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Kazakhstan-chaired OIC Meeting Supports Palestine in UN Statehood Bid

Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Yerzhan Kazykhanov chaired the Annual Coordination Meeting of the OIC Foreign Ministers on the sidelines of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 23 September.

At Kazykhanov's invitation, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas addressed the meeting after he submitted Palestine's application for UN full membership. The ministers of the 57 OIC countries unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the bid.

The meeting also discussed the situation in Libya and the necessity to use the Organisation's resources to facilitate reconstruction of this country and prevent humanitarian crisis both through the United Nations and by implementing the Resolution of the 38th session of the OIC CFM On Humanitarian Assistance to Libya.

Special attention was focused upon the situation in Somalia and the results of the OIC Executive Committee extraordinary meeting in Istanbul in August where member states pledged support to the famine-stricken country. Kazykhanov urged his colleagues to continue mobilising resources for the Somalia Trust Fund that to date reached US\$ 500 million. Kazakhstan has donated US\$ 500,000 to this end.



From L-R: Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Yerzhan Kazykhanov and Mahmoud Abbas in New York on September 23.
Photo by International Islamic News Agency

The meeting adopted a Communiqué that reflected the Ummah’s stance on most urgent political developments since the June Astana CFM.

On the sidelines of the UNGA, Kazykhanov also held talks with foreign ministers John Baird of Canada, Vuk Jeremic of Serbia, and Avigdor Lieberman of Israel. He also met with Arab League Secretary General Nabil el-Araby to discuss the situation in the Middle East and North Africa and joint actions of the LAS and the OIC to further social-economic development of the region.

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Later that day the Foreign Minister addressed the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. In his speech, Kazykhanov called upon the countries “that hold the keys to the CTBT’s entry into force” to sign and ratify it. He also stressed the need to use mechanisms and international arrangements, including the UNGA

Resolution declaring 29 August the International Day against Nuclear Tests, “to mobilise all other stakeholders, such as media, civil society and ‘public diplomacy’” to this end.

In New York, Kazykhanov also delivered a lecture at the International Peace Institute on the role of Kazakhstan in a changing world. In his lecture he outlined the country’s domestic and foreign policy priorities and emphasised Kazakhstan’s commitment to peaceful and mutually beneficial cooperation with all countries in the world. He went on to note that Kazakhstan actively works to strengthen regional and global security by initiating and/or chairing organisations such as the CICA, the SCO, the OSCE, and the OIC. Regional cooperation in Eurasia, including the creation of the Customs Union and the implementation of large-scale transit projects such as the construction of the Western Europe – Western China road corridor, was another topic of the lecture.

The lecture was followed by a lively Q&A session, during which the speaker answered questions about Kazakhstan’s OIC presidency, further development of the CICA, and prospects of regional cooperation in Central Asia.

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Wu Bangguo’s Pioneering Visit Helps Advance Kazakh-Chinese Bilateral Ties



Kairat Mami (R) and Wu Bangguo shake hands prior to their meeting in Astana on September 25. Photo by Press Office of Kazakhstan’s Senate

On September 25 through 27 Chairman of the Permanent Committee of China’s National People’s Congress Wu Bangguo paid an official visit to Kazakhstan.

This is the first time when China’s top legislator has visited the country. His programme in Astana featured talks with his Kazakh counterparts, Chairman of the Senate Kairat Mami and Chairman of the Majlis Oral Mukhamedzhanov, as well as attending a Kazakh-Chinese business forum. Nursultan Nazarbayev welcomed Wu Bangguo in the Akorda Presidential Residence on the last day of what proved to be a good opportunity to further intensify bilateral cooperation and boost inter-parliamentary dialogue.

Speaker of Majlis Ural Muhamedzhanov was the first to receive the honoured guest. During the meeting on September 25 they highlighted the progress of Kazakh-Chinese economic ties, with bilateral trade predicted to almost double within four years from current US\$ 20.4 billion.

“China is a leading economic and investment partner of Kazakhstan. For the last ten years trade between our nations has risen more than 12 times. If we keep this dynamism, it is reasonable to assume that by 2015 trade will reach US\$ 40 billion,” Muhamedzhanov said.

