

Kazakhstan: Sustainable Development in Transition and Connection to the EU's Assistance

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Abstract: *This year the World Leaders considered and adopted the new ambitious Sustainable Development Agenda “Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” to end poverty and universally promote shared economic prosperity, social development and environmental protection by 2030. This article explores new realities of the Sustainable Development agenda in the light of the transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is clear today that the global development strategy requires a system renovation and new approaches, corresponding with the reality and challenges of the 21st century. Kazakhstan, being one of the 50 countries participating in the national consultations process on the post-2015 Agenda, brought its own contribution to “The Future We Want” programme. The fruitful cooperation with the European Union adds more perspectives for Kazakhstan as one of the most dynamic developing countries in the Central Asian region. The authors emphasized the importance of the United Nations Organization (UN) leadership in the global strategic planning and controlling long-term strategies, including cooperation between states and civilizations, and inclusion of all points of view, especially that of the youth. This article is intended for specialists as well as a wider audience (e.g. students), who are interested in international relations and organizations, international cooperation, sustainable development, and foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.*

Keywords: *sustainable development, UN, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), EU, Kazakhstan*

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1. Introduction

In the light of the processes of globalization and retrogressing of the Earth's ecological conditions, the interdependency of states is increasing in economic and social aspects. Meanwhile, sustainable development problems are becoming more urgent and thus are being included in the new format of the global agenda.

Taking into consideration the fact that in 2015 the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) came to an end, it is necessary to pay special attention to the next programme on Sustainable Development Goals - "Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"².

Kazakhstan, in turn, being one of the most dynamic developing countries in the Central Asian region, may be a good example in the field of the Millennium Development Goals achievement and in high targets setting with due account taken of its national priorities and peculiarities.

The severity and duration of the global crises and transformations require the development and high-level approval of a scientifically based long-term global strategy of sustainable development, implemented on the basis of a state and civilization partnership in reply to the 21st century challenges.

2. Methodology

This research uses general and individual methods of scientific inquiry. In studying the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals, the authors mainly implemented a systematic approach, the method of synthesis and analysis, and comparative methods of analysis of numerous studies (see, for instance, Wade, 2004; Khan, 2007; Allen, 2008; Caliri, 2013; Bourguignon, 2015; Atkinson, 2015). The conclusions and recommendations of this article make clear that the recently adopted agenda is a universal, transformative and integrated document, indicating a historical global turning point. This Agenda calls for actions for all the low, middle and high-income countries at their own levels.

3. Sustainable development in the World Agenda

The sustainable development concept is based on the consolidation of three main approaches: economic, social and ecological.

The term "Sustainable Development" was used for the first time in 1972 at the First World Conference on Environment, where the problem of interdependence between economic progress and environment retrogression was considered by international community at the highest level.

The interpretation of the word "development" was greatly changed concerning its meaning. Before the 1970s, the term "development" was mainly considered to be

² For further details please visit <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

economic development, expressed by the absolute increasing of GNP and GDP volumes per head. Nowadays global public's attention is focused on decreasing the level of poverty, inequality and unemployment in economic growth process³. The social results are primarily taken into consideration concerning the up-to-date interpretation of the term "development" – increasing the quality of life of the population, which means "such social changes that provide the most diverse sections of society with equal opportunities and possibilities to use public benefits – education, health care, accommodation etc."⁴.

In accordance with French economist Francois Bourguignon: "After a significant decline in the mid-20th century, followed by a long period of stability, inequality has begun to rise over the last two or three decades in the large majority of developed countries."⁵

At the same time, the other English scholar Atkinson states that the rising inequality "is not solely the product of forces outside our control. There are steps that can be taken by governments, acting individually or collectively, by firms, by trade union and consumer organizations, and by us as individuals to reduce the present level of inequality."⁶

Thus, it is evident that there is a necessity of reforms, which would render international community more efficient and fair. The global inequality is one of the biggest issues, which affects the whole world. Analysing two theories the provided overview of inequality and economic trends shows that sustainable development is a crucial global concern.

The term "Sustainable Development" was assigned in the Report of the UN International Commission on Environment and Development in 1987. It defined the development as that process that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"⁷.

While the gap between the rich North and the poor South was increasing more and more, the introduction of the term "Sustainable Development" in the conceptual plan for the first time worked out the relation between "environment" and "development".

The term "Sustainable Development" got further conceptual clarifications in the framework of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), which also became famous as the Earth Summit. The Conference declared that environment protection and social and economic development were of fundamental importance for sustainable development. On the basis of this declaration, two main documents were adopted: the "Rio Declaration"⁸ and "Agenda

³ Michael P. Todaro, *Economic development*, 1997 Addison-Wesley; 6th edition pp: 671.

⁴ Ye. Karatayeva, N. Rodina, O. Yakovleva, *Management of the development: current issues and possible way of solving*. 2003 // Local power. - №4, pp: 20-24.

⁵ Françoise Bourguignon, *The Globalization of Inequality*, 2015, Translated by Thomas Scott-Railton, Princeton University Press pp: 224.

⁶ Anthony Atkinson, *Inequality: What can be done?*, 2015, Harvard University Press, pp.: 304.

⁷ *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development "Our Common future"*. 1987, General Assembly, A/42/427, pp: 374, available online at <http://www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf> Last visited on December 20th 2015.

⁸ *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*. A/CONF.151/26/ Vol.I, 1992. <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm> Last visited on December 20th 2015.

21"⁹. Moreover, two international Conventions were adopted and opened for ratification: the "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change" and the "Convention on Biological Diversity".

The main principles of global activity on development providing and environment protection, namely overall and differentiated responsibility, pollution taxes and fines, precautions and obligations, were defined in the "Rio Declaration".

"Agenda 21" contains the detailed plans of activities, which are able to transform the world from its unsustainable model of economic growth to the activities providing environment protection and natural resources renewal, which influence on economic growth and development. The document also represents the recommended ways of strengthening the role of sustainable development achievement of social groups such as women, trade unions, farmers, children and youth, indigenous peoples, scientific community, local authorities, business, industry and nongovernmental organizations¹⁰.

However, some authors went beyond this approach and elaborated "new human ecology economics" as the interdisciplinary framework for understanding "world conditions and human systems"¹¹. Climate change, resource scarcity, social conflicts, poverty and inequality, governance crises and financial instability were determined as the components of this theory. All these aspects are considered as challenges of global systems' sustainability.

The above-stated facts may be considered to be the real breakthrough of the United Nations Organization's activity on drawing attention and formation of the main mechanisms for solving the ecology problems included in the international public agenda. The United Nations Organization became the leading exponent of concern on environment conditions and the main conductor of the "sustainable development" concept.

