

Brief characteristic of Kazakhstan's foreign policy

The Republic of Kazakhstan began to pursue the certain foreign policy after proclamation of independence on December 16, 1991. Since that time Kazakhstan has been played the role of a subject of the international law at the world arena. In March, 1992 Kazakhstan became a member of the United Nations Organization.

Kazakhstan has an important geopolitical position and strategic space connection with Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. That is why the Republic of Kazakhstan pays much attention on the relations of with the Russian Federation and China. In 1992 the agreement with Russia about mutual help, friendship and cooperation in the economic, military and political spheres was signed. Some agreements and treaties with the China were also concluded.

Kazakhstan traditionally has close connections with the nearest neighbors, including Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kirgizstan and Turkmenistan. The reasons are common borders, high level of integration during the existence of the USSR and traditional cultural ties.

As far as Kazakhstan had nuclear weapons on its territory world community carefully watched the country's policy in this sphere after the proclamation of sovereignty. Kazakhstan's first initiative was to close the Semipalatinsk nuclear range, which had been damaging the environment during 40 years. Kazakhstan ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and prohibited nuclear tests on its territory. The Republic of Kazakhstan also joined the Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction.

In 1996 Kazakhstan regularly participated in the meetings of the Shanghai Five countries. This platform included Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, China, Russia and Tajikistan. The total territory of these five states makes up three-fifths of the territory of Eurasia. That is why the cooperation and common policy pursued by them had great meaning not only for the people of these countries but for the whole mankind. In 2001 Uzbekistan joined this international union and partners established the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

During ten years of sovereignty the relations with Turkey developed quite well. Many joint enterprises have been founded on the territory of Kazakhstan. Hundreds of students from Kazakhstan study at the universities of Istanbul and Ankara. The scientists of both countries take the most active part in the conferences on different levels.

Kazakhstan's diplomacy pays much attention to the development of the relations with such countries as Iran and India. The link with these countries has deep historical roots.

The great attention is devoted to the relations with such great world power as the United States of America. Founding business relations with the USA had a great meaning because this state is one of the main investors to Kazakhstan's economic system. The USA also assists in the spheres of culture and education. On the basis of the Bolashak program students from Kazakhstan get education at the universities of the USA and Europe.

Kazakhstan has friendly relations with European countries as well. In 1992 the President Nursultan Nazarbayev visited Germany where he met the chancellor Helmut Kohl. In France there was a meeting with F. Mitterrand. The agreements on mutual understanding and cooperation with them were signed.

Kazakhstan is also interested in the development of political, economic, business and cultural contacts with other European countries, including Hungary, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, and to name but a few.