



**ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION
IN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

Nur-Sultan, 2022

This review of the human rights situation in the Republic of Kazakhstan (Review) has been prepared by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan in cooperation with authorized state bodies, institutions, national, and non-governmental human rights organizations.

The material was prepared in order to inform the diplomatic missions of foreign states and international organizations about the reforms carried out in the Republic in the field of human rights in recent years.

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| I. Introduction and summary of past human rights reforms..... | 4 |
| II. National mechanisms for human rights in Kazakhstan. The “National Kurultai”. Draft Law “On Public Control”..... | 8 |
| III. Implementation of the Paris Principles. Constitutional status of the Human Rights Ombudsman. Draft Constitutional Law “On the Human Rights Ombudsman”..... | 11 |
| IV. On the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Kazakhstan. Second Voluntary National Review on SDGs..... | 12 |
| V. Humanitarian operations “Zhusan” and “Rusafa”. Return of Kazakh citizens to their homeland..... | 14 |
| VI. Administration of justice and criminal procedure. A three-link model of the criminal process. Constitutional Court..... | 15 |
| VII. Normative and institutional aspects of the protection and promotion of human rights..... | 19 |
| A. The right to life. Complete abolition of the death penalty..... | 19 |
| B. Children’s rights. 2022 – the Year of Children. The Index of Children’s Well-being. Law on the protection of the rights of the child..... | 20 |
| C. Gender equality. Cancellation of the list of restricted professions for women..... | 23 |
| D. Protection of persons with disabilities. The Law on improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities. Draft Social Code..... | 25 |
| E. Protection from torture. Improving legislation and bringing it into line with international standards..... | 26 |
| F. Protection from violence, other cruel or degrading treatment. Draft Law on strengthening the institution of the family..... | 28 |
| G. The right to health care. Draft Concept of the Health care Development until 2026..... | 30 |
| H. The right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. The Law on Religious Activity. Legislative amendments on religious issues..... | 33 |
| I. The right to peaceful assembly. The practice of applying the Law “On the procedure for organizing and holding peaceful assemblies”..... | 34 |
| J. The right to information. The first draft of the annual report on the state of access to information in the country..... | 35 |
| K. Combating human trafficking. The Concept of the Draft Law “On Combating Human Trafficking”..... | 37 |
| L. Anti-corruption reforms. Results of the first visit of experts of the Group of States on Combating Corruption (“GRECO”)..... | 39 |
| M. Rights of national minorities. Kazakh diplomat as OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities..... | 40 |
| N. The right to a favorable environment and the promotion of a “green agenda”. Implementation of the new Environmental Code..... | 43 |
| VIII. Sources of additional information..... | 45 |

I. Introduction and summary of past human rights reforms

During the past three years, a lot has happened not only in Kazakhstan, but all over the world. Today, when the world is facing new global challenges, such as climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and political and economic instability, ensuring human rights is more important than ever for the entire world community.

Kazakhstan is consistently committed to the values and principles of human rights protection and presents this review of recent developments in the field of human rights in the country. The review shows how the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government in Kazakhstan are implementing reforms and implementing initiatives with the participation of civil society in order to ensure the rule of law and protect human rights. Kazakhstan continues to work in this direction.

Kazakhstan is party to more than 70 multilateral international treaties in the field of human rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and eight United Nations (UN) human rights conventions.

As part of our close cooperation with the UN, Kazakhstan regularly sends periodic national reports on the reforms carried out and the results achieved to the relevant UN treaty bodies.¹ These reports note, inter alia, that Kazakhstan is adopting plans to implement the recommendations of various UN Conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment, on the Rights of the Child, on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. At the end of April 2022, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination defended the eighth-tenth periodic report on Kazakhstan's implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

In 2009, Kazakhstan extended a "standing invitation" to the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council. Since then, many independent experts and 10 UN Special Rapporteurs have visited Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan has also recognized the competence of several UN Committees to receive individual appeals from citizens about violations of rights. These are the Committees against Torture, for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and for Human Rights. At present, work is underway for Kazakhstan to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Further, work is underway to gradually introduce National Human Rights Assessment Indicators based on 14 global indicators developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and to integrate them with sustainable development goals and indicators.

