

## **Stabilization and economic reconstruction of Afghanistan**

*“Stabilization and economic reconstruction of Afghanistan is vital for peace and security in Central Asian region. Kazakhstan highly appreciates the role of the international coalition in Afghanistan.*

*We understand the pressure of domestic public opinion on European governments because of loss of life of their soldiers and expenditure of material resources. We are grateful to our European partners for their active engagement in the settlement of this most complex international problem.*

*From the time of Alexander the Great – who was very familiar with the peaks of the Hindu Kush mountain range – right up until now, this territory has been the source of not only regional but global turbulence.*

*Amongst the problems faced by the international community – especially members of the international coalition – vis-à-vis Afghanistan, one should recall...*

- *The conversion of the entire country to peaceful modes of life after the long history of military conflicts on the territory of Afghanistan*
- *Historical and geographical reality connected to the complexity of exerting control over the state borders on certain directions*
- *Discrepancy in cultural codes and the values of the West and traditional Afghan society. The problem lies not in the deep religiousness of the greater part of Afghan society, but the drama is that underestimation of the cultural context only becomes evident post-factum.*

*It seems to us that gradual settlement of the situation in Afghanistan must be based on the following 5 positions...*

- 1. military – political stability*
- 2. economic rehabilitation*
- 3. a system of integrated and powerful state management*
- 4. a complex, but achievable, balance of regional and ethnic powers*
- 5. evolutionary political modernization.*

*We express our support to the Afghanistan National Development Strategy adopted this April. The Strategy recognizes the strengthening of the Afghan statehood and the determination of the country’s people to stand firmly on their own feet. Kazakhstan continues to contribute to the process of recovery in Afghanistan. We are implementing the governmental Special Plan of Assistance to Afghanistan, which foresees the construction of roads, healthcare and education facilities, humanitarian assistance and training of specialists.*

*To create a powerful barrier against the spread of drugs, Kazakhstan has provided all necessary facilities on its territory for the establishment of the Central Asian Regional Information & Coordination Center on Struggle Against Illegal Drug Circulation under the aegis of the United Nations.”*

***Extract from the speech delivered by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mr. M.Tazhin at the first EU-Central Asia Forum on security issues (Paris, September 2008).***

Afghanistan is one of the priority issues on Kazakhstan-NATO agenda. We continue to support the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan (ISAF). Since 2003 more than 6000 Allied aircraft crossed our airspace, more than 80 were permitted to land in emergency on Kazakh airfields.

Currently Kazakh authorities together with NATO experts consider land transit agreement of non-lethal cargo that will soon be approved.

Bilateral interaction with Afghanistan is enhanced. In accordance with the special governmental plan of Kazakhstan for 2007-2008 we provided humanitarian assistance this April and June worth 2.9 million US dollar. The plan for 2009-2011 is being developed.

Alliance has welcomed Kazakhstan's intention send Kazakhstan's officers to the ISAF headquarters and a medical unit to the ISAF's hospitals.