In 1997 the UN General Assembly carried out the special "Rio+5" session on the "Agenda 21" implementation. During the discussions the Member States expressed some differences in opinions concerning the means of sustainable development financing on the global scale, however all the Member States pointed out the absolute necessity of implementing "Agenda 21".

In 2000, the 55th UN General Assembly session adopted the Millennium Declaration, which stated the major Development Goals, defined by the world community as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

⁹ *UN Millennium Declaration*. 55th Session of UN General Assembly. A/RES/55/2, 2000. <http://www.un-documents.net/a55r2.htm> Last visited on December 25th 2015.

¹⁰ *Basic information: Post 2015 development*. UN Department for economic and social affairs. <http://www.un.org/ru/development/desa/development-beyond-2015.html>. Last visited on December 28th 2015.

¹¹ Roy E. Allen (editor), *Human Ecology Economics. A new framework for global sustainability*, 2008, Routledge, pp.: 303.

Figure 1. The Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals are the **eight international development goals** that were established following the *Millennium Summit of the United Nations*¹² in 2000, following the adoption of the *United Nations Millennium Declaration*¹³.

1. "To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. To achieve universal primary education
3. To promote gender equality
4. To reduce child mortality
5. To improve maternal health
6. To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. To ensure environmental sustainability
8. To develop a global partnership for development".¹⁴

All the above-stated eight development goals are divided into 21 targets, the achievement of which is measured by means of 60 special indicators. The UN Development Programme plays the coordinating role; generally, all of the UN system of institutions and agencies was responsible for rendering help and assistance to the Member States in order to achieve the MDGs.

Engaging the MDGs involved a creative approach, as a series of researchers such as Aldo Caliarì stated: "Engaging with the means of development also requires the humbling act of acknowledging that we know very little about the causes of development. National and international plans to achieve the MDGs must incorporate flexibility, so that they reflect the different conditions prevailing in different countries. However, allowing for flexibility is not in itself enough. A truly practical approach to achieving the MDGs must actively foster learning about the best strategies, rather than presuming that these strategies are known in advance."¹⁵

In 2001, Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization, submitted the roadmap drawn up for the achievement of the UN Millennium Declaration. The document contained the integrated complex review of the development and determined potential strategies for the achievement of targeted goals. The Reports on the roadmap implementation for MDG achievement are published by the United Nations Organization annually. For example, in the 2002 annual Report special attention was paid to the actions taken against armed conflicts, HIV/AIDS and malaria treatment and preventive health care. The 2003 annual Report was focused on the development strategy. In 2004 primary importance was assigned to transnational crime-fighting; but 2005 was the year of the first five year progress review; some interim results on MDG implementation were summed up.

¹² *Millennium Summit* (6-8 September 2000), available online at http://www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/millennium_summit.shtml Last visited on December 30th 2015.

¹³ *United Nations Millennium Declaration* available online at http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/55/2 Last visited on December 30th 2015.

¹⁴ <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/> Last visited on December 30th 2015.

¹⁵ A. Caliarì. *Analysis of Millennium Development Goal 8: A Global Partnership for Development*, 2013 – Working paper series. Harvard, pp.: 28.

Ten years after the "Agenda 21" had been approved, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development was held in Johannesburg. The Summit examined the progress achieved from the 1992 Earth Summit. The great importance of sustainable development was proved again and the realization of its urgent goals was determined in the adopted "Johannesburg Declaration on sustainable development"¹⁶. Thus, Member States undertook tasks on specifically defined targets and dates of implementation, including new target indicators on water supply and sewerage system providing, chemicals utilization and usage, fishery maintenance and restoring, as well as reducing biological diversity loss.

Analysis shows that there is a justification for the inclusion of the MDGs as separate and independent development objectives. With the exception of the first and the last of its eight components, the MDGs consist of indicators that are characterized by substantial externalities. The second, the fourth and the fifth MDGs - education of children and the reduction of child and maternal mortality - provide benefits not only to their direct recipients but also to others, thereby embodying significant externality. The remaining three MDGs - empowering women, combating epidemic diseases and protecting the environment - are actually public goods entailing non-rivalry and non-excludability in their consumption. Private expenditure decisions are not adequate instruments to secure the desirable levels of production and consumption of these elements. Growth and (income) poverty reduction, operating through the augmentation of private income, cannot serve as adequate tools for the attainment of their appropriate levels of production and consumption. There must be public action to supplement private expenditure on these elements. It is in this sense that the specification of MDGs as separate and independent objectives makes sense¹⁷.

3.1. Development beyond 2015

Nowadays the majority of the states agree with the fact that sustainable development depends on the balance of its three main components - economic, social and ecological. This consensus is one of the key achievements in the field of international cooperation in the last thirty years. At the same time, the 2012 "Rio + 20" Summit, which took place in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), where sustainable development, poverty eradication and "green" economy problems were discussed, revealed that there were a lot of problems which needed closer attention and joint efforts of the international community in order to solve all of the targeted tasks.

The Conference outcome document was entitled "The Future We Want". The Member States decided to formulate universal goals applied in the field of sustainable development and started working them out. In Rio de Janeiro Member States also agreed to keep the policy of providing all-embracing "green" financing in combination with technical assistance for states taking measures on "green" economy adaptation strategies with due regard for their special conditions. They undertook to commence the intergovernmental process of studying

¹⁶ Report of the Secretary General «Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration». 56th session of the United Nations General Assembly. - A/56/326, 2001. <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/56/a56326.pdf>. Last visited on December 30th 2015

¹⁷ A. R. Khan. *Employment and Millennium Development Goals: Analytics of the Linkage in the Context of an Accelerated Effort to Achieve the MDGs*, 2007 - MA: PERI, Working Series Paper, № 147, pp: 2.

of different strategic alternatives of sustainable development financing in the frames of the General Assembly.

The history shows that the United Nations “common and differentiated responsibilities” principles do not meet the views of all the member states. The gap in responsibilities between rich and poor countries for the obligations to pay mitigation costs is too large. For example, “this does not, however, necessarily correspond to citizens’ willingness to pay. Those who are expected to pay the bill tend to live in democratic societies where they can vote their refusal. If so, the sovereign states in which they live could opt out of international agreements aimed at emission reductions, as the U.S. has done.”¹⁸

Besides that, it is important to consider the globalization as a factor of reducing the inequality. Robert Wade explains in one of his works “that globalization has been rising while poverty and income inequality have not been falling. Indeed, it is striking that the pronounced convergence of economic policy toward “openness” worldwide over the past 20 years has gone with divergence of economic performance.”¹⁹

Taking into consideration the fact that in 2015, according to the Millennium Declaration, the eight Millennium Development Goals came to an end, it is necessary to pay special attention to the Organization’s efforts on programme developing for the period after 2015.

In this regard, the UN Secretary-General formed the UN system Target Group on studying the activities programme in the field of development for the period beyond 2015 and the Group of outstanding public figures on studying the high-level activities programme. He also appointed a Special Counsellor on programme planning in the field of development agenda beyond 2015.