In 2022, Kazakhstan celebrates the 30th anniversary of joining the UN. In support of the UN efforts in the field of sustainable development, in May 2019, a new building of the UN Office was opened in Almaty, which currently hosts 27

UN programs and agencies, of which 18 UN system organizations have regional, subregional and country status.

During the 76th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, Kazakhstan was elected a member of the UN Human Rights Council for 2022-2024, which is a recognition of its role as an active and responsible participant in the process of promoting international norms and standards in the field of human rights and freedoms. The priority areas of Kazakhstan's work in the UN Council are defined as the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, the universal abolition of the death penalty, the fight against all forms of intolerance, freedom of religion and belief, ensuring inclusive and universal education, as well as respect for human rights in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our government – with the participation of civil society organizations – has adopted several action plans and development programs in the field of human rights, with the goal of achieving legislative reforms, institutional development, and improvement of applied practice that are closer to international standards. For example, the Plan of Further Measures in the field of Human Rights and the Rule of Law, which was approved by Kazakhstan on April 28, 2022, sets goals for the elimination of discrimination against women; enhanced protection of the right to freedom of association; and guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities, migrants, stateless persons, and refugees. In the field of criminal justice, the Plan addresses corrections; redoubled efforts to prevent torture and ill-treatment; ensuring the rights of victims of human trafficking; and improving mechanisms of interaction with UN bodies.

On June 14, 2022, the “National Kurultai” was created in Kazakhstan on the initiative of the President – a new public platform under the President, which replaced the National Council of Public Trust.

Kazakhstan continues to implement the President's political reform package, which reflects our continuing commitment to ensuring human rights and freedoms and building a democratic society. On June 5, 2022, Kazakhstan held a referendum on necessary amendments to the Constitution to implement the reforms initiated by President K.K. Tokayev. This is the most significant change to Kazakhstan's Constitution since it was first adopted in 1995 (also by referendum). The amendments, which were supported by 77.18 percent of voters, were introduced into 33 articles. One of the important tasks of the National Kurultai is to bring other laws into line with the Constitution, taking into account the amendments that came into force after the national referendum.

Following the results of the republican referendum in Kazakhstan, the European External Action Service issued a statement “The EU takes note of the constitutional referendum in Kazakhstan, which took place on Sunday, June 5. The ES welcomes the political reforms initiated by President K.K. Tokayev on March 16 in addition to the socio-economic reforms initiated after the tragic events of January”.ⁱⁱ

Among the amendments to the Constitution are the transition from a super-presidential form of government to a presidential republic with a strong parliament,

the expansion of the powers of parliament, a ban on membership in political parties of security forces and individual officials, simplification of the registration procedure for political parties, modernization of the electoral process, as well as a complete abolition of the death penalty, and the revival of the Constitutional Court.

For the first time, citizens will be able to appeal their cases to the Constitutional Court, along with the Prosecutor General and the Commissioner for Human Rights. We believe this is an important further step toward a rule-of-law based legal system in Kazakhstan.

Since July 1, 2021, with the introduction of the Administrative Procedural and Process-related Code, a full-fledged institute of administrative justice has been introduced. Since July 1, 2021, 52 percent of decisions have been made by courts in favor of citizens and companies, both in court and during pre-trial settlements.

On December 29, 2021, the Law “On the Human Rights Ombudsman” was adopted. The law also prohibits and enacts penalties for interference with the work of the Human Rights Ombudsman. Another important innovation in the law is the establishment of Human Rights offices in all regions (oblasts) of the country, staffed by representatives of the Human Rights Ombudsman. These new local offices will strengthen the work of the Human Rights Ombudsman and bring her mission of human rights protection to citizens in their communities.