The Kazakh parliamentarian underlined the relevance of Kazakhstan’s programme for accelerated industrial and innovative development and proposed to Chinese businesses to take part in its implementation.

“These projects need investments, equipments, technology and outlet. We hope China will actively participate in these projects,” he noted.

During the meeting between Wu Bangguo and Kairat Mami, the sides voiced their confidence that the visit would help strengthen the good-neighbourly relations between the nations and boost interparliamentary contacts.

“Today, when the strategic partnership between Kazakhstan and China has reached its highest level, the role of interparliamentary dialogue is truly relevant. We decided to liven up and add regular character in contacting with the groups of cooperation between the deputies, on the personnel level and relevant committees level,” Mami said.

“Kairat Mami: Today, when the strategic partnership between Kazakhstan and China has reached its highest level, the role of interparliamentary dialogue is truly relevant.”

“During the negotiations both sides showed their satisfaction with the bilateral relationship. Once more we point out that the development of relationship with Kazakhstan is always one of the priorities directed by our foreign policy. We resolutely support the development and rebirth of Kazakhstan,” the Chinese legislator emphasised following the meeting.

Wu Bangguo attended the Kazakh-Chinese business forum held the same day in Astana, where he welcomed growing economic ties between the neighbouring countries.

At the forum, Chairman of China’s National People’s Congress and Kazakh Minister of Industry and New Technology Asset Isekeshev signed an agreement that envisages Chinese companies’ investments in building solar power installations, wind turbines, production of calcinated soda and the construction of a cement plant in Kazakhstan.

Finally, on September 27 Wu Bangguo was received by President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

“I welcome your first official visit to Kazakhstan. Now I believe you have clearer understanding of Kazakhstan. We are celebrating 20 years of our independence, while you will soon be celebrating the 62nd anniversary of PRC. During these years we have significantly upgraded political and economic cooperation between our countries,” Nazarbayev said.

The Kazakh leader noted Beijing’s contribution to strengthening bilateral ties through peacefully solving the border issues back in the 1990s and enhancing economic cooperation.

‘I brought you kindest regards from your very good friend Hu Jintao,’ said Wu Bangguo, assuring that Nursultan Nazarbayev is warmly welcome to visit China again.

As things stand, the leaders of the two countries in the last seven years already met more than 20 times.

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Kazakhstan Reports on Fulfilling Commitments in OSCE Human Dimension



The opening plenary session of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw on 26 September.
Photo by OSCE/Piotr Markowski

A high-level Kazakh delegation is attending an annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of the OSCE which is taking in place in Warsaw between September 26 and October 7. The event is traditionally arranged by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and encompasses a regular review of the participating states’ fulfilment of their obligations in human dimension. The forum traditionally gathers senior officials, experts, human rights advocates and activists of non-governmental organizations from 57 participating states of the OSCE.

The official delegation of Kazakhstan is led by the Foreign Ministry’s Ambassador at Large Madina Jarbussynova and includes deputies of Parliament, representatives of the Presidential Commission for Human Rights, Supreme Court, Central Electoral Commission and other government agencies.

Officials and civil society activists engage in discussion of the state of affairs in implementation of human rights in the OSCE area and exchange views on what extent the governments fulfil their responsibilities.

By opening the conference the Deputy Foreign Minister of Lithuania (the country that chairs the OSCE in 2011) Evaldas Ignatavicius noted that during its chairmanship Lithuania has worked on realisation of the tasks put forward by the Astana Summit in December 2010. He called upon the participating states to fully follow their commitments, because from realization of these responsibilities depends the security of every country, as well as the OSCE region as a whole.

In her statement Ambassador Jarbussynova provided a short review of the ongoing reforms of the national legislation. She highlighted that in line with the National Plan of Action in Human Rights for 2009-12 and the Conception of Legal Policy for 2010-11 a number of relevant bills and amendments were adopted in Kazakhstan including ‘On Legal system and Status of Judges’, ‘On Mediation’, ‘On Further Humanisation of Criminal Legislation and Strengthening Guarantee of Legality in Criminal Proceedings’, ‘On Civil Service’ and ‘On Fighting Corruption.’