This UN system Target Group was founded by the UN Secretary-General in January 2012 in order to start the programme developing process in the field of development agenda beyond 2015. The Group consisted of more than 60 specialized institutions and international organizations. The Target Group’s aim was to provide analytical, expert, informational and enlightening support to this programme.

In June 2012 the “Implementing the future we want” Report was published²⁰. This Report covered the main recommendations of the Group for the programme in the field of development agenda beyond 2015.

The UN system Target Group formed several working groups for further analytical work: on global partnership, on development, on monitoring and target achievement indicators for the period beyond 2015 and for sustainable development financing purposes.

The Open Working Group of the UN General Assembly included 30 members. The aim of the Group was to work out a special proposal on the Sustainable Development Goals,

¹⁸ *Human Ecology Economics. A new framework for global sustainability*, Edited by Roy E. Allen, 2008, Routledge, p.: 208.

¹⁹ Robert H. Wade. *Is Globalization Reducing Poverty and Inequality?*, World Development Vol. 32 №4 .2004, Elsevier. p.: 579.

²⁰ Final document. The Future, We Want. UN Conference on sustainable development. A/CONF.216/L.1, 2012. https://rio20.un.org/sites/rio20.un.org/files/a-conf.216l-1_english.pdf.pdf. Last visited December 30th 2015.

which should take the place of the Millennium Development Goals. For this purpose, 11 themed national consultations were carried out in 50 countries of the world, covering such problems as conflicts and instability, education, ecological sustainability, management, economic growth and employment, health, hunger and food security, inequality, dynamics and population size, energy and water.

After two years of intensive work, in July 2014, in the frame of the UN General Assembly, the high-level two-day event was held on review of the development agenda beyond 2015. The Open Working Group submitted the outcome document on the Sustainable Development Goals.

This Report is truly innovative for the UN as, for the first time, all the aspects of the sustainable development were defined: social, economic and ecological. Thus, the Working Group defined 17 Goals in the field of sustainable development:

Figure 2. *The 17 Sustainable Development Goals* ²¹

- “Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth , full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13. Take urgent actions to combat climate change and its impacts
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biological diversity loss
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development in the field of finance, technology, and potential increasing, trade, and reasonable political and institutional activity, partnership with participation of many interested parties, data collecting, monitoring and accountability”²¹.

²¹Final document. *The Future, We Want. UN Conference on sustainable development. A/CONF.216/L.1, 2012.* https://rio20.un.org/sites/rio20.un.org/files/a-conf.216l-1_english.pdf.pdf. Last visited December 30th 2015.

In the *2013 Human Development Reports*, published since 1999, it is pointed out that more than 40 developing countries, with the major world population ratio, achieved a larger increase of the Human Development Potential Index (HDI) than it was forecast according to their situation in 1990. However, it is impossible to be satisfied with these achievements. There is some data according to which the general progress rate on human development decreases in all country groups. It is absolutely essential to pay attention to the vulnerability problem nowadays in order to protect achievements and prevent continual progress undermining. On the threshold of the beyond 2015 agenda, it is high time for the international community to use all available possibilities for changing and implementing new forms of global cooperation, allowing to reduce stable and systemic vulnerability²².

Thus, the analysis of the UN general concepts and approaches in the field of sustainable development shows that the World Summits 1992 and 2002 were the basis for the global strategy of sustainable development, oriented towards the effective use of the world resources, taking into consideration the present and the next generations' interests; the Millennium Development Goals were determined there to orient the global community towards achieving them by 2015. This allowed for the achievement of definite progress in the concentration of efforts and resources in order to fulfil the stated goals.

At the same time the "Rio+20" Summit showed that the elaboration of the long-term strategy has to be based on the necessity of the balanced reply to the 21st century challenges in all the spheres of the global community – energy and ecological, demographic, technological, economic, geopolitical, social and cultural. In our opinion, the long-term strategy may be successfully implemented on the basis of the countries and civilization partnership under the UN leadership and will require to increase its role in the global strategic planning and controlling.

Meanwhile, the UN is paying a great deal of attention to the involvement of youth in the dialogue of post-2015 Agenda formation. Thus, on February 2015 the 4th Youth Forum within the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (UN ECOSOC) was held in the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The Forum, initiated in 2012, became a dialogue platform between young people and UN Member States for a number of important issues within the spectrum of their interests. In the framework of this Forum, young people, representatives of national youth councils, regional youth organizations, governments of Member States of more than 180 countries, were urged to join the decision-making process by the heads of states regarding the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals, on the threshold of the UN "post-2015" agenda adoption at the 70th UN General Assembly jubilee session.

Addressing the Forum, the UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon urged the youth to join efforts towards building a better world for all. "We are here at an important time for all of us. 2015 is not just the other year. This year gives us an opportunity to change the course

²² *Human Development Report. The rise of South: Human Progress in a Diverse World*. United Nations Development Programme. New York, 2013, pp: 13. <http://www.ug.undp.org/content/dam/uganda/img/Research%20and%20Publications/HDR%202013%20EN.pdf>. Last visited December 30th 2015.

of our history. We are the first generation that is able to put an end to poverty, and we are the last generation that can put an end to climate change" - said the UN Secretary-General²³.

4. Kazakhstan and the MDGs: achievements and perspectives

In 2010, during the High-level plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly, the Member States initiated some measures on the promotion of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. According to the decision making the process of open consultations on the post-2015 agenda was carried out. Kazakhstan was one of the 50 countries participating in the national consultations process. According to the polling, more than 1,500,000 participants contributed to it. They were represented by the government, civil society, private sector, scientific sections, and research institutions all over the world. There were about 90 national level consultations and 11 theme consultations concerning the problems of inequality, food security and drinking water access, which, according to the scientists' opinion, will be of great importance in the post-2015 period. The internet portal, named "The Future We Want 2015", united people in the frame of the matters of global importance, while the public opinion poll, "My World", covered people from more than 190 countries.

The consultations revealed that people would like to have a global development agenda based on national political measures, giving to everyone equal rights and the possibility of developing the future they want with further progress in the fields of education, public health, water supplying and sanitation.

For the identification of global tendencies in the country's sustainable development, the UN and the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan annually publish Reports on Human Development and the Millennium Development Goals, which are some kind of distinctive signal for the Kazakhstani society to define possible threats for the country's sustainable development.

As it was stated above, the MDGs are a complex of interconnected goals, directed to solving the following problems: poverty and hunger, illiteracy, gender inequality, child and maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, ecological degradation and global partnership in the development goals.

Taking into consideration the fact that Kazakhstan has already achieved some of the MDG initial goals, such as poverty reduction, access to primary education and women's empowerment, the government of Kazakhstan undertook the obligations on the "MDG +" agenda. The country set the additional goals, adapted for Kazakhstan and based on the national priorities analysis, national statistics, respective state programmes and the other countries experience as well.

