

# KAZAKHSTAN

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## STATEMENT

**by H.E. Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
to the United Nations**

at the WSIS+10 Informal Interactive stakeholder consultation

ECOSOC Chamber

on the topic:

**"Progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World  
Summit on the Information Society"**

**New York, July 2, 2015**

**Mr. President,**

I thank you for convening this important meeting and the speakers for their insights. I am honoured to respond to Panel 1 and will do so by highlighting some of the key issues that need to be brought to the fore.

Many people see the global information society as an inevitable outcome of the information revolution and as an integral part of social and economic development. It is effectively used to improve human rights, gender equality, the environment, education, health, and so on.

Of great advantage has been the value of multistakeholderism. The question of Governance needs to be carefully scrutinized. First, we should define what is an Internet Governance and further – to identify the public policy issues that are relevant to Internet Governance. Second – to develop a common understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of governments, existing international organizations and other forums, as well as the private sector and civil society in both developing and developed countries.

In the course of the Global E-Government Forum in Astana, October 2014, we tried to identify what is the relevant E-Governance. Mainly – this is the stakeholders' capacity for formulating and successfully implementing national e-government policy, strategies. And then - establishing Knowledge Platform for promoting sustainable development by providing customized technical assistance and training programs.

**Mr. President,**

While WSIS has been a defining process that has changed the world and the way people live and think since Geneva, and subsequently Tunis, we must question how digital opportunity can be made more fair and just and thus minimize the inevitable digital divide that continues between the developed and developing countries.

As is well known, while 78 per cent of households in developed countries have Internet access, only 5 per cent in the least developed countries do so. To bring people on a par for knowledge sharing with its potential for progress, it is essential to work towards internet and fixed and mobile broadband connections in LDCs and rural areas. Support and capacity building with infrastructure development through north-south, south-south cooperation and triangular cooperation are critical to level the playing field so that all countries can derive the full benefits.

This is particularly important if we are to harness the potential development value of ICTs (Information-Communication Technology) for the areas of

education, health, agriculture, marketing, and most critical for political, economic and social participation in the disadvantaged regions of the world. It would be absolutely vital in this preparatory phase to consider developing an inclusive information society in the broader context of the post-2015 development agenda.

Likewise, the international community and especially the CSTD (Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Subsidiary Body of ECOSOC) will have to assist and strengthen ECOSOC to effectively functioning as focal point in the system wise WSIS follow up, particularly with regard to the review and assessment of progress made in implementing WSIS outcomes.

Rapid changes continue to take place in technology and governance on the Internet. We have to ensure that social networks become truly interactive and can be put to good use to support democratic processes, human rights, sharing of medical and scientific advances and thus promote human wellbeing, rather than fueling hate speech and crimes or for recruiting for extreme radical movements and terrorism.

There has been an increased debate concerning online privacy and surveillance and this can also be looked into with guidelines provided for the future.

The other critical issue to review in the preparatory phase is the right to freedom of expression as the claim of states to clamp down on internet and social media on grounds of security reasons.

Kazakhstan as an integral part of the World Information Society shares all these concerns and challenges. However, we have clear understanding of WSIS huge symbolic value, that it brought into the international mainstream the idea that new information and communications technologies have a huge potential for development.

In ten years Kazakhstan has successfully implemented special projects in ICT area – E-Governance, Plan of Action to improve IT education and increase a number of e-service users for 2013-2014 years. Our Government accepted a State Program “Informational Kazakhstan - 2020” in order to make ICT available for all people of Kazakhstan, to create conditions to transit into an informative and innovative oriented society.

Thank you.