The work is continuing on drafting a law ‘On Television and Radio’, in collaboration with the Office of OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, international experts and NGOs.

The government is also working on introducing amendments into the law ‘On Religious Communities and Religious Activities’ that seek to eliminate the lacuna and contradictions with other legislative acts in Kazakhstan and enhancement of relationship between the state and religious communities.



Madina Jarbussynova: Some recommendations are taken into account immediately, while some require additional time to examine their applicability.

“Kazakhstan approaches fulfilling its obligations with much responsibility. The government will continue liberalising the national legislation to meet the needs of the country’s progressing society. The ODIHR/OSCE plays its positive role in this, along with other international partners of ours, to whom we are grateful for their recommendations on working out reforms in legislature. Some recommendations are taken into account immediately, while some require additional time to examine their applicability,” Jarbussynova commented.

Within the first working session on freedom of the media Kazakhstan’s Vice-Minister of Communication and Information Nurai Urazov delivered his remarks, which he underlined the government’s continuous and systematic work on liberalising the field of activities for media.

The conference will continue its work until October 7.

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Centre-2011 Military Exercises of CSTO Conclude Successfully

On September 26, the Kazakhstan stage of the large-scale strategic military exercises Centre 2011 of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) member states has come to an end with a closing award ceremony. The exercises were conducted in four countries: Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, and were meant to develop a unified approach towards operating and using troops in case of armed conflicts in the region.

Addressing the participants of the drill, First Deputy Commander - Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Land Forces of Kazakhstan, Major General Ruslan Alimov stressed that the joint exercises have become a good tradition.

“In close cooperation, the soldiers of the Kazakh



Kazakh and Russian soldiers during the joint military exercises.

Photo by Press Office of Kazakhstan’s Ministry of Defence

and Russian armies achieved their objectives, and their gained experience will be applied in daily activities and upgraded in the future,” Alimov said.

The address was followed by a military march and the rewarding of the participants with merit certificates, medals and souvenirs.

The practical actions began on September 19 and consisted of two parts: one in the training centres in Oimash of Kazakhstan and another in Ashuluk of Russia. The training activities were also held at the training centres Podgornoye in Kyrgyzstan and Lyaur in Tajikistan. The Armed Forces of Kazakhstan were engaged in all areas of the exercises.

The exercises on the Russian training range Ashuluk with participation of Kazakhstan, Russian, and Belarusian units, in presence of their Ukrainian colleagues, were held for the first time in the recent years.

Kazakhstan at this stage of drill was represented by army air force and front-line aviation, including four Mi-17 helicopters and four Su-27 aircrafts, and the amphibious assault company of Airborne Troops. Ukraine also sent its paratroopers. Both units had the same tasks to capture and retain the boundaries, but on different flanks. Russia employed tank and motorised infantry as well as air defence units, artillery and other combat arms.

The first stage of the Centre-2011 strategic exercises was carried out according to schedule and was highly evaluated by the commanders that particularly noted a high degree of performance of troops.

The final part of the exercises took place in the Kazakh sector of the Caspian Sea and on the training range Oimash, near Aktau, in presence of Kazakh Minister of Defence Adilbek Dzhaksybekov.

The combat actions were conducted on the ground, in the sea and in the sky by the troops of Kazakhstan and Russia. Servicemen of the two armed forces demonstrated defence operations against air assault, sea battle, landing of tactical marines and other elements of the modern military clashes. They also conducted an operation which envisaged a possible version of changing situation in the Central Asia countries.

The first stage of the Centre-2011 strategic exercises was carried out according to schedule and was highly evaluated by the commanders that particularly noted a high degree of performance of troops.

According to Minister Dzhaksybekov, the main goal of the exercise was fully achieved while the experience gained was invaluable.

“The participants gained a great experience of interaction between different units of armed forces and demonstrated an excellent teamwork and professionalism in all phases of joint operations”, Dzhaksybekov concluded.

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KazEnergy Forum 2011 Gathers Oil Business' Decision-Makers in Astana



The 6th Eurasian KazEnergy Forum will take place on October 4-5 in Astana. During the two days governments officials from a number of countries and heads of transnational energy corporations, together with reputable Kazakh and international experts will exchange views and experiences on various aspects of oil and gas and nuclear industry's future development on the Eurasian and global scale.