²³ "2015 is a chance to change history," Ban tells UN Youth Forum. Remarks to the Fourth ECOSOC Youth Forum. February, 2015. <http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2015/02/2015-chance-change-history-ban-tells-un-youth-forum/> Last visited January 5th 2016.

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

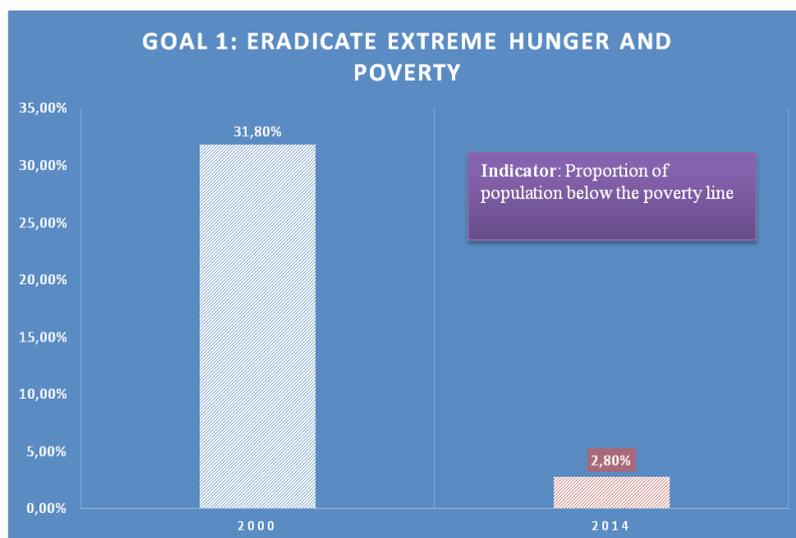
Target 1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than the subsistence minimum value.

Kazakhstan has achieved Target 1 of MDG 1. However, poverty is still a serious problem for the country, especially in rural regions. That is why in the 2007 annual Report a new goal “MDG 1+” was suggested in order to reduce by half the number of people residing in the rural regions and whose income is less than the subsistence minimum value. Actually, 80% of the population has an income that does not exceed a twofold value of the subsistence minimum. The earned income of a part of the population is so low that it cannot be considered as adequate income, sufficient for a normal level of life and this problem considerably reduces the attractiveness of productive employment²⁴. The regional differentiation of poverty still remains, with an emphasis on rural poverty in all regions.

Target 2. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

The problem of hunger is not urgent for the present day Kazakhstan. In accordance with the stated, in 2007 Target 2 was adopted to the national situation in order to halve the proportion of the population without balanced and adequate nourishment²⁵. A significant part of the population needs nutrition improvement, especially people in the risk group, which includes children and women of reproductive age.

Figure 3. Results of the Goal 1 achievements in Kazakhstan²⁶



²⁴ Report on Millennium Development Goals in Kazakhstan. UN. - Astana, 2007, pp:15. http://www.un.kz/userfiles/mdgr2007_eng.pdf. Last visited on January 5th 2016.

²⁵ Report on Millennium Development Goals in Kazakhstan. UN. - Astana, 2007, pp:16 http://www.un.kz/userfiles/mdgr2007_eng.pdf. Last visited on January 5th 2016.

²⁶ Statistics Committee of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan <http://stat.gov.kz/>. Last visited on March 15th 2016.

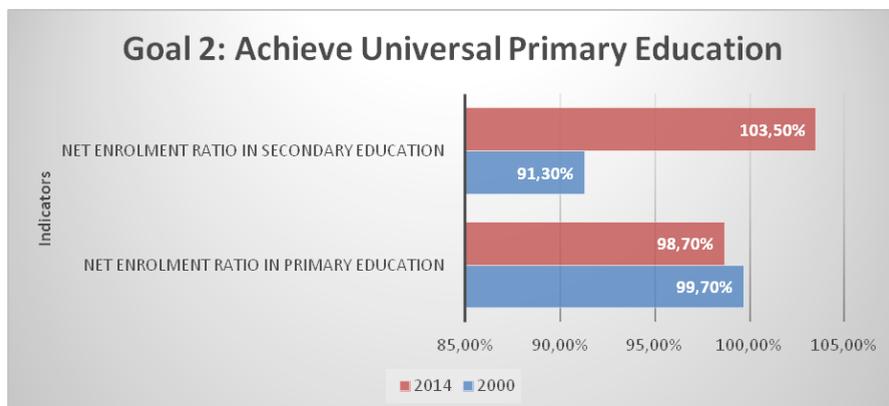
Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education

Target 3. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

According to the 2002 and 2005 Kazakhstan MDG Reports, Goal 2 in its original formulation was achieved in Kazakhstan. On the base of national policy priorities and state educational programmes realization, the conclusion was made on the urgency of secondary education condition assessment as a whole, with an accent on teaching quality, coverage of children with special needs and the education of children from socially vulnerable groups. In 2007, Report "Target 3+" was determined, concerning universal secondary education²⁷.

According to the review, in current target solution on providing universal secondary education along with large achievements there are quite a lot of difficulties and unsolved problems concerning education policy, education quality, statistic provision, institutionalization, labour resources potential and education financing.

Figure 4. Results of the Goal 2 achievements in Kazakhstan²⁸



Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

Target 4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

This goal was achieved in Kazakhstan concerning the gender inequality in the sphere of primary and secondary education. However, it should be admitted that the difference between men and women still exists in Kazakhstan. That is why the new "Target 4+" was adopted in 2007. It includes such priorities as the adoption and implementation of measures regarding women empowerment in public administration bodies, providing

