

## Cooperation with international security organizations

**Kazakhstan has facilitated cooperation within the frameworks of international and regional organizations** in order to withstand the new global challenges and threats, and to activate economic and humanitarian integration within many international and regional structures.

Ensuring security and stability in Central Asia is a key priority for Kazakhstan. Since the first years of its independence Kazakhstan has been pursuing active policy in countering challenges and threats of the modern world. **Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)** has become an effective instrument providing for close regional cooperation and coordination in tackling current challenges.

The CSTO is an regional organization, which includes Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The supreme body of the CSTO is the Council of Collective Security represented by the Heads of the State.

The activity of the CSTO is aimed at ensuring national security, defense of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the member states, including the fight against terrorism, religious extremism, organized crime, drugs and weapons smuggling, illegal migration and etc.

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** and sees cooperation with the Organization as a milestone priority of its foreign policy.

The SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organization proclaimed in Shanghai on June 15, 2001 by six countries – People's Republic of China, Russian Federation, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Uzbekistan.

The main purposes of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are: strengthening mutual trust and good-neighbourhood relations; promoting effective cooperation in political area, economy and trade, scientific-technical, cultural, and educational spheres as well as in energy, transportation, tourism, environment safeguarding fields; security and regional peace; striving towards creation of democratic, just, reasonable new international political and economic order.

Multilateral institutions such as Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and Collective Security Treaty Organization are effective in cooperation and security issues in our region. Taking into consideration that all Central Asian states share same views on stability in the region, it will be very useful to unite the efforts of OSCE and the above mentioned organizations, particularly SCO, for the resolution of important issues in Eurasia.

Cooperation with **NATO**, as well as the European countries and the United States, has been an important priority of Kazakhstan's foreign policy.

Kazakhstan remains the only country in Central Asia, which has an Individual Partnership Action Plan with the Alliance (IPAP), and develops high level political dialogue with the Organization.

Political-military and military-to-military cooperation is one of the main areas of the partnership with NATO. Such cooperation includes modernization of the armed forces; enhancement of peacekeeping capabilities; ensuring efficient civilian control over the armed forces. The transformation of the Armed Forces goes in line with the Military Doctrine of Kazakhstan, adopted in March 2007.

Kazakhstan has joined PfP Planning and Review Process (PARP), aimed at bringing the level of equipment and training of the selected units of the armed forces, in particular Kazbat/ Kazbrig, to the NATO standards. The joint peacekeeping exercise "Steppe Eagle 2008" was held near Almaty from 15 to 27 September 2008 with the participation of troops from the United States and the UK. The annual drill was meant to improve the commanders' coordination skills and to evaluate the readiness of the Kazakh peacekeeping units to take part in NATO-led operations.

Kazakhstan has increased its activity in the civil emergency planning in the EAPC/PfP framework. Kazakhstan is preparing to host Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Center (EADRCC) annual field exercise in September 2009.

In July 2008 NATO decided to hold 2009 EAPC Security Forum in Kazakhstan. This decision has stressed an important role of Kazakhstan in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership and underlined its special relations with the Alliance. Back to back with the Security Forum Kazakhstan will be hosting NATO Parliamentary Assembly's Rose-Roth seminar. This combination will enable enlarging the scope of discussed issues and attracting a broad audience.

Enhancing OSCE's role as a bridge between the West and the East, which has to be a uniting factor for the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian "areas" of the Organization, will be among the most important priorities for Kazakhstan's Chairmanship in 2010. Kazakhstan welcomes NATO's support to the development of constructive cooperation between the OSCE and the Alliance under the Kazakhstan's Chairmanship.