This time the suggested topic for discussion is “Kazakhstan: 20 years of sustained growth, new horizons of investment and stable cooperation.”

Chairman of KazEnergy Association Timur Kulibayev noted that “over these years our country has come as a sovereign authoritative, dynamically and steadily developing state, being and recognised as a full member of the international community”.

The share of Kazakhstan in the global oil market has almost doubled. By 2015 Kazakhstan is expected to be producing about 95 million tonnes of oil and condensate and more than 59 billion cubic

meters of natural gas per year. At the same time, with 17.8 thousand tonnes produced per year, the country has become the worldwide leader in natural uranium production.

In general, a stable and dynamic structure of the energy sector has shaped in Kazakhstan during the years of independence. According to main economic indicators, Kazakhstan has been at the lead among the countries of the former Soviet Union. A modern economic structure has been formed and a financial system has been created.

In this regard, the session entitled “Energy Geopolitics of Eurasia: challenges and new horizons” proposed as part of the “KazEnergy Eurasian Forum”, is highly relevant. The state’s energy development involves interconnection, globalisation and partnership with other countries. Today it is very important for Kazakhstan to attract as much investment as possible for state’s diversification projects which in their turn would allow achieving stable development of the human and economic potential.

The important topics for discussion of economic development issues can be expected in the next, no less interesting session, “New horizons for oil and gas development: investing and innovation in new technologies.” Forum participants are expected to discuss the partnership of national operators with foreign oil companies. Other relevant topics such as liquid hydrocarbon production at the Karachaganak field, relations among countries in the Caspian region and the prospects of oil producing in the Caspian Sea will be in the focus of discussion during the forum. One of the biggest challenges regarding the Caspian Sea is the unresolved legal status of the sea. The Caspian issue has been extremely important for Kazakhstan as the possibility of diversification of exports of hydrocarbon resources would allow strengthening state’s energy independence.

Along with it, a gradual and orderly development of the Tengiz, Karachaganak and Kashagan fields, along with increased production of hydrocarbons, resolves many other important aspects. Since the development of the fields allows using a great number of domestic enterprises, creating new jobs and getting additional opportunities for development of many Kazakh contractors and suppliers. The companies involved in fields development, are contributing in social reconstruction of adjacent areas. In all projects, Kazakhstan is working with major international companies introducing their new technologies.

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At the session devoted to new opportunities of renewable energy sources and nuclear energy development Forum participants will address the issue of introducing innovations into the industry. Despite the recent developments in the nuclear industry following the Fukushima plant catastrophe, organizers of the forum believe it would be unwise to ignore the fact that the world generates more than 15% of the total energy from the nuclear industry. Discussion of all these issues at the session promises to be very emotional and interesting.

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Also in the News:

- Kazakh Deputy Foreign Minister Kairat Umarov and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Blake co-chaired the meeting in New York on September 24 within the framework of the Kazakh-American annual bilateral consultations (ABC). The sides noted dynamic cooperation in five main areas of ABC mechanism, including global and regional security, political issues, democracy and human rights, economic and social development, and energy. Special attention was paid to rebuilding Afghanistan’s economy, where the sides discussed the implementation of the “New Silk Road” initiative promoting trade and economic integration between Afghanistan and other countries in the region. The parties agreed to work together in this direction, including in such upcoming events this year as a regional conference on Afghanistan in Istanbul on November 2, a meeting of the International Contact Group on Afghanistan in Astana on November 15, and the International Conference on Afghanistan in Bonn on December 5.