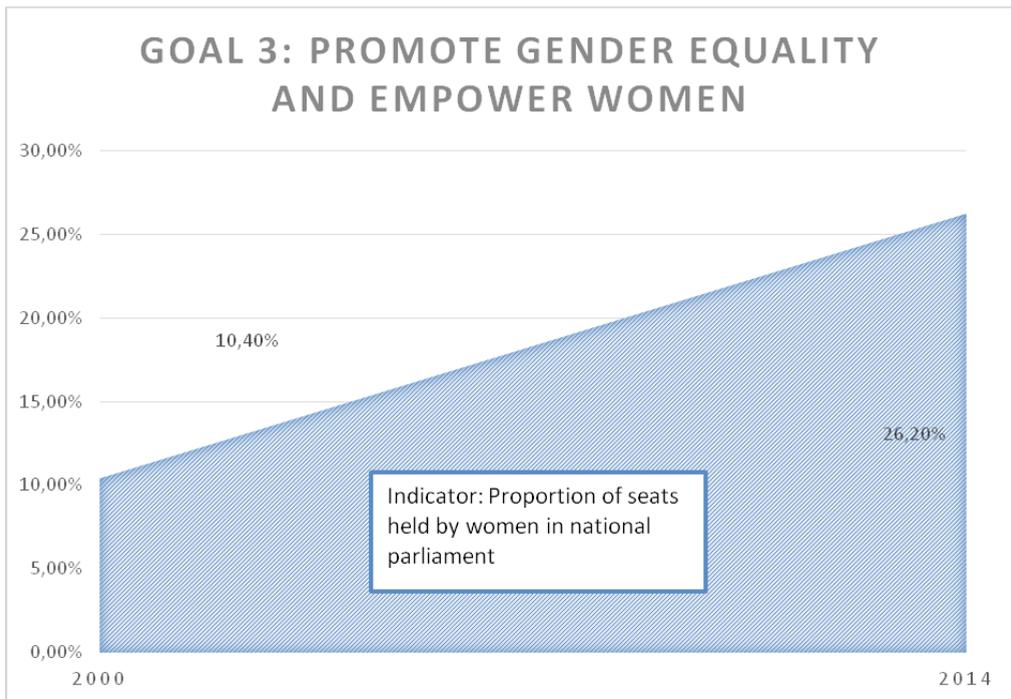
²⁷ Report on Millennium Development Goals in Kazakhstan. UN. - Astana, 2007, pp:25 http://www.un.kz/userfiles/mdgr2007_eng.pdf. Last visited on January 5th 2016.

²⁸ Statistics Committee of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan <http://stat.gov.kz/>. Last visited on March 15th 2016.

legislative and executive measures for the prevention and eradication of violence against women, sustainable implementation of gender approaches in state planning and budget process, including the reduction of the gender pay gap²⁹.

In spite of work on the improvement of legislation on women rights for a life free from violence, the mechanisms of its practical implementation are not applied to a considerable extent.

Figure 5. Results of the Goal 3 achievements in Kazakhstan³⁰



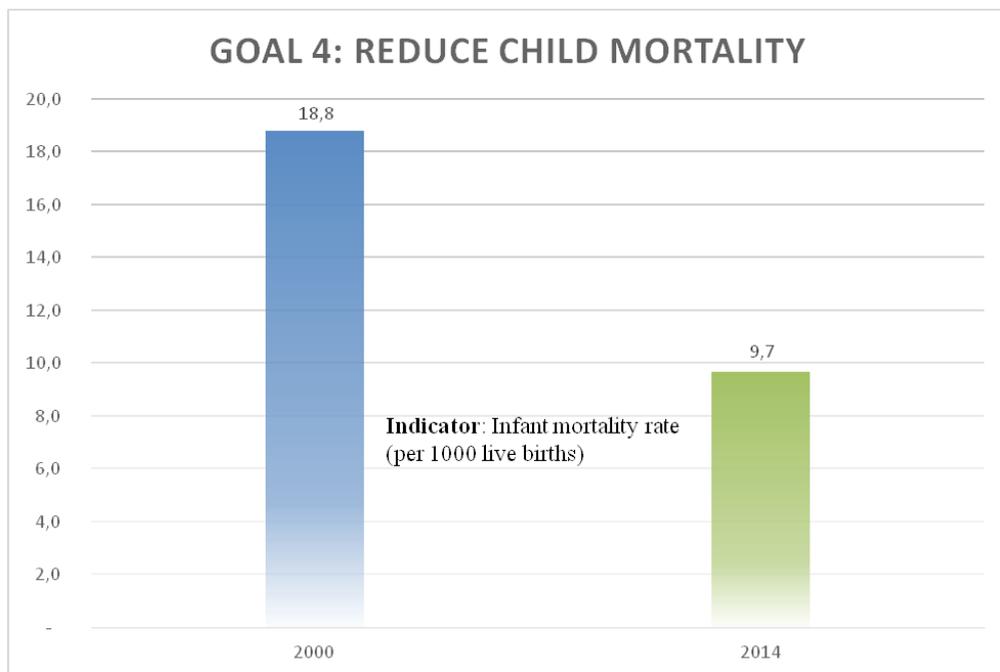
Goal 4. Reduce child mortality

Target 5. Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

The solution for the existing problems is regulated by relative governmental decrees and orders of the Ministry of Public Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Unfortunately, the practical implementation is not applied to a considerable extent, which may be explained by the fact that these decrees and orders are not understood properly due to the health workers' insufficient experience on new prenatal technologies and subsidization of this goal.

²⁹ Report on Millennium Development Goals in Kazakhstan. UN. - Astana, 2007, http://www.un.kz/userfiles/mdgr2007_eng.pdf. Last visited on January 5th 2016. pp: 32.

³⁰ Statistics Committee of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan <http://stat.gov.kz/>. Last visited on March 15th 2016.

Figure 5. Results of the Goal 4 achievements in Kazakhstan³¹

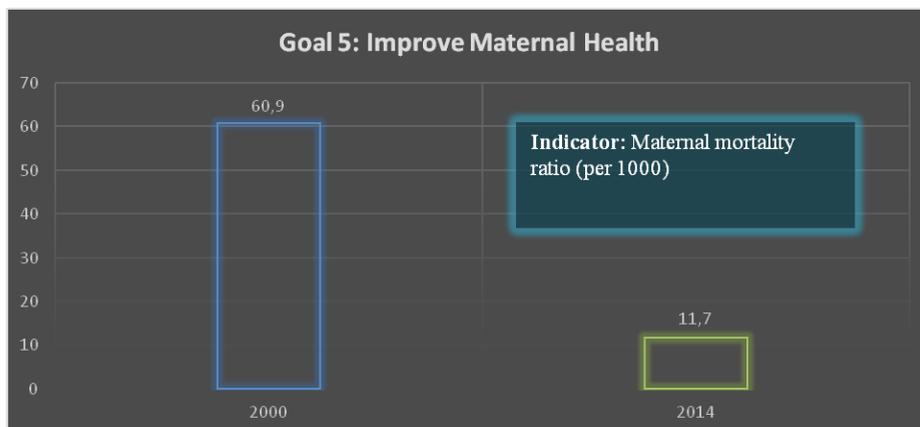
Goal 5. Improve maternal health

Target 6. Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

To achieve universal access to the services and goods of reproductive health by 2015. The urgency of achieving MDG 5 in Kazakhstan is connected with the problem that maternal health indexes are still low, but the maternal mortality ratio is much higher in comparison with the World Health Organization (WHO) indexes for the countries of the European region. There was some definite progress in maternal mortality ratio reduction for the last years, which gives some optimism. The MDG 5 achievement will depend on the following: how fast the legislation will be changed in Kazakhstan, how successful the public health structural reforms will be and how effective programme management on maternal mortality reduction and its financing will be.