With amends to the Constitution, the status of the Human Rights Ombudsman is enshrined in the Constitution for the first time. By the end of August 2022, it is planned to submit to Parliament a draft Constitutional law “On the Human Rights Ombudsman”, which will further strengthen the Commissioner’s powers to protect and advocate for human rights.

Another fundamental constitutional reform approved by Kazakh citizens in the June referendum is the abolition of the “death penalty”. Kazakhstan signed the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – aimed at the abolition of the death penalty – on September 23, 2020. With the formal abolition embodied now in the Constitution, the Protocol entered into force for Kazakhstan on June 24, 2022. The Republic of Kazakhstan is the 90th State party to this treaty.

Our current political reforms – although a continuation of the systematic and consistent implementation of political modernization that has been state policy in Kazakhstan for many years – will dramatically change how our government functions. They include the introduction of opposition parties in the Parliament, and the easing of thresholds for formation of political parties. Party registration procedures will be significantly simplified. Work is underway to reduce the registration threshold four times – from 20,000 to 5,000 people – making it much easier to form a new political party. Also, the minimum number of regional party members will be reduced, from 600 to 200 people.

The threshold for the participation of political parties in the Mazhilis, the lower house of Parliament, has been lowered from 7 percent to 5 percent, which will strengthen political competition and take into account the opinion of the widest possible segments of the population when developing state policy. For the first time, akims (heads of government) of cities of regional significance, villages,

settlements, and rural districts will be directly elected rather than appointed by the president. Candidates in the elections will be able to independently nominate their candidacy, or become a nominee from a political party by collecting signatures of at least 1 percent of the total number of voters. The “against all” columns have been introduced into the forms of ballots at all levels, which will allow voters a legitimate tool for expressing an alternative position.

A new law on peaceful assemblies has been adopted, which greatly simplified the legal regulation of peaceful assemblies. The procedure for holding religious events outside religious buildings has been liberalized by requiring only notification instead of prior government approval. The requirements for registration of regional religious associations have been simplified by establishing a general threshold for registration of 500 citizens. Measures have been taken to decriminalize slander and humanize certain other articles of the Criminal Code.

The Index of Children’s Well-being has been approved. At the legislative level, it is established that complaints of cyberbullying against a minor will be considered by an expert group created specifically for this purpose. The concept of “disabled person” has been changed to “a person with a disability”.

Kazakhstan is working to improve legislation to combat torture and human trafficking. It is planned to clarify the definition of “torture”, as well as to introduce the definition of “ill-treatment” as it would apply to social institutions serving children and persons with disabilities. The legislation also will expand the circle of persons subject to prosecuting by defining the term “person acting in an official capacity”. Finally, the legislation will introduce a new offence of “cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment”.

Additionally, new legislation “On combating human trafficking” is being developed, and preparation of the concept of the draft law is planned until the end of September 2022.

Since 2012, Kazakhstan has been transitioning from a five-tier justice system to a simplified three-tier model, which includes trial courts, appeals, and cassation. On January 1, 2022, the implementation of the second stage of the three-tier model of justice began. Prosecutors now will independently draw up indictments against accused persons for particularly serious crimes. A large-scale reform of the Kazakh police – a consistent transition to a service model – has been launched. Already today, the staffing of units for the protection of women and children from violence has been strengthened. One of the first innovations is the recruitment of female investigators for the investigation of violent crimes committed against women and children. Further, we are working to introduce continuous video surveillance in penitentiary institutions and police offices, as well as in all operational and investigative units of law enforcement agencies, as one of many efforts to combat torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

A draft Concept for the Development of Healthcare until 2026 is being prepared, which provides for strengthening the integrated model of service and provides standards of care for “every woman, every child” based on innovative, grounded approaches and covering the life cycle - the health of newborns, children and adolescents, reproductive and maternal health.

