

legitimacy of rulings but also enriches legal reasoning through the inclusion of non-Western approaches to justice. It is crucial that international courts do not become echo chambers for the most powerful but truly global instruments of justice.

International courts and tribunals are an integral part of the international legal system. They provide mechanisms for peaceful dispute resolution, protection of human rights, and accountability for international crimes. However, further reforms are necessary to enhance trust, efficiency, and universality of international justice. I firmly believe that a global commitment to reform and cooperation can overcome these shortcomings. These institutions, despite their flaws, are symbols of a collective aspiration for a more just and equitable international order. Their continued development is not just a legal necessity but a moral imperative in a world where transnational issues — from armed conflicts to environmental disasters — require principled, impartial adjudication. In my opinion, international courts and tribunals represent the conscience of the global community. Although they are not always able to impose their authority, they provide an essential platform where legal norms can challenge political interests. Their symbolic power often leads to long-term influence, even if their short-term effectiveness seems limited. It is also important to recognize that the credibility of these institutions depends not only on their decisions but also on the willingness of states to implement them. Without broad-based support and political will, no judicial body — however principled — can achieve justice on its own. Furthermore, I believe that the involvement of civil society and the promotion of legal literacy among the public can help strengthen these institutions from the ground up. When individuals understand their rights and the mechanisms available for their protection, they are more likely to engage with international law and demand accountability from their governments. This grassroots pressure can be a powerful force for compliance.

Lastly, I view international justice not as a perfect system, but as a work in progress. Like democracy, it is imperfect yet indispensable. We must not allow its current limitations to blind us to its potential. Strengthening international courts and tribunals is not just about laws and institutions; it is about protecting the dignity of every person, ensuring that no one is above the law, and affirming that justice is a universal value worth fighting for.

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## TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: KAZAKHSTAN'S JOURNEY IN ACHIEVING THE SDGS

Modern society is faced with increasing anthropogenic pressure on nature, striving to ensure well-being by any means necessary. However, they rarely think about the world in which future generations will live and develop. The effects of climate change are already being felt today: an increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, a rise in the average temperature of the planet, and an increase in the temperature of the world's oceans. These processes cause the melting of glaciers, which leads to environmental disasters and social crises. Addressing these challenges requires the joint efforts of all countries, companies and each individual. In response to these challenges, 196 countries adopted 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the UN General Assembly in 2015. These goals have been incorporated into national programs to ensure real progress by 2030.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emerged as a result of the globalization process. Their history began long before the Millennium Declaration in 2000, when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the forerunners of the SDGs, were formulated.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall in the late 1980s, the international community faced the need to rethink official development assistance. There was a need for a new rationale for supporting developing countries. This was the beginning of the development of new concepts of international cooperation.

In the 1990s, the United Nations (UN) and its partners began to actively seek ways to mobilize governments and public opinion to prove the effectiveness of international aid. These efforts led to the formation of the Millennium Development Goals, which were formally adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2000. Initially political and non-binding in nature, the goals were an important step towards a more just and sustainable world.

After 2005, discussions began about the need to further develop the MDGs. Extensive consultations with civil society, experts and governments resulted in a new development agenda. In 2015, the UN General Assembly approved 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which became the basis for the global strategy until 2030.

What is sustainable development? It is an approach in which the needs of modern society are met without compromising future generations. The concept of sustainable development reflects the inextricable link between ecology, economy and society. The biosphere is the basis of life, society forms the foundation for the realization of economic goals, and the economy should contribute to solving social and environmental problems.

The SDGs include aspects such as eradicating poverty, ensuring quality education, combating climate change and promoting gender equality. Unlike the MDGs, the SDGs are not only aimed at developing countries, but at the whole world, including industrialized nations. This reflects the realization that problems are globally interconnected and need to be addressed together. The SDGs have come to symbolize a paradigm shift in approaches to development. It is not only about providing financial assistance, but also about creating inclusive economic growth, supporting environmental sustainability and ensuring human rights. The principles of solidarity, equity and sustainability have become the foundation of a new global agenda.

One of the key messages of the SDGs is “No one should be left behind”, reflecting a commitment to inclusion and equity. Importance is also attached to biodiversity, natural resource management and climate change, as enshrined in the Paris Climate Agreement.

Nevertheless, over the past decades, the international community has demonstrated a willingness to transform the planet. The SDGs have become an important tool for creating a world where people can live in freedom, justice and prosperity. Their realization requires joint efforts of governments, the private sector, civil society and each of us.

President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has repeatedly emphasized that the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the basis for national strategies and programs. That is why the country's leadership pays special attention to their achievement.