³¹ Statistics Committee of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan <http://stat.gov.kz/>. Last visited on March 15th 2016.

Figure 6. Results of the Goal 5 achievements in Kazakhstan³²



Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Target 7. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

On January 1, 2010 13 784 cases of HIV infection were registered in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Each year, beginning with 1987, an increase in the cases of HIV infection was registered, with the exception of 2009. The prevalence of HIV infection among the population aged 15-49 years is 0.15%³³.

The situation analysis shows that the HIV epidemic in Kazakhstan is controlled at the initial stage (the HIV infection is concentrated mainly among injections drug addicts); there are some reasons for concern that the situation may be getting worse, as the behaviors of injections drug addicts may be dangerous; at the same time the youth knowledge of HIV infection spreading, infection prevention and protection means is poor, and access to treatment is not available all-around.

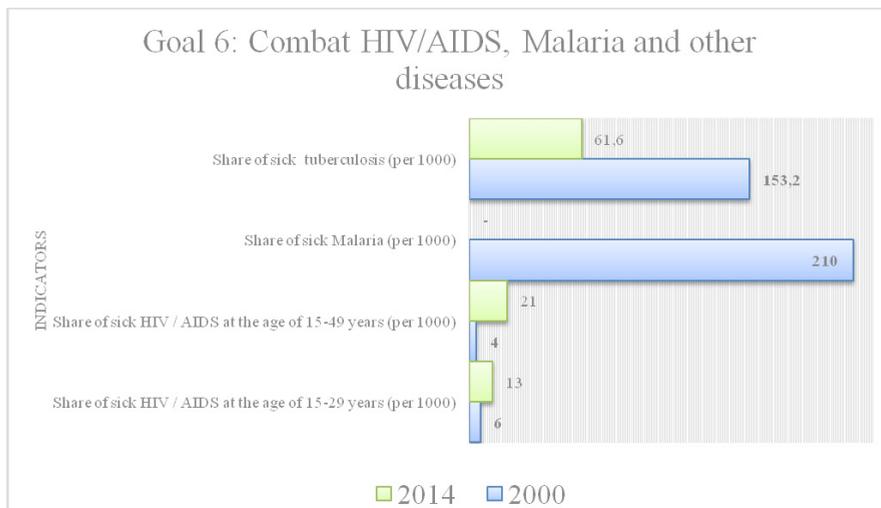
Target 8. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of tuberculosis

In Kazakhstan tuberculosis is considered a socially conditioned disease and is still a serious problem of public health. According to WHO data, Kazakhstan has the leading position on tuberculosis (TB) registered sickness rate and is rated among 18 tuberculosis first-priority countries of WHO European region. Besides, the prevalence rate of multi-drug resistance tuberculosis is one of the highest in the world³⁴.

³² Statistics Committee of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan <http://stat.gov.kz/>. Last visited on March 15th 2016.

³³ Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey in the Republic of Kazakhstan 2010-2011. Monitoring the situation of children and women. Astana, 2012.

³⁴ World Healthcare Statistics 2012. WHO, 2013. http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/2012/en/ Last visited January 6th 2016.

Figure 7. Results of the Goal 6 achievements in Kazakhstan³⁵

Goal 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Target 9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

The absence of an ecosystem approach during the formulation and implementation of economic and social programmes, non-observance of the principles of complex and balanced controlling of environment quality in Kazakhstan – all of these issues were stated as main problems in the field of ecological sustainability provisions³⁶. However, in the reported period Kazakhstan has achieved improvement for some positions, as defined by these indicators. Specific measures in the field of improving the normative and legislative bases, the optimization of the management structure and processes controlling in the sphere of biological diversity conservation, and active participation in international projects allow forecasting the achievement of the stated goal.

Target 10. Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Kazakhstan is one of the most water supply deficit countries of Eurasia. There is a problem in providing access to secure water supplying and to waste management systems, which is especially important for population health. Nowadays at least 10% of households have no water supply system; about a quarter of the population have no sewerage access.

³⁵ Statistics Committee of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan <http://stat.gov.kz/>. Last visited on March 15th 2016.

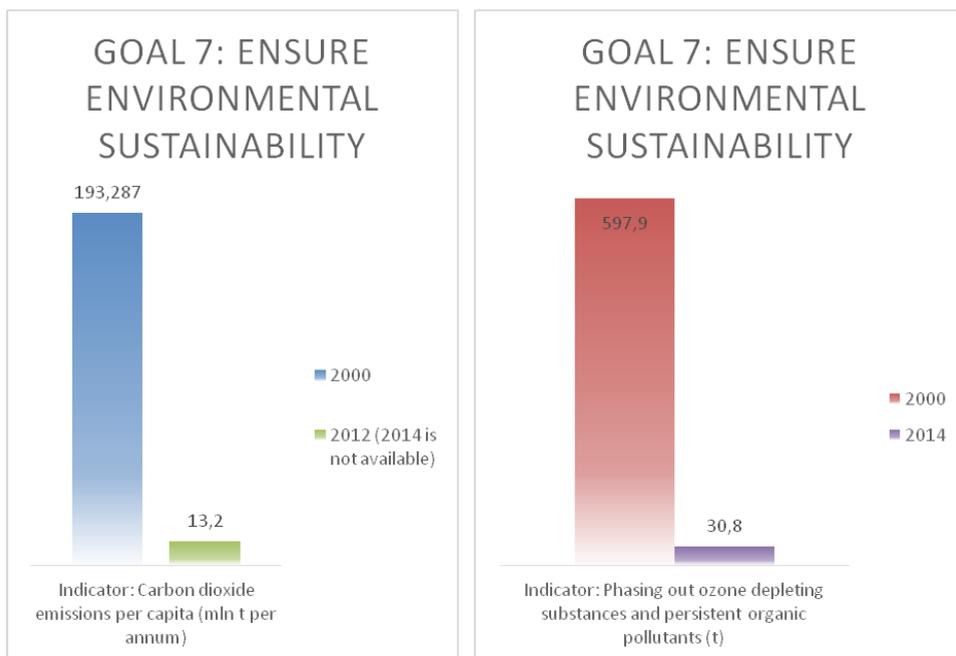
³⁶ UNDP in Kazakhstan. MDG in Kazakhstan. // <http://www.undp.kz/pages/9.jsp>. Last visited on January 6th 2016.

Target 11. Achieve by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of rural population, dwelling in the most unfavourable social housing and ecological environment

In the 2010 Kazakhstan Report on the Millennium Development Goals the solution for this problem was considered as achievable with difficulties, when the conversation turned to the rural area. In spite of some programmes, implemented by the government in order to strengthen rural areas and promote agro-industrial complex development, living conditions of the rural population are much worse in comparison with the living conditions of the urban population. There are many reasons for this situation, in particular, the leftover principle of the rural social sphere financing (it was especially evident in during the recession period), infrastructure underdevelopment, transport and telecommunication systems as well. The financing of small and faraway villages is not profitable economically, leading to their degradation and causes population migration, worsening the employment and housing problems.