The Concept of the Social Code of Kazakhstan has been developed. Within the framework of this document, a comprehensive improvement of the social security system is envisaged, aimed at increasing the satisfaction of the population with the social policy pursued by the state, as well as measures to modernize social services.ⁱⁱⁱ

II. National mechanisms for human rights in Kazakhstan. The “National Kurultai”. The draft Law “On public control”

As already described above, on June 14, 2022, President Tokayev established the “Ultyk Kuryltay” (National Kurultai), a new platform for public involvement in the government. The National Kurultai will be consultative and advisory body under the President, and replaces the National Council of Public Trust (NCPT).^{iv} The new institution will form a unified institutional model of public dialogue and will strengthen the interaction between the authorities and the people.

The National Kurultai includes representatives of all regions of the country, which will ensure a wide variety of opinions and views. The National Kurultai consists of 117 representatives of political parties, the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan, deputies of the Parliament, large industry associations of business, medicine, education, science, culture, sports, and youth organizations, as well as members of regional public councils. Citizens of the country will be able to take part in the work of the Kurultai. For this, a special online platform will be created (mobile application “Qurultay”), to which all Kazakhstanis can send their proposals to the secretariat of the National Kurultay.

The first meeting of the National Kurultai was held on June 16, 2022. The National Kurultai will consider and make recommendations to the government about long-term issues related to the further development of social and national well-being. One of the important tasks of the National Kurultai is to bring other laws into line with the Constitution, taking into account the amendments that came into force after the national referendum.

The NCPT completed its work. Among other accomplishments, in the three years since it was created, the NCPT helped formulate four packages of political reforms, which have been or are being implemented in Kazakhstan.

On June 14, 2022, at the initiative of the President, a new platform for public dialogue “National Kurultai” was created in Kazakhstan. The national kurultai includes 117 participants from all regions of the country.

One of the most important tasks of the National Kurultai is to develop ideas and steps for the further development of social consolidation.

Citizens of the country will be able to take part in the work of the kurultai. For this, a special online platform will be created (the Qurultay mobile application).

More than 100 normative legal acts have been adopted as part of the NCPT initiatives: 22 Laws, 3 Presidential decrees, 27 Government decrees, and others. Another 12 bills are under consideration in the central state bodies and in the Parliament. During its existence, 6 meetings were held with the participation of the Head of State, 28 individual meetings of the NCPT members with the President, 23 meetings with ministers, 3 trips to the regions and more than 70 working meetings were organized.

There are other national human rights mechanisms that also develop reports and make recommendations aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights.

Effective activity continues within the framework of the current dialogue platform of the Commission on Human Rights, which is also a “link” between the top leadership of Kazakhstan and civil society institutions. The Commission, whose composition is selected in accordance with the UN Paris Principles, actively participates in the formation and improvement of state policy in the field of human rights and is a critical source of information for the President on the human rights situation in the country and the needs of civil society. On September 18, 2021, the composition of the Commission on Human Rights was updated by the Decree of the President.

In 1995, the National Commission on Women’s Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy (National Commission) was founded to develop the most effective measures to improve the situation of women, children, and families, as well as to protect the interests of the family and provide the necessary conditions for women to participate in political, social, economic and cultural life. The National Commission is made up of women leaders in responsible government positions, cultural figures, members of Parliament and representatives of non-governmental organizations. On May 18, 2022, the composition of the National Commission was updated by the Decree of the President.

Since 2013, the “Human Dimension Dialogue Platform” under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides an open and direct dialogue between representatives of the executive, legislative and judicial authorities and civil society on further steps in the political modernization of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan is also actively working on the consistent development of civil society institutions. A mechanism of “feedback” between the population and the Government has been formed through the creation of public councils under the central and local executive bodies. Also, members of public councils are included in the National Kurultai, which will give a special impetus to their importance, their role in Kazakhstani society, and increase the confidence of citizens.

In Kazakhstan, a free space (CISC-Coworking) was opened at the site of the Center for Support of Civil Initiatives for all non-governmental organizations to

In Kazakhstan, a free space (CISC-Coworking) for all non-governmental organizations was opened at the site of the Center for the Support of Civil Initiatives, intended for conducting lectures, trainings and events for NGOs.

