

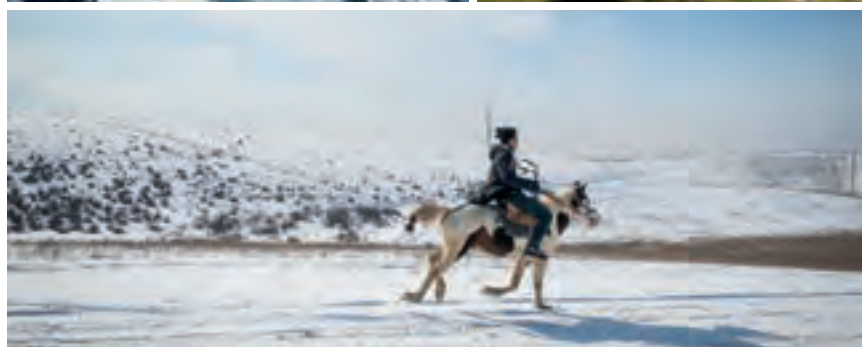
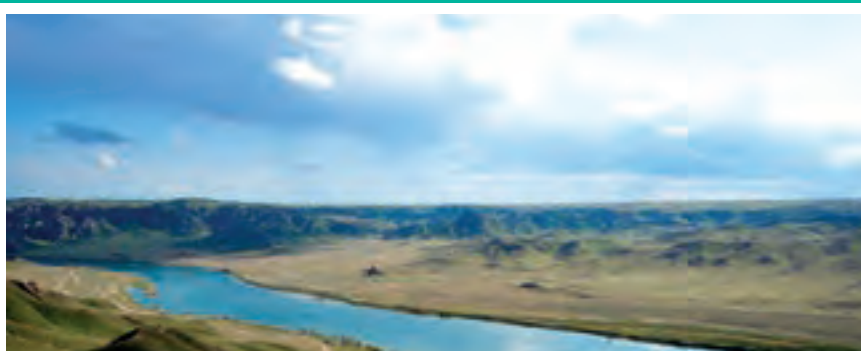
UNECE

# Kazakhstan

## Environmental Performance Reviews



Third Review



UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

# ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

## KAZAKHSTAN

Third Review



UNITED NATIONS

Geneva, 2019

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United Nations publication issued by the Economic Commission for Europe

## Environmental Performance Reviews Series No. 50

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The United Nations issued the second Environmental Performance Review of Kazakhstan (Environmental Performance Reviews Series No. 27) in 2008.

This volume is issued in English and in Russian.

Information cut-off date: 31 December 2018. Please note that the name of the capital city has since changed from Astana to Nur-Sultan.

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ECE/CEP/185
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UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATION
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Sales No.: E.19.II.E.18 ISBN: 978-92-1-117196-9 e-ISBN: 978-92-1-047900-4
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ISSN: 1020-4563 eISSN: 2412-107X
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## *Foreword*

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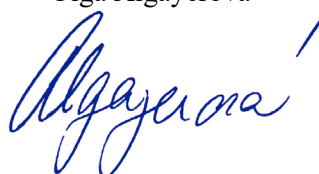
This third Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Kazakhstan has special significance for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) as it is the fiftieth EPR organized by ECE. It builds on the substantial experience accumulated by ECE and its member States in using this tool to regularly assess progress achieved in reconciling national economic and environmental objectives. Over two decades, EPRs have resulted in stronger institutions for environmental management, improved financial frameworks for environmental protection, advanced environmental monitoring and information systems, better integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies, strengthened public participation and increased international cooperation. They bring together good practices and a wealth of experience from all ECE member States in a mutually-enriching learning exchange.

In recent years, Kazakhstan has become one of the frontrunners in adopting the green economy approach. In 2013, Kazakhstan made green economy a clear policy objective by adopting an aspirational Concept on Transition to Green Economy. Nevertheless, scaling up the mining and fossil fuel sectors is also a national priority. This EPR allows learning from the experience of Kazakhstan – a country rich in oil, coal and mineral resources – in finding its way to long-term growth based on climate-friendly technologies, energy efficiency measures and the sustainable management of natural resources. It features both successes and setbacks in this respect.

This review is also special since it has coincided with the process of setting up the institutional mechanism and defining the national indicators for implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Kazakhstan. Consultations and meetings under the EPR process have informed and contributed to the national process in Kazakhstan that resulted in the establishment, in 2018, of the comprehensive institutional mechanism centred around the Coordination Council on the Sustainable Development Goals. This EPR equips the Government and interested stakeholders in Kazakhstan with recommendations to inspire future work on the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and the national climate change commitments under the Paris Agreement.

I trust that this third review will serve as a powerful tool to support policymakers and representatives of civil society in their efforts to improve environmental management and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Kazakhstan. ECE wishes the Government of Kazakhstan further success in carrying out the tasks involved in meeting its environmental objectives, including through the implementation of the recommendations in the third review. I also hope that the lessons learned from the peer review process in Kazakhstan will benefit other countries throughout the ECE region.

Olga Algayerova



Executive Secretary  
Economic Commission for Europe



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## *Preface*

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This third EPR of Kazakhstan takes stock of progress made by Kazakhstan in the management of its environment since it was reviewed for the second time in 2008 and assesses the implementation of the recommendations made in the second review. It covers legal and policy frameworks, greening the economy, environmental monitoring, public participation and education for sustainable development (ESD). Furthermore, the EPR addresses issues of specific importance to the country related to air protection, biodiversity and protected areas, as well as water, waste and chemicals management. It also examines the efforts of Kazakhstan to integrate environmental considerations into its policies in the energy, industry, agriculture and health sectors. The review further provides a substantive and policy analysis of the country's climate change adaptation and mitigation measures and its participation in international mechanisms. The review has an additional thematic angle on the Sustainable Development Goals: it includes an assessment of relevant targets and recommendations related to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

This EPR of Kazakhstan began in November 2017 with a preparatory mission to agree on the structure of the report and the schedule for its completion. A team of international experts took part in the review mission on 12–20 March 2018. In October 2018, the draft report was sent to Kazakhstan for comments. In December 2018, it was submitted to the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews for consideration. During its meeting on 9–10 January 2019, the Expert Group discussed the draft report with a delegation from Kazakhstan, focusing on the conclusions and recommendations made by the international experts. The recommendations, with suggested amendments from the Expert Group, were then submitted for peer review to the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy at its twenty-fourth session on 30 January 2019. A high-level delegation from Kazakhstan participated in the peer review and the Committee adopted the recommendations in this report.

The Committee and the ECE secretariat are grateful to the Government of Kazakhstan and its experts who worked with the international experts and contributed their knowledge and expertise. ECE would also like to express its deep appreciation to the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and the German Federal Environment Agency for their support by providing funds through the Advisory Assistance Programme, and to Norway and Switzerland for their financial support to this review. Furthermore, this review received support from the European Union (EU)-funded project “Supporting Kazakhstan’s Transition to a Green Economy Model”.

Sincere thanks also go to Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO-Europe) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for having provided their experts to this review. Furthermore, ECE is grateful to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for its support of this review.

ECE also takes this opportunity to thank Germany, Norway, Portugal and Switzerland and the EU for their financial support to the EPR Programme in 2018 and expresses its deep appreciation to Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy and Switzerland for having provided their experts for the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews, which undertook the expert review of this report.

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