- A two-week annual Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Human Dimension Implementation Meeting to review progress in implementing the commitments adopted by governments in the field of human rights and democracy started in Warsaw, Poland, on September 26. The conference scrutinises achievements made by participating States in honouring their human rights commitments, including in areas such as freedom of assembly and other fundamental freedoms, prevention of hate crimes, the rule of law, and trafficking in human beings. Ambassador at Large Madina Dzharbusynova is heading the Kazakh delegation at the event, where Kazakh human rights activists will also present their performance evaluation of the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2009-12.
- Kazakhstan's economy will sustain at least 3-4 percent growth even if oil price stands at only US\$ 40 per barrel, Minister of Economic Development Kairat Kelimbetov said on September 26. According to the minister, in case oil price will be US\$60, the growth rate will make up 5-6 percent. Speaking at a round-table discussion on mid-term economic policy, Kelimbetov reminded that the savings in the National Fund and gold and currency reserves of the National Bank had exceeded US\$ 76 billion.
- The Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges (FEAS) 17th General Assembly is taking place in Almaty from September 27 till 29. The participants include chief executives of exchanges, depositories and broker-dealer associations of emerging markets in Europe and Asia, as well as international organisations, professional participants of Kazakhstan's securities market, as well as representatives of the business media.
- A new cultural and educational Madeniyet (Culture) TV channel began broadcasting in the country on September 26. According to Channel's Director Sagatbek Kaliyev, the programmes will focus mainly on Eurasian culture, where 80 percent of programmes will be broadcast in the Kazakh language, and 20 in Russian. At the moment, the channel owns 60 percent of the broadcast programmes, while 40 percent are purchased.
- A screening programme to observe onco-urological diseases of men and particularly prostate cancer will be introduced in Kazakhstan in 2012, Chief Doctor of Oncology Centre of Almaty Dilara Kaydarova announced on September 27. According to Kaydarova, the programme has been introduced as part of international efforts to tackle the problem.
- A mobile consulting-diagnostic medical train left from Astana to Northern Kazakhstan region, [Tengrinews](#) reported on September 26. During the next two months, doctors are planning to check up and, if necessary, offer medical aid to around 30,000 people in remote areas of North-Kazakhstan, Pavlodar and Akmolinsk Oblasts. According to the data, the train is equipped with diagnostic equipment, a mini-operating room, a laboratory, treating devices, Internet connection and telecommunication through which it is possible to connect with any consulting doctor or professor at any hospital, including the National Medical Holding, and all hospital bases in Almaty. This is the second train out of the planned three.
- In accordance with the poll results held on the [official website](#) of the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, the majority of respondents are ready to participate in the public education saving system. According to the data, 62 percent of respondents expressed readiness to participate in the public education saving system, where 27 percent being ready as long as the government guarantees security of deposits in the second-tier banks. Another 35 percent said they are ready as long as they are satisfied with the conditions of participation (additional state benefits, monthly savings starting from two minimum calculation indices, and the loan term up to 20 years, etc.). At the same time, 38 percent of respondents prefer saving funds without the participation of the state.

Things to watch:

- Under the umbrella of Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Third Session of the Ministers of Health of the OIC is scheduled to take place in Astana from September 29 till October 1. During the conference, review of the draft of the Strategic Action Programme in the sphere of healthcare of the OIC for 2012-22 is to take place. In addition, the participants will also discuss cross-border cooperation within the framework of the OIC in achieving the Millennium Development Goals aimed at reducing child mortality, improving maternal health. Talks on global polio eradication, self-sufficiency, and production of drugs, including vaccines against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, are expected to be held.
- A meeting of Kazakhstan-Azerbaijan intergovernmental commission will take place in Baku on September 29. During the meeting between the Kazakh delegation, headed by Minister of Oil and Gas Sauat Minbaev, and Azerbaijan's Industry and Energy Minister Natig Aliyev who will co-chair the meeting, the sides will discuss issues of further development of bilateral economic cooperation.
- The Kazakh Equity Capital Raising and Investment Forum in Hong Kong will be held at the Island Shangri-La on September 30, the [Asset](#) reports. According to the data, the event will bring together investors based in Hong Kong, Singapore and other Asian financial centres, and Kazakhstan's key government officials and senior executives from major companies, including oil and gas firm KazMunayGas (KMG) Exploration and Production, utilities corporate KEGOC, and oil and gas infrastructure company KazTransOil.
- KazEnergy Forum will take place in Astana on October 4-5. Bringing together top government and business leaders from across the Eurasian continent, the forum will be moderated by Larry King, the host of Larry King live on CNN (1985-2010).

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