Statement at the High-level seminar:  
“Accelerating Sustainable Energy for All in Landlocked Developing Countries through Innovative Partnerships”

24-25 October, Vienna

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to thank the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Islands Developing States, His Excellency Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, and his Office for their tireless efforts in organizing this High-Level Seminar on Accelerating Sustainable Energy for All Landlocked Developing Countries through Innovative Partnerships. Our warmest appreciation is also expressed to the Government of Austria for hosting us in this wonderful city of Vienna. I am honoured to have the opportunity to address today the 32 landlocked developing countries, which with a total population of 478 million.

It should be noted that access to the sea and trade routes is an important element in the economic activities of any country, especially for developing countries.

It is evident that the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries still remain vulnerable to external economic shocks and numerous disasters related to climate change, land degradation, natural reasons, droughts and floods faced by the international community.

Countries that are landlocked are distant from world markets. This circumstance leads to adverse factors such as the high cost of transport and insurance services, complementary and complex customs procedures as well as the dependence on cooperation with transit countries to provide the most direct and efficient routes from an economic point of view.

Kazakhstan, as the large country and a member of the group of landlocked developing countries, faces the abovemented problems and is interested in identifying efficient approaches to tackle the problems associated with unhindered access to foreign markets and active participation in the international trading system, especially after acceding the World Trade Organization.

I am indeed proud that in 2003 my country hosted in Almaty
the First UN Conference on Landlocked Countries that resulted in the Almaty Declaration and Programme of Action. Kazakhstan, which is the largest landlocked country in the world, has today become a land-linked country.

The past years were historic for the United Nations with the adoption of the Istanbul Programme of Action, Vienna Programme of Action, the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, Humanitarian Summit and Quito Declaration and the New Urban Agenda. Each of these are transformative as they address the economic, humanitarian and development challenges our world is facing today.

The adoption of Agenda 2030, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, was a commitment made by all 193 UN Member States to promote equitable and inclusive global development, in which no one is left behind. The Vienna Programme of Action is an integral part of this Agenda. The Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) calls for ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030. The SDG 7 has a multiplier effect on the achievement of all the other SDGs. Despite the potential that sustainable energy has for development, the most vulnerable countries including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS face tremendous obstacles in achieving sustainable energy for all.

Special importance is attached by our country to the development of advanced technologies and innovations for economy and sustainable development, energy efficiency and green research.

Along with the international community, our state is actively supporting integration of green economy. The Concept on Transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Green Economy was approved and the Strategy of Sustainable Energy of Future Kazakhstan till 2050 was adopted. It is planned to increase the state renewable energy capacity up to 50% by 2050. Significant investment is provided to electric power sector – 50 bln dollars by 2030 and about 100 bln dollars by 2050.

Based on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, Global Energy and the Ecological Strategy of Sustainable Development for the 21st
Ladies and gentlemen,

As you know, our state is honoured to host a renowned exhibition EXPO 2017 with a relevant theme Future Energy.

The Exhibition is to be held in Central Asia and CIS for the first time, it will present breakthrough innovational and promising projects in the sphere of alternative and renewable energy (hydro and geothermal energy, wind and solar power).

The chosen theme is quite relevant for the whole humanity and has 3 subthemes: reduction of CO2 emissions, energy efficient lifestyle and energy for all.

As you can see, the EXPO 2017 subthemes cover a wide range of issues and are of great interest for the world community that promotes dialogue in matters concerning environmental security and sustainable development of the Planet.

We expect over 100 states, 17 international organizations and 5 mln visits to the Exhibition.

It should be noted that 11 land-locked developing countries, including have officially confirmed their participation in the Exhibition. They include Burkina Faso, Lesotho, Central African Republic, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Bolivia and Paraguay.

We believe that participation of states and organizations in our EXPO Future Energy will contribute to addressing the most pressing energy challenges that directly influence many important aspects of life on our Planet including global warming and climate change, fair opportunities for economic development for all nations, energy security and distribution of resources, access to water, protection of biodiversity, promotion of justice in the world etc.

It is quite logical to follow the policy aimed at transiting to
green economy by the initiative of the President of Kazakhstan to open an International Center on Development of Green Technologies and Investment Projects under the UN aegis based on the infrastructure of EXPO 2017.

In addition, after completion EXPO 2017 will serve as a ground to establish the Astana International Financial Center with a special status that will operate based on the British law following the example of the Dubai International Financial Centre. The AIFC is aimed at serving as the financial infrastructure heart of Kazakhstan and further on as a financial hub for the whole Central Asian region. Thus, EXPO opens wide opportunities for all of us.

Let me show a little video about our EXPO (video played).

Availing myself of the opportunity, I would like to invite all of you to hospitable Astana and EXPO 2017.

Thank you for your attention!