

Peacekeeping cooperation between Kazakhstan and the UN

As part of its activities in the UN, the Republic of Kazakhstan pays particular attention to cooperation in ensuring regional security and organizing peacekeeping operations. In December 1995, along with Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan signed an agreement on the creation of a joint peacekeeping battalion in Central Asia under the aegis of the UN. In 1996 Kazakhstan joined the UN system of reserve agreements for possible involvement in peacekeeping operations.

Kazakhstan's close involvement in peacekeeping activities was proven by the creation of the Kazakh peacekeeping battalion (Kazbat) in 2003, subunits of which took part in mine clearing in Iraq between 2003 and 2008.

In 2003 the Republic of Kazakhstan and the United Nations Organization also signed a memorandum of understanding regarding contributions to UN preparatory measures and expressed readiness to provide troops, armoured and transport means of Kazbat for peacekeeping operation and showed interest in closer involvement in the UN system of purchases for peacekeeping operations.

As a result, Kazakhstan deserved the UN's recognition as a state that adopted a balanced and constructive approach to solving topical international problems.

Kazakhstan attaches special significance to international cooperation in the development of transport networks in Central Asia and alternative routes to access global markets. In 1999 at the 53rd session of the UN General Assembly Kazakhstan initiated the adoption of a resolution on transit issues in Central Asia which was co-authored by 19 other members of the UN.

In August 2003 Kazakhstan proposed to hold the first UN ministerial conference to discuss problems of landlocked countries. This conference resulted in the adopted a UN General Assembly resolution on the Almaty programme of action on cooperation between developing landlocked and transit countries.

The Almaty conference became the first UN event to discuss problems of landlocked countries.

An important event in relations between Kazakhstan and the UN was the former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's visit to Astana in October 2002. During the visit Mr. Annan praised Kazakhstan as a regional leader in preventing conflicts. He also noted that Kazakhstan had achieved significant results in switching from administrative-command to market economy and managed to preserve stability in the country, adopting a bold position on nuclear disarmament.