Positive dynamics, based on the official statistical data, reflects the efficiency of efforts on the target solution by 2009. However, according to the indicators, the share of the rural population provision with improved basic sanitation and technical means does not reach even 50%³⁷.

Figure 8. Results of the Goal 7 achievements in Kazakhstan³⁸



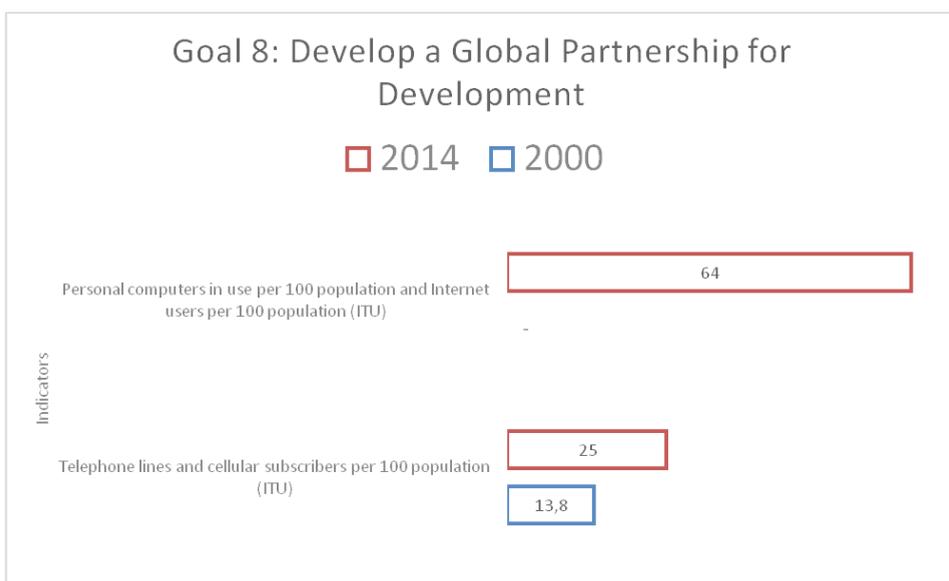
³⁷ Report on MDG in Kazakhstan. UN. Astana, 2010, pp: 24. http://www.un.kz/userfiles/mdgr2010_eng.pdf Last visited on January 7th 2016.

³⁸ Statistics Committee of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan <http://stat.gov.kz/>. Last visited on March 15th 2016.

Goal 8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

The national and international level partnerships represent the main factors in the achievement of the development goals and targets. Kazakhstan keeps on developing partnerships at the international level (including with commerce, donor and financial institutions) and at the national level - with the private sector and the civil society. Kazakhstan is an active participant of different international organizations, and a supporter of different regional and international agreements. The international partnerships concluded by Kazakhstan fully support and promote its development goals. At this stage, the most active connections are in the fields of trade, investments, finance, information technologies and communications, as well as regional and international cooperation³⁹. National partnerships differ according to the scale and dynamics. While the partnership with the private sector goes forward at a steady gait, the dialogue with the civil society develops slowly.

Figure 9. Results of the Goal 9 achievements in Kazakhstan⁴⁰



5. EU and Kazakhstan cooperation: reshaping context

Kazakhstan's cooperation with the European Union has always been of particular importance to both parties. Shortly after Kazakhstan declared its independence, an agreement, establishing diplomatic relations was signed in February 1993. This was followed by the opening of the representative office of Kazakhstan in Brussels and of the Delegation in Almaty in 1993 and 1994 respectively.

³⁹ UNDP in Kazakhstan. MDG in Kazakhstan. // <http://www.undp.kz/pages/9.jsp>. Last visited on January 6th 2016.

⁴⁰ Statistics Committee of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan <http://stat.gov.kz/>. Last visited on March 15th 2016.

Bilateral relations between Kazakhstan and the EU are governed by a number of treaties, first of them – the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) was signed in 1995 and came into force in 1999. In the early years, the PCA was focused on the four priority fields of bilateral relations and cooperation. Namely:

- Development of close political relations through the beginning of regular dialogue on political affairs;
- Formation of trade, investment and harmonious economic relations;
- Creation of a basis for mutually beneficial economic, social, financial, civil, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation;
- Maintenance of the actions of Kazakhstan directed towards the consolidation of its democracy and completion of the transition to a market economy⁴¹.

Since the early 1990s more than 300 projects amounting to 140 million EUR were funded by the EU to support Kazakhstan directly, mostly focusing on strengthening the capacity of the regional and local government, supporting reforms of the justice sector; and improving the capacity of the public sector to introduce social and economic reforms. The list of main projects included:

- The Civil Service Reform and Modernization of the Government of Kazakhstan with a EU contribution of 4,592,500 EUR to support public administration reform, focusing on the professionalization of the civil service, human resource management and improvement of quality management tools of public service delivery.
- Support for Judicial and Legal Reform in the Republic of Kazakhstan to facilitate the best international practice in strategic policy, strengthening of the institution of advocacy and enhancing the capacities of institutions working on legal and judicial reforms with a EU contribution of 3,364,000 EUR;
- An FDI Approach to Regional SME Development in the Republic of Kazakhstan with EU contributions of 4,000,000 EUR to diversify the economy, promote regional development and strengthen SME regional capabilities⁴².

The EU's contribution has also included multiple projects in the areas of human rights (Human Rights: Communication, Information, Management; National Action Plan for Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan: increasing public awareness and monitoring of its implementation), trade and regional integration (Development and implementation of trade policies and regulations); and number of regional projects in water and energy and human development areas.

The regional cooperation between the EU and Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan, is regulated by the EU and Central Asia strategy for a new partnership, signed in 2007 and reviewed in 2012 by the Council of European Union (Council conclusions

⁴¹ *The European Union and the Republic of Kazakhstan partnership and cooperation agreement*, 1995. http://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc_id=1052878 Last visited on January 8th 2016.

⁴² *Project Factsheet. Kazakhstan Regional Competitiveness Project. An FDI approach to regional SME development in the Republic of Kazakhstan*. 2012. http://www.oecd.org/globalrelations/FACT%20SHEET_Regional%20Competitiveness%20Project_20120629.pdf Last visited on January 8th 2016.

on Central Asia)⁴³, with the last review in 2015 by Foreign Affairs Council. Funding of the programmes - at both regional and national levels - aimed at sustainable development, stability and security and at closer regional cooperation between countries and the EU, was undertaken through consecutive multi-annual indicative programmes – MIP. An indicative budget of 719 million EUR has been earmarked to the region for the period of 2007-2013 under the Development Cooperation Instrument, which has replaced the previous Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS).

