biotechnology. The Parties also look to encourage and facilitate wider human and inter-societal contacts between their two countries.

The Parties aim to co-operate in the development of technical and vocational education, including training in key sectors such as energy and engineering, and in support of major events including World Expo 2017 and the Student Winter Games 2017. In this regard, the Parties recognise the importance of English language training.

The Parties aim to develop bilateral cultural co-operation by strengthening the legal framework and enhancing cross-cultural exchange at state level.

Intercultural dialogue

The Parties aim to promote intercultural dialogue in order to increase mutual understanding and to combat the rising phenomena of racism, discrimination, xenophobia, and religious intolerance that threatens the principles and ideals that both the Parties are attached to.

Astana, 1 July 2013

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **RT. HON. DAVID CAMERON**  **PRIME MINISTER OF**  **THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND** | **H.E. NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV**  **PRESIDENT OF**  **THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN** |