

Delegation from Kazakhstan
Position Paper for the General Assembly

The following topics are before the General Assembly: Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for Sustainable Economic and Financial Development and Disaster Reduction. The State of Kazakhstan looks forward to addressing these important topics in constructive discussions among the other member States of the United Nations (UN).

I. Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for Sustainable Economic and Financial Development

Since the beginning of the usage of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), every aspect of the economy has changed. But especially the financial sector has gone through a radical transformation since ICTs have been implemented: Studies have e.g. shown that a 1 % increase in ICTs leads to approximately 2 % increase in financial development (broadband being used as an indicator for ICTs and broad money supply serves as indicator for financial development in this instance). This being said, it is clear, that ICTs have a massive impact on the future development of global economies. The UN have recognized the necessity of taking actions into sustainable development for the sake of the planet by formulating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially SDG 8 focusing on the importance of sustainable development in economical areas. As ICTs play a decisive role in the further progress of economics, they will also play a crucial part in terms of leading modern economics into more sustainable directions.

Many member states and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) among the international community have already made several attempts in order to deal with the topic. To start with, ICTs and their possible influence on more sustainable economics and societies was made the topic of the 2021 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the world's largest annual gathering for ICTs and their developments. The Forum, participated by 40 ministers and other high-level officials, emphasized the importance of future investments in ICTs to close digital gaps and division in the world, which is a necessary step towards more sustainable economics supported by ICTs. Following the WSIS the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adapted resolution 2021/28 in which it recognizes both the significant impact ICTs will have on further economic development and the importance of a shift into a more sustainable way. At the same the ECOSOC notes, that the remaining status quo is not acceptable as there are still major deficits in contributing ICTs across the world especially to the Least Developed Countries, (LDCs) of the world, opening a digital gap, which also causes lacks of urgently needed economic development. Additionally, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) started a research project in which specific technologies were identified that are efficiently promoting sustainable development and used these findings into approaches to implement ICTs in practical use. Nationally, Kazakhstan's government launched the Digital Kazakhstan 2018-2022 Programme in 2017, which shares the program's budget of USD 1 billion to both private and public initiatives that further the digitalization of economic and financial sectors, development of high-speed and secure communication networks across the country and providing conditions for the development of technological entrepreneurship and the financing ecosystem.

To make sure that the goals of economic and financial development are addressed properly, the State of Kazakhstan proposes to the International Community that it uses knowledge from studies such as the one launched by the IIED to locate specific technological deficits in each region and then address it locally just like it is being done in the Digital Kazakhstan Programme. Kazakhstan believes that targeted investments to certain areas are a key to the issue. In order to finance such investments, Kazakhstan proposes the creation of an international fund which shall be used for this exact purpose. Every member state of the UN is called upon to share a small percentage of its GDP and contribute it to this fund. The individual sums paid in by the member state shall depend on their own already made progress in this area and the whole economical situation of the country. Using this method, the international community will also make sure, that LDCs will be able to make specific investments and get to start economic and financial growth. At the same time, the fund shall be used to finance studies and knowledge-spreading projects to regions where it is needed the most. The State of Kazakhstan believes that the combination of big investments and the spread of knowledge will be able to close the gaps between the member states and further a sustainable development in the fields of economics and finance by usage of ICTs.

II. Disaster Risk Reduction

Lately, the world faces enormous challenges. The global COVID-19 pandemic caused 5.8 millions lives worldwide so far and is continuing although effective vaccines have already been invented and applied. Global economics suffered huge backstrokes and damages. But there is more than that. In 2020 a huge bushfire in Australia with 11 million hectare burned costed not only 34 deaths but also at least US Dollars (USD) 5 billion worth of damages. Several flooding across the world put a huge danger to mankind e.g. in China, where 35 million people were affected and the damages are expected to be at least worth USD 32 billion or in India where at least 2000 people died and 4 million people lost their homes. The damages are numbered at about USD 10 billion. By now it should be clear, that the worlds needs urgent action in terms of handling and preventing such catastrophies. Kazakhstan is strongly willing to find solutions as this topic is of existential importance.

In 2015 the UN General Assembly (GA) endorsed with resolution 69/283 the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) following the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR). By implementing this project, the member states agreed on creating a platform which provides concrete actions that aim to prevent certain development from the risk of disaster. The Sendai Framework is overviewed by the United Nations Office for Risk Reduction (UNDRR) which helps implementing and developing it. As most of the great disasters that happened in the latest time are a result of climate change, the Paris Agreement of 2015, an international legally binding treaty signed by 196 member states at the UN Climate Change Conference also contributes to the problem. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels. If this goal will be reached, greater disaster developments will be prevented as well by keeping it more or less the way it is now. In order to prevent disasters and to deal with the consequences of them the state of Kazakhstan cooperates with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). UNICEF hereby provides programmes in which knowledge and skills on safe behaviour after disasters is being taught to 4,000 teachers and about 70,000 students.

Kazakhstan recommends member states to distinguish between long-term preventing measures and short-term actions that focus more on concrete damage control. Kazakhstan points out that the focus of the international community should lay on the second part although the general trend looks more on long-term measures. The measures trying to prevent more disasters by e.g. dealing with climate change are legitim but as a state with 3-4 thousand emergency situations happening every year with thousands of victims each time Kazakhstan is in a situation where the long-term measures are not that relevant as the state is facing acute problems that require acute solutions and has no resources left to deal with measures that don't face the present situation. Kazakhstan proposes that technologies such as earthquake early warning (EEW) systems should be researched on and improved. These technologies helps protecting the people that actually need the help. Kazakhstan acknowledges the efforts being taken by the global community on long-term measures such as the Paris Agreement, but suggest for the mentioned reasons that the funding of these kind of approaches should be halved. The profit gained from this pay cut should then be used for the developing and improving of warning systems and rescue methods and technologies.