*Check against delivery*

**Statement by His Excellency Mr. Marat Yessenbayev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Kingdom of Thailand at the 2nd ACD Summit**

(Bangkok, October 10, 2016)

**Your Excellency Mr. Prayuth Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Let me express my sincere gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for the warm hospitality and hosting the Summit.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to welcome the Republic of Turkey and Nepal as new members of ACD and congratulate the United Arab Emirates as the new ACD Chair. I am confident, our friends will provide high-quality practical content to our comprehensive cooperation.

**Dear Participants of the Summit!**

Over the past 14 years of the Dialogue, we have been able to go quite a long and, in my view, a difficult path: the path from the idea of creating the Dialogue to practical steps of strengthening mutual understanding and the implementation of specific measures.

20 areas of ACD cooperation were consolidated into the 6 priority pillars, where the relevant work is being done, a number of conceptual documents were considered and adopted, and many important events took place.

Kazakhstan stands at the origins of the creation of the Dialogue and intends to continue to take an active part in its further development and strengthening.

Our country is strongly committed to being part of the implementation of the agreed 6 pillars of cooperation in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development in the region.

Kazakhstan has developed a new draft of the Concept of ACD Transport Links Development. I am confident that this Concept will be supported by the Co-Prime Movers of the Connectivity pillar. I would like to encourage Member States to take an active part in the implementation of this document.

**Dear participants of the Summit!**

From the date of its independence Kazakhstan has always followed the principle of “economy, first and foremost".

Thanks to this Kazakhstan is actively developing. We went into the top five fastest developing countries in the past decade and a half, adopted the Strategy "Kazakhstan-2050", aimed at the development of a broad dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation with all countries interested in friendship with Kazakhstan. First of all, it concerns the investment cooperation, technology exchange, attraction of innovation and experience, and expanding the export of Kazakhstani products.

We are striving to be one of the top 30 developed countries in the world and we intend to do so in the first half of the XXI century.

Kazakhstan will continue to promote water, food and energy security in order to build a safer and more prosperous regional neighbourhood.

By the initiative of the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev the Islamic Organization for Food Security was established with headquarters in Astana.

In April 2016, Kazakhstan hosted the inaugural session of the General Assembly of the Islamic Organization for Food Security, which marked the beginning of the work of this organization.

One of the important areas of cooperation is energy. Currently, the markets of traditional energy sources are going through hard times.

In this regard, it is not by chance that the theme of “Future Energy” is selected for the international specialized exhibition "EXPO", which will be held in the capital of Kazakhstan Astana in 2017. I take this opportunity once again to invite the ACD Member States to take part in such a significant event of global importance.

With a view to promote affordable and clean energy – we are working with relevant UN agencies and research institutions to establish, under the auspices of the United Nations, an International Centre for the Development of Green Technologies and Investment Projects as part of the EXPO 2017 legacy.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

From the beginning of its independence, Kazakhstan as an active member of the world community is deeply committed to the consistent development of international cooperation, both bilaterally and through international platforms, including the ACD.

Kazakhstan, as a landlocked country, is interested in achieving a stable and mutually beneficial regime of international transit, and the reduction of tariffs and other barriers.

We revive the Great Silk Road. It is planned to launch the international transit road corridor "Western Europe - Western China", which will connect the two continents.

With our neighbours, we are also building new railway lines with access to China and South East Asia through the port of Lianyungang. In addition we opened an international railway line to Iran and Persian Gulf countries.

In order to strengthen trade cooperation, in 2015 Kazakhstan joined the World Trade Organization.

**Ladies and gentlemen!**

I would like to reiterate the readiness of Kazakhstan to develop and strengthen cultural and humanitarian, social and economic and political relations in the framework of our Dialogue.

In conclusion of my statement I would like to wish all of us good luck and success in the implementation of the strategic goals of our Dialogue.

**Thank you for your attention!**