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Committee on Environmental Policy

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KAZAKHSTAN

Second Review



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Foreword

Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) for countries in transition were initiated by environment ministers at the Second Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” held in Lucerne, Switzerland, in 1993. As a result, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy decided to make the EPRs a part of its regular programme. The first cycle of reviews began in 1994 and was carried out until 2004 in 23 countries of the UNECE region.

In 2003, at the Fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Kiev), the ministers reaffirmed their support for the EPR Programme and decided that it should continue with a second round of reviews. This support was recently confirmed at the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, 2007). The EPR Programme is considered an important instrument for countries with economies in transition. This second round, while taking stock of the progress made since the first cycle of reviews, puts particular emphasis on implementation, integration, financing and the socio-economic interface with the environment.

Through the peer review process, EPRs also promote dialogue among UNECE member countries and harmonization of environmental conditions and policies throughout the region. As it is a voluntary exercise, an EPR is undertaken only at the request of the country concerned.

Studies are carried out by international teams of experts from the region working closely with national experts from the reviewed country. The teams also benefit from close cooperation with other organizations in the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, and with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

This is the second EPR of Kazakhstan published by UNECE. The report takes stock of the progress made by Kazakhstan in the management of its environment since the country was first reviewed in 2000. It assesses the implementation of the recommendations in the first review (annex I). It also covers nine issues of importance to Kazakhstan concerning policymaking, planning and implementation, the financing of environmental policies and projects, and the integration of environmental concerns into economic sectors, in particular energy, mineral resources and water management. The report places particular emphasis on the promotion of sustainable development, as the country gives a high priority to this issue.

I hope that this second EPR will be useful in supporting policymakers and representatives of civil society in their efforts to improve environmental management and further promote sustainable development in Kazakhstan, and that the lessons learned from the peer review process will also benefit other countries of the UNECE region.



Marek Belka
Executive Secretary
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Preface

The second Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Kazakhstan began in April 2007 with a preparatory mission, during which the final structure of the report was discussed and established. The review mission took place from 10 to 19 September 2007. The team of international experts included experts from Finland, France, Italy and Sweden, and from the secretariats of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

The draft EPR report and its translation into Russian were submitted to Kazakhstan for comments and to the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Environmental Performance for consideration in March 2008. During its meeting of 17 and 18 April 2008, the Expert Group discussed the report in detail with expert representatives of the Government of Kazakhstan, focusing in particular on the conclusions and recommendations made by the international experts.

The EPR recommendations, with suggested amendments from the Expert Group, were then submitted for peer review to the fifteenth session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy on 21 April 2008. A high-level delegation from Kazakhstan participated in the peer review. The Committee adopted the recommendations as set out in this report.

The Committee and the UNECE review team would like to thank the Government of Kazakhstan and its experts who worked with the international experts and contributed their knowledge and assistance. UNECE wishes the Government of Kazakhstan further success in carrying out the tasks involved in meeting its environmental objectives, including the implementation of the recommendations in this second review.

UNECE would also like to express its deep appreciation to the Governments of Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany and the Netherlands for their financial contributions, to the Governments of Finland, France, Italy and Sweden for having delegated their experts for the review, and to OECD, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the United Nations Development Programme for their support to the EPR Programme and this review.



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The mission for the project took place from 9 to 19 September 2007. The peer review was held in Geneva on 21 April 2008. The ECE Committee on Environmental Policy adopted the recommendations set out in this document.

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