Kazakhstan and the EU have closely cooperated and worked not only in the political, juridical and development sectors, but also in the areas of education and scientific research. Thus, articles 50 and 51 of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the European Union and the Republic of Kazakhstan state that Parties shall promote cooperation in civil scientific research and technological development and in raising the level of general education and professional qualifications in Kazakhstan on the basis of mutual benefit. According to the article 51 of the PCA, cooperation in the education and training sectors is focused on the following areas:

- Updating the higher education and training systems in the Republic of Kazakhstan, including the system of certification of higher educational establishments and diplomas of higher education;
- The training of public and private sector executives and civil servants in priority areas to be determined;
- Cooperation between educational establishments and between educational establishments and firms;
- Mobility of teachers, graduates, administrators, young scientists and researchers, and young people;
- Promoting teaching in the field of European Studies within the appropriate institutions;
- Teaching Community languages;
- Post-graduate training of conference interpreters;
- Training of journalists;
- Training of trainers⁴⁴.

Subsequently, Kazakhstan was involved in the European Union Fourth Framework Programme on Research and Technology Development, signing the Agreement on Scientific Co-operation between the Government of Kazakhstan and the International Association of the Promotion of Cooperation with Scientists from the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union (INTAS) in May 1995⁴⁵. Under funding from the INTAS and Framework Programmes, the Kazakhstani research community had a chance to participate in about

⁴³ *European Community Regional Strategy Paper for Assistance to Central Asia for the period 2007-2013*, 2007. http://www.eeas.europa.eu/central_asia/rsp/07_13_en.pdf. Last visited on January 8th 2016.

⁴⁴ *The European Union and the Republic of Kazakhstan partnership and cooperation agreement*, 1995, Art.51. http://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc_id=1052878. Last visited on January 8th 2016.

⁴⁵ *Agreement on Scientific Co-operation between the Government of Kazakhstan and International Association of the Promotion of Co-operation with Scientists from the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union*, 1995.

250 EU projects and create a strong infrastructure of thematic National Contact Points throughout the country.

In accordance with article 51 of the PCA, there is a number of EU funded higher education programmes to share knowledge and scientific research with partners from Central Asia. In order to update higher education to better meet the needs of the local labour market, to modernize university governance and to establish new partnerships between universities and businesses in all Central Asian countries, funds have been provided by the Tempus programme. It has started in Kazakhstan in 1995. Over that period 76 projects with the participation of the partners from Kazakhstan (among them 23 national and 53 regional) have been implemented. Total grand amount was more than 54 million EUR, and included participation of 46 universities and 48 non academic partners.

To ensure mobility of teachers, students and young people, the Erasmus Mundus programme provides grants for undergraduates, master and doctorate students and academic staff to have the opportunity to study and teach in EU academic institutions. Allocated funds amount to 195 million EUR for scholarships for over 9,500 students and university staff from Asia and Central Asia in the period of 2007-2012.

In addition, there is another mechanism of cooperation through *ECHO* (European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department), which provides European Aid to foreign countries in emergency situations. An emergency occurs when an event or a series of events causes serious human, material, economic and environmental damages and losses to a society which is unable with its own means and resources to reduce the negative consequences of the damages and losses. While Kazakhstan and Central Asia are among the six geographical groups of countries with huge amounts of humanitarian aid, international cooperation in the field of disasters and emergencies is something well-known to the experts but fairly understudied by international relations and political scientists⁴⁶.

Over the years both the European Union and the Republic of Kazakhstan have gone through significant changes in terms of politics, economy and social development. Consequently, a need of a new level of the bilateral relations has arisen. In December 2015, during the visit of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, a new Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA) was signed. The EPCA covers 29 areas of cooperation, including in the field of law enforcement. Negotiations were finalized earlier that year in Brussels with the participation of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Documents on the completion of bilateral negotiations between Kazakhstan and the EU regarding Kazakhstan's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) were also signed during the visit.

Obviously, the Republic of Kazakhstan aims at a long-term and strong cooperation with the European Union, which is not only the largest foreign investor in Kazakhstan, but also its primary trade partner.

⁴⁶ See more in Fulvio Attinà, "European Aid to Foreign Countries in Emergencies - Are ECHO and the EU Large-Donor Countries on the Same Track?" in *Romanian Journal of European Affairs*, Vol 14, N 3, September 2014, pp.: 5. Available online at http://rjea.ier.ro/sites/rjea.ier.ro/files/articole/RJEA_2014_vol14_no3_art_1.pdf Last visited on January 26th 2016.

Conclusions

The United Nations worked actively on the national level of the MDG implementation together with the Member States governments. In Kazakhstan, in particular, the main value which UN is guided by is represented by the ideas and principles of human development. This concept supposes overall unity of political, social, economic and ecological factors and their influence on the formation of the human qualitative life, their social abilities to change their surroundings and promote their self-actualization.

A great progress is observed in the Millennium Development Goals achievement. The scale of poverty keeps on reducing at the global level, the number of children attending primary school is increasing, child mortality decreased dramatically, access to secure drinking water is considerably broadening, and target investment to combat malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis saved the lives of millions of people. The MDGs truly changed people's life and through the presence of strong management and accountability, the achieved progress may be of greater scale in the majority of the world countries by the stated date, namely by 2015.

However, a lot of progress was achieved partly due to continuing economic growth in some developing countries and stable efforts in the most important fields of the MDGs, such as public health. Multilateral financing increases helped to widen the target programmes, in particular, for the treatment of HIV/AIDS. In this regard, the transition to a more sustainable development is of great importance for the MDG achievement and also for providing the further development and conservation of the natural environment, the planet ecosystem must be protected.

Today the Sustainable Development Goals achievement is an urgent matter both for Kazakhstan and the international community in general. The United Nations Organization cooperates with governments, the civil society and other partners in order to increase SDG inspired impulses and to keep on working in the frame of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

On August 2nd, 2015, after more than 2 years of hard work and intense negotiations, the Member States of the United Nations Organization reached consensus on the outcome document that presents the new sustainable development agenda, which was adopted by the world leaders at the September UN Summit on the post 2015 agenda in New York.

This document is calling for working out the new broad goals set for the post 2015 period, the goals which would reflect new global reality and challenges. The goals should be measurable and adaptable both to the global and local conditions and to all countries. Sustainable development, providing economic changes and possibilities of pulling people out from poverty, social justice and environment protection should be the basis for all further following measures, supported by strict accountability and the sense of common responsibility.

Analysing the above, it is necessary to point out that many of the regulations of the global strategies adopted in the last century require a system renovation and new approaches, corresponding with the reality and challenges of 21st century. Member States should discuss

and adopt the strategy of sustainable development, financing and taking into consideration some alternative ways of technologies exchange and enhancement as a contribution to the frame of the post 2015 development agenda.

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