

**Presentation by Chairman of the Board of
Foreign Policy Research Institute Bolat Nurgaliyev
Boao Forum for Asia Bangkok Roundtable
“Future of the World: from the Perspective of Asia”
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Your Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Your Excellency Secretary General of the BFA Ambassador Zhang Jun, esteemed members of Board of Directors and Council of Advisers, dear ladies and gentlemen!

First of all, I would like to express sincere gratitude for the invitation to join the participants of the Roundtable. Our meeting is convened to work out recommendations on how to advance most effectively Asian goals for integration and sustainable development, especially challenging task under current global situation, which is suffering from acute crises born out of erosion of international law, widening geopolitical fault lines, intense armed conflict still raging in the heart of the Eurasian continent, lack of mutual trust resulting in suspicion and confrontation as well as unilateralism of those who are trying to build up their own security and development at the expense of security and development of others. Asian community should play a proactive role in calling the world to forestall these unwelcome trends, otherwise sustainable future remains untenable no matter which continent and region.

Allow me to share assessments of some topics as we see them in Kazakhstan and Central Asia. My country positions itself in a category of middle powers which implies having capacity to conduct proactive foreign policy and advance consequential initiatives in the domain of strategic stability and security in many manifestations: regional and international, energy, transport, food, water, information, environment. Recognition of mutual interdependence between security and sustainable development is reflected in Kazakhstan's initiative within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization “On Global Unity for Just Peace, Harmony and Development”. At July SCO summit in Astana all ten member-states supported the document which we intend to jointly advance to global level as our contribution to putting international cooperation back on the right track. In this respect we reconfirm our joint position that the UN Security Council in order to uphold its responsibility for global peace and security needs to strengthen mutual trust among its permanent members.

Five Central Asian republics besides the SCO are participating in the activities of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, the International Foundation for Salvation of the Aral Sea, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Islamic Cooperation Organization and other regional and international structures covering wide range of

issues. Central Asian integration efforts are organized and coordinated at the highest level through the mechanism of annual consultative meetings of the heads of state. The most recent meeting took place in Kazakhstan two weeks ago. To move our region to shared prosperity the five leaders reaffirmed commitment to strengthening political interaction and deepening economic ties. Both political dialogue and the process of interstate integration are of absolutely positive, constructive and transparent character and are centered around the goals of advancing and protection of vital interests of all five Central Asian republics. Being a buffer market between South and North, East and West, possessing significant natural and agricultural resources, transport and transit potential, serious human capital based on sustainable demographic growth, increasing consumer capacity Central Asian states are determined to effectively address multiple challenges on regional agenda. In this light Kazakhstan proposed establishment of the UN Regional Centre for SDGs for Central Asia and Afghanistan as instrumental in enhancing our ability to meet these goals.

Of special significance is strengthening Central Asia and South Asia interconnectivity that creates favorable conditions for expanding trade and economic ties, promoting investment projects, free movement of capital and technologies, managing climatic and environmental challenges. Through engaging neighboring Afghanistan we intend to contribute to solution of the pressing problem of improving situation in this long-suffering country. It is still very complicated, but three years after coming to power the Taliban movement is de-facto controlling the country and there are certain indications giving basis for cautious hopes about eventual internal stabilization and economic revival. Within the international community there are certain divergent approaches on how to build relations with the ruling regime in Afghanistan. Recognizing its direct impact on regional stability and security, Central Asian neighbors of Afghanistan as well as other member-states of the SCO view multitrack interaction with the government in Kabul as a pragmatic way to proceed. We would like this country to succeed as independent, unified and peaceful member of the family of civilized nations. For that to materialize inclusion of all ethnopolitical groups of the Afghan society in running government affairs, respect for fundamental rights and human freedoms are essential.

In our aspiration towards common prosperity the key will be effective realization of enormously complex task to connect the entire Eurasian land mass through a modern network of highways, railroads, bridges and tunnels, oil and gas-pipelines, electric powerlines, ports, terminals and cargo processing centers. From the very beginning along with other land-locked Central Asian countries Kazakhstan enthusiastically joined the Chinese Belt and Road megaproject. The 10-years of implementation of the BRI produced a radical impact on infrastructure development in the participating countries, opening continental trade routes linking Asia and Europe across

the territories of multiple beneficiaries. I would stress growing potential of the Transcaspian International Transportation Route, the so called Middle Corridor, as a viable alternative to other options.

In order to advance in pursuit of brighter, prosperous future we in Asia should concentrate on unifying agenda, on what develops sense of belonging to community of shared destiny, what shapes traditional Oriental adherence to solidarity, fairness and mutually respectful dialogue and interaction. Difficulties that the international community is so unfortunately experiencing nowadays are of passing nature, sooner than later to be replaced by more constructive cooperation. Lessons learned during current challenging period will prepare us better for finding right solutions to new tasks ahead. Deliberations at today's Roundtable are informative and certainly will be useful for moving the Asian dialogue forward.

Thank you for your kind attention.