Kasym-Jomart Tokayev emphasized that for Kazakhstan the achievement of the SDGs is a national priority: “The principles of sustainable development have become the basis of our national strategies and programs. Today we are actively investing in a sustainable future. 80% of the state budget is synchronized with the goals of the SDGs...”[1]

Kazakhstan has made significant progress in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The country has created a strong legislative framework by integrating 87 key SDG indicators into its state planning system.[2] These indicators are fully integrated into National Projects and Regional Development Programs, providing a clear strategy for moving towards achieving the SDGs. Having set target values for all 87 indicators by 2025, Kazakhstan is focused on progress, which depends on improved institutional mechanisms, updated legislation, and sufficient funding. Kazakhstan is working step-by-step to realize all the Sustainable Development Goals, and significant progress has been made.

Goal 1: The eradication of poverty has been an issue for many years, especially for developing countries, where almost one third of the world's population lives. However, the phenomenon does not escape developed countries, where poverty is often associated with unemployment rates. The fulfillment of this goal is a key condition for the sustainable development of any country. Since the first days of independence, Kazakhstan has prioritized poverty reduction and income growth. Favorable conditions have been created in the country to ensure employment, develop entrepreneurship, and increase the availability of quality services in the areas of health care, education and infrastructure (clean drinking water, public utilities and transportation). Targeted social assistance mechanisms are constantly being improved to support socially vulnerable groups. The share of the population with incomes below the subsistence minimum in 2018 compared to 2001 decreased 11-fold from 46.7% to 4.6%.[3]

The coverage and support measures for low-income families, including families with many children, persons with disabilities and those in difficult life situations, are being expanded. The mechanism of targeted social assistance has been improved: the targeting of social assistance has been strengthened and coverage has been expanded by increasing the poverty threshold. The procedure for allocating TSA has been simplified: a social contract mechanism is in place for able-bodied family members. One of the significant changes in 2019 was the payment of monthly guaranteed TSA assistance for each child from a low-income family.

Goal 4. All necessary conditions have been created in Kazakhstan to ensure lifelong learning opportunities. In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, citizens are guaranteed free secondary education, which is compulsory. In addition, educational grants are provided on a competitive basis for technical and vocational, post-secondary, higher and postgraduate education. This allows every citizen to realize his or her potential and contributes to raising the level of education in the country.

Kazakhstan has achieved 100% coverage of secondary education, 95.2% of children aged 3-6 years attend preschool educational institutions.[4] Young people have access to free technical and vocational education. 54.3% of the population has higher education. There is a transition to trilingual (Kazakh-, Russian-, and English-language) education, and more attention is paid to the development of critical thinking and practical skills among students. Kazakhstan is striving to develop an education system that will enable students to upgrade and change qualifications as needed throughout their lives. The country has created conditions for inclusive development.

Since 2017, Kazakhstan has been implementing the project “Free technical and vocational education for all”, which aims to reduce youth unemployment, covering everyone with free technical and vocational education while providing meals, a stipend, travel and dormitory accommodation. Free education is available to school leavers in the 9th and 11th grades, unemployed citizens, unqualified young people in difficult life situations (NEET youth) and persons from vulnerable groups.

Goal 10. Kazakhstan is committed to pursuing a policy of just and equitable development, reducing inequalities and eliminating the causes of all forms of discrimination. The country has succeeded in reducing the proportion of the population with incomes below the subsistence

minimum. In order to reduce inequality, Kazakhstan aims to raise the incomes of the poorest 40% of the population from 22.8% to 27% of total population income by 2025.[5].

Special attention is paid to the empowerment of women in Kazakhstan, and over the past 10 years there has been steady progress in this direction. The adoption of the Concept of Family and Gender Policy until 2030 creates conditions for successful career development and the active participation of women in State and public administration. The concept is aimed at improving the status of women in various spheres of life, ensuring equality of opportunity and support in realizing their potential. Kazakhstan is actively working to create a level playing field for women, which promotes their greater involvement in decision-making processes and makes a significant contribution to the country's social and economic development.

Goal 16. Unity and harmony are key factors determining Kazakhstan's competitiveness on the world stage. As part of the global community, the country faces challenges such as violence, terrorism and crime, which emphasizes the importance of commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 16. This Goal aims to ensure access to justice, effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Such measures serve as the basis for quality implementation of most of the other SDGs, contributing to a more stable and equitable society. Recognition, observance and protection of human and civil rights and freedoms is a key responsibility of the state. In Kazakhstan, fundamental human rights and freedoms are considered inalienable and belong to everyone from birth.

