

Mr. Chairman!
Dear Colleagues and Friends!

Thank you for opportunity to address such a high level audience!

This year is 25th year of cooperation between Kazakhstan and UNESCO (May 22, 1992). Let me express my gratitude to the Member States and the leadership of UNESCO for supporting our country and our initiatives at UNESCO and the United Nations as a whole.

In the context of the implementation of the Global Sustainable Development goals, we would like to mention the success of this year “Astana Expo: Energy of the Future.” During this summer, 115 countries and 22 international organizations gathered in Astana to demonstrate their ideas, vision of the future and associated technologies. We would like to that thank again all the countries and organizations for their effort.

As one of post EXPO activities, with the support of five UN agencies, we are creating the permanent International Center for Green Technologies and "Future Energy." I would like to welcome you all to be a part of that Center.

At the site of the EXPO, we also held the first ever Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Science and Technology. As a result of the summit we

hope to develop multiple joint research and educational projects within OIC community.

October next year, Astana plans to hold the VI Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions on the theme "Religious leaders for a safe world." We hope that UNESCO, as usual, will be represented at the forum.

As you can see, Astana is about global integration. And that were our education is going today. Yes, there is no doubt that human capital, better education is the key to all future successes of the nation in every field, economy, science, arts and so on. But, better education is also a key to turn a nation to become truly integrated, a responsible citizen of our planet. And that is also our goal in Kazakhstan. We have many activities, but let me stop of two sizable ones.

First is to bring in English as a language of instruction for some subjects, today it is a choice of IT, biology, chemistry and physics, to all high school children and college students. You know, we always been bilingual country with Kazakh and Russian, and the goal today is to become truly trilingual. It means that in few years every high school graduate, every student should know Kazakh, Russian and English on a subject level. It is not going very easy, but today 85% of parents, want their children to have English at a subject level.

And another internationalization of higher education through brining true academic freedom in Universities. It

is freedom for higher education to freely develop their programs, choose the language, bring in a management and faculty from all over the world: all of it in hopes to make Kazakhstan an educational hub of Central Asia.

Over the past 6 years, the number of students studying abroad has grown 2.5 times and reached 4.5 million. Scholars indicate that after 10 years this number will be closer to 20 million moving students.

We now encourage our students to travel, our Universities to bring students from other countries, to develop joint programs with other Universities, other world leading Universities to open campuses in Kazakhstan, as we believe only the openness can create true quality integration.

And third: Commitment to World Skills standards in tech colleges and harmonizing National Qualifications Framework with European ones on tech colleges and Universities levels. So the direction is to a global market.

It is a lot of work. We will be happy to work together with UNESCO, OECD to share the experience and develop and participate in global initiatives.

Thank you for your attention!