A special Internet portal kazkenes.kz was developed and modernized, where personal accounts were created for more than 500 members of public councils of state bodies in different regions.

conduct lectures, trainings and events for NGOs.^v The “Concept for the development of civil society until 2030”, developed jointly with non-governmental organizations and international experts, is being implemented.^{vi} Within the framework of the project “Development of the Institute of Public Councils”, a special Internet portal kazkenes.kz has been developed and modernized.^{vii} At the end of 2021, personal accounts were created on this website for more than 500 members of public councils of state bodies in different regions.

As of June 2022, the number of registered NGOs increased to 22 000. More than 5,000 of them are active, ready to become reliable partners for the state in solving socially significant problems, in implementing state projects and programs and analyzing and assessing their significance and necessity.

Since 2021, legislative amendments have come into force that significantly increase the powers of 253 existing local, regional, and national councils (of which 22 are under the central state bodies, 218 are at the regional level in regions, districts, cities) and 13 additionally created public councils in the country, at least 86% percent of which will consist of representatives of non-governmental organizations elected by competition. According to the amendments, public councils are given the opportunity to attract independent experts to conduct various forms of public authority.

An authorized body in the field of public councils has also been established, which coordinates and provides methodological support for the activities of public councils. In 2022, this body will for the first time prepare a National Report on the activities of public councils in the country, which will provide an analysis of the effectiveness of their work and prospects for the development of further activities. Over the years, public councils have considered more than 20,000 draft legal acts, and they contribute to further constructive interaction between civil society and the Government.

Currently, within the walls of the Parliament, the draft Law “On Public authority” is being discussed, which will create qualitatively new principles of interaction between citizens and the state. The Draft Law was developed jointly with representatives of the public (legal experts, human rights activists, public figures). The draft law establishes a number of the most important principles of public authority, including the variety of forms of public authority, respect for constitutional rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests of citizens, publicity, openness, and legality of public authority.

Since 2021, legislative amendments have come into force, significantly increasing the powers of 253 active public councils in the country.

Currently, the Parliament is considering a draft law "On public authorization", which will create qualitatively new principles of interaction between citizens and the state.

In 2022, for the first time, the President will be presented with the annual National Report on the activities of public councils in the country, which will provide an analysis of the effectiveness of their work and prospects for further accomplishments.

III. Implementation of the Paris Principles. Constitutional status of the Human Rights Ombudsman. Draft Constitutional Law “On the Human Rights Ombudsman”

The Institute of the Commissioner for Human Rights (also called the Ombudsman) was established in 2002 and is accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions. September 2022 marks exactly 20 years since the existence of the Commissioner in Kazakhstan. The National Center for Human Rights operates under the Ombudsman.

Since 2014, the National Preventive Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture and Ill-Treatment (“NPM”), based on the “Ombudsman+” model, has been operating under the leadership of the Ombudsman.

In April 2019, the Law expanded the mandate of the NPM to include institutions providing special social services, including for children. Thus, from 2014 to 2021, the number of institutions covered by the NPM increased from 400 to 3,296, of which 80 percent are institutions of the penitentiary system.

At the end of 2021, NPM participants conducted 497 visits, of which 461 were scheduled preventive visits and 36 special ones, that is, visits conducted on the basis of complaints and reports of torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment and punishment.

In 2016, by the Decree of the President of Kazakhstan, the institution of the Ombudsman for Children’s Rights was established to improve the system for protecting the rights of children in the country and ensure the guarantee of the rights and legitimate interests of children in cooperation with state and public institutions. The Ombudsman for Children’s Rights is an unpaid job. In June 2019, by order of the President, a public figure was appointed Ombudsman for Children’s Rights in Kazakhstan. The country has introduced the posts of a regional commissioner for children's rights on a voluntary basis. As of today, regional commissioners for children's rights have been appointed in 9 regions of the country. The legislative framework ensures the high status of the Ombudsman for Children’s Rights and contributes to the effectiveness of his activities. The Human Rights Ombudsman and the Ombudsman for Children’s Rights have direct access to all branches of government to raise significant issues and influence human rights policy. Additionally, the Commissioner for the Protection of the Rights of Entrepreneurs, the Investment Ombudsman, the Banking Ombudsman, and the Insurance Ombudsman have been appointed.

September 2022 marks exactly 20 years since the existence of the Institute of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Kazakhstan.

On June 8, 2022, following the results of the referendum, the status of the Ombudsman was fixed at the constitutional level. The Commissioner has the right to protect the rights of people by applying to the Constitutional Court.

On December 29, 2021, the Head of State signed the Law “On the Commissioner for Human Rights” and work is underway to create its regional offices.

On March 16, 2022, the President instructed to develop a new Constitutional Law “On the Commissioner for Human Rights” to expand citizens' access to constitutional authority and strengthen human rights instruments.

As of today, regional commissioners for children's rights have been appointed on a voluntary basis in 9 regions of the country.

One of the most important conditions that determines the status of a national institution engaged in the promotion and protection of human rights has been fulfilled - on December 29, 2021, the Law “On the Human Rights Ombudsman” was signed. The new Law strengthened the mission and the independence of the office by, among other things, granting the Commissioner immunity from criminal and administrative prosecution. As noted above, the Ombudsman is also exempt from giving evidence. The new law also prohibits interference with or obstruction of the legitimate activities of the Commissioner. With the new constitutional reforms, the Commissioner now is engaged not only in considering citizens’ appeals, but also in filing appeals with the Constitutional Court related to the basic norms of the law, inefficient application of the law in practice, and violations of the Constitution.

As described above, the 2021 law established a representative of the Commissioner in all regions, cities of republican significance, and in the capital Nur-Sultan, which will improve the legal protection of citizens in the regions. This will ensure the effective implementation of the activities of the Commissioner and expand the possibilities for effective representation and protection of the rights and interests of citizens in relations with state bodies and organizations, and will enable the Commissioner to fully participate in human rights procedures at the UN and other international and regional bodies. The corresponding Presidential Decree was adopted on June 30, 2022.

The Law also reflects many other standards laid down in the Paris Principles, and significantly expands the powers of the Ombudsman to restore violated human rights.

On June 8, 2022, amendments to the Constitution of Kazakhstan came into force, supported by citizens of the country at a referendum on June 5 on securing the status of Commissioner in the Constitution. The Commissioner has the right to protect the rights of people by applying to the Constitutional Court.

As noted above, on March 16, 2022, in the annual Address to the people of the country, President Tokayev proposed a new Constitutional Law “On the Human Rights Ombudsman”, which will expand citizens’ access to constitutional government and strengthen the Commissioner’s human rights tools. This will further ensure the Ombudsman’s independence. The draft Constitutional Law was submitted to the Parliament in August 2022.

IV. On the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Second Voluntary National Review on SDGs

Kazakhstan has committed itself to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (“SDGs”) and is actively working towards the successful achievement of the global goals guided by one of the important principles – “Leave no one aside.”^{viii} Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs is of paramount importance.

Kazakhstan pays special attention to the formation and development of the institutional framework for the implementation of the SDGs. Since 2016, a national architecture for the implementation of the SDGs has been formed and a permanent mechanism – in the form of a Coordinating Council – for monitoring its implementation has been created. In 2022, the status of the Coordinating Council was upgraded to the level of the Prime Minister. The Coordinating Council includes not only representatives of state bodies, but also non-governmental and international organizations. Priority SDGs in Kazakhstan identified the following areas: “Poverty eradication” (completed on 48.8 percent), “Good health and well-being” (completed on 65.4 percent), “Quality education” (completed on 59.7 percent), “Clean water and sanitation” (completed on 41