In order to improve the system for protecting the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens, the institution of the Ombudsman for Human Rights (OHR) has been functioning in the country since 2002. The main task of the Ombudsman is to protect human rights against violations by State officials and to promote the development of human rights mechanisms.

Kazakhstan has adopted important legislative measures to ensure equality and protection of citizens' rights. Among them are the laws:

- "On State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women", aimed at eliminating gender discrimination and ensuring equal access to opportunities.
- On the Prevention of Domestic Violence, which protects citizens from domestic violence and provides for measures to prevent and support victims.

Kazakhstan has indeed developed a unique model of anti-corruption policy, which is constantly being improved, taking into account national experience and best international practices. This makes it possible to effectively combat corruption at all levels of government and in various spheres of society. The Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Civil Service and Anti-Corruption plays a central role in the implementation of anti-corruption measures, coordinating the efforts of various public and private structures.

Since 2004, Kazakhstan has been actively participating in the Istanbul Action Plan against Corruption, which is part of a subregional programme of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This plan includes monitoring of countries' efforts to implement recommendations aimed at upholding the UN Convention against Corruption, which helps to improve national anti-corruption practices and provides international support in the fight against corruption.

In conclusion, Kazakhstan has made significant progress in key areas of its development, including innovation, infrastructure, education and improving the quality of life. The country is actively promoting entrepreneurship and increasing access to financial resources, which helps strengthen the economy and improve the well-being of its citizens. Special attention is being paid to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reflecting Kazakhstan's commitment to sustainable growth, social justice and environmental protection. This progress is the result of consistent reforms and implementation of effective strategies aimed at sustainable development, which allows Kazakhstan to move forward confidently and take a leading position in the region.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the contribution of not only states and businesses, but also of each individual is important. By changing our daily habits and incorporating the principles of sustainability into our daily lives, we create value for society and contribute to

preserving the planet for future generations. Sustainable development is about each of us and all of us together.

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### **ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНДАҒЫ КОНСТИТУЦИЯЛЫҚ ҚҰҚЫҚ КОНТЕКСТІНДЕГІ СОТ ЖҮЙЕСІНІҢ ДАМУ КЕЗЕҢДЕРІ**

1991 жылы егеменді мемлекет мәртебесін алуының салдары болып табылатын мемлекеттегі саяси, әлеуметтік және экономикалық қайта құрулар жаңа сот жүйесінің құрылуына негіз болды. Он жылдан астам уақыт ішінде республикада биліктің тәуелсіз және дербес сот тармағының құрылғанын айғақтайтын түбегейлі өзгерістер болды. Осы өзгерістердің мазмұнын айту үшін олардың алғышарттарын, себептерін білу аса маңызды. 1991 жылы желтоқсанда қабылданған «Мемлекеттік тәуелсіздік туралы» Конституциялық заңда Қазақстан Республикасында мемлекеттік билікті заң шығарушы, атқарушы және сот билігіне бөлу қағидаты негізінде жүзеге асыру көзделді [1]. Кейін бұл принцип 1993 жылғы Конституцияда көзделіп, сот билігін институционализациялаудың негізгі ұйымдастырушылық аспектілерін бекітті.

1995 жылғы Конституцияның және Президенттің конституциялық заң күші бар «Қазақстан Республикасының соттары мен судьяларының мәртебесі туралы» Жарлығының қабылдануымен соттардың мемлекеттік билікті жүзеге асыруының тікелей нысаны ретіндегі сот төрелігі туралы, сот органдарының заң шығарушы және атқарушы құрылымдардан тәуелсіздігі туралы жаңа ережелер енгізілді [2]. Төрелік соттарды тарату және олардың функцияларын жалпы юрисдикция соттарына беру арқылы сот жүйесінің бірлігі бекітілді. Жергілікті соттардың судьяларын Ел Президенті және Жоғарғы Сот судьяларын Парламент Сенатының сайлауы арқылы тағайындау енгізілді. Жоғары Сот Кеңесі мен Әділет биліктілік алқасын құру көзделген, судьялардың мәртебесі мен адам құқықтары мен бостандықтарын қорғау жүйесіндегі рөлін нығайта отырып, олардың тәуелсіздігіне кепілдіктер күшейтілді.

Сот реформасының тағы бір маңызды жетістігі Қазақстан Республикасы Президентінің «Сот жүйесінің тәуелсіздігін күшейту жөніндегі шаралар туралы» 2000 жылғы 1 қыркүйектегі Жарлығы болды, онда соттардың қызметін қамтамасыз ету жөніндегі функциялар Әділет министрлігінен уәкілетті органға - Жоғарғы Сот жанындағы Сот