



INFORMATION NOTE

Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries on Trade and Transport

Achieving the SDGs in Landlocked Developing Countries through Connectivity and Trade Facilitation

16-17 May 2018

Astana, Kazakhstan

1. INTRODUCTION

This Information Note contains information and necessary logistics guidelines for the participation of delegations at the “Achieving the SDGs in Landlocked Developing Countries through Connectivity and Trade Facilitation” Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries on Trade and Transport to be held in the capital city of Kazakhstan - Astana from 16 to 17 May 2018.

Further information on the meeting may be found by accessing the Meeting website: <http://unohrlls.org/ministerial-meeting-ldcs-trade-transport-astana-kazakhstan-16-17-may-2018/>.

The Department of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, is responsible for the overall coordination of the event with the support of other ministries of the Government of Kazakhstan.

The overall contact point from Kazakhstan is:

Mr. Nurzhan RAKHMETOV

Counsellor, United Nations Unit, Department of Multilateral Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.

Tel: +7-7172-72-03-90.

Mobile/whatsapp: +7-707-99-99-866.

Email: n.rakhmetov@mfa.gov.kz; nurzhandf@gmail.com.

2. VENUE OF THE MEETING

Day 1 of the meeting (16 May) will be held at Marriott Astana Hotel, 2 Dostyk Str., Astana, Kazakhstan, located in the close proximity of the modern city downtown (left bank), 20-minute drive from Astana Airport, 20-minute walk from the Presidential Palace and the main boulevard of Astana – Nurly-Zhol.

Day 2 of the meeting (17 May) will be held at the Astana Economic Forum venue – Congress Center.

3. ACCOMMODATION

Marriott Astana Hotel: 90 Rooms were booked in the Marriott Astana Hotel by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the meeting participants, with special rates for accommodation. Accommodation includes breakfast, SPA and WiFi.

The special rate for single Deluxe Room (Standard) is 26,400 Tenge or 80 USD, including 12% of VAT per night. There are 55 rooms available at this special rate. Please submit your hotel room request to Mr. Nurzhan RAKHMETOV; Email: n.rakhmetov@mfa.gov.kz; nurzhandf@gmail.com.

The Government of Kazakhstan has made special booking arrangements for the Heads of Delegations for Luxe Rooms (Suite) at the Marriott Astana Hotel (35 rooms in total).

The ONE Hotel Astana: Participants can also make a booking for The ONE Hotel Astana whose special rate for a standard room is 20,000 Tenge or around 60 USD including 12% of VAT per night. Accommodation includes breakfast and WiFi. To book this hotel, please send a request to Mr. Nurzhan RAKHMETOV; Email: n.rakhmetov@mfa.gov.kz; nurzhandf@gmail.com. Transport will be provided for meeting participants from this hotel to Marriott Astana Hotel on 16 and 17 May.

Lunch and official reception: Lunch and official reception on 16 May will be provided by the Government of Kazakhstan. There will also be lunch and reception provided in the Astana Economic Forum venue – Congress Center on 17 May.

4. VISAS

All delegations that have no Kazakh Embassy in their respective countries **will be issued a visa upon arrival in the airport.** In this regard, adequate request should be forwarded beforehand (normally, 5 working days in advance) to the focal point from Kazakhstan - Mr. Nurzhan RAKHMETOV; Counsellor, United Nations Unit, Department of Multilateral Cooperation; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan; Tel: +7-7172-72-03-90; Mobile/whatsapp: +7-707-99-99-866; Email: n.rakhmetov@mfa.gov.kz; nurzhandf@gmail.com.

Note that for the visa to be processed in due time, **the scanned copy of the passport bio page should be sent attached to the request.**

Thereafter, participants will receive a letter from the Government of Kazakhstan confirming that they will be issued visa on arrival, in order to facilitate travel.

5. ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES AND TRANSPORTATION

Representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be assigned to delegations and will meet participants at the Astana Nursultan Nazarbayev Airport. **In this regard, flight**

details of the delegations should be provided to the organizers as soon as possible for appropriate arrangements (Email: n.rakhmetov@mfa.gov.kz; nurzhandf@gmail.com).

Heads of the delegations will be provided with vehicles and liaison-officers during their stay in Astana. For the members of the delegations Shuttle buses will be available according to request.

Transport will be provided for meeting participants on 17 May from Marriott Astana Hotel to the venue of the Astana Economic Forum.

6. CONFERENCE SERVICES

The host country will provide simultaneous interpretation services from/into Kazakh, Russian, French, Spanish and English and all necessary assistance to the participants during their statements and informal consultations on final document (printing, distribution and etc.).

7. COUNTRY INFORMATION

Kazakhstan is the world's largest landlocked country, and the ninth largest in the world, with an area of 2,724,900 square kilometres (1,052,100 sq mi). Kazakhstan is officially a secular, unitary, constitutional republic with a diverse cultural heritage. Kazakhstan shares borders with Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan, and also adjoins a large part of the Caspian Sea. The terrain of Kazakhstan includes flatlands, steppe, taiga, rock canyons, hills, deltas, snow-capped mountains, and deserts. Kazakhstan has an estimated population of more than 18 million people. Given its large land area, its population density is among the lowest, at less than 6 people per square kilometer (15 people per sq mi). The capital is Astana, where it was moved in 1997 from Almaty, the country's largest city.

Kazakhstan's 131 ethnicities include Kazakhs (63% of the population), Russians, Uzbeks, Ukrainians, Germans, Tatars, Uyghurs and many other nationalities. Islam is the religion of about 70% of the population, with Christianity practiced by 26%. The Kazakh language is the state language, and Russian has equal use in the capacity of official language.

Climate

Kazakhstan has an 'extreme' continental climate, with warm summers and very cold winters. Indeed, Astana is the second coldest capital city in the world after Ulaanbaatar. Precipitation varies between arid and semi-arid conditions, the winter being particularly dry.

Weather forecast

MON 5/14	TUE 5/15	WED 5/16	THU 5/17	FRI 5/18	SAT 5/19
20°/9°C	21°/9°C	21°/7°C	19°/8°C	13°/4°C	14°/5°C
A little afternoon rain	Mostly sunny	Partial sunshine	Sun and some clouds	A little afternoon rain	A couple of morning showers

It is our hope that you enjoy your stay in Astana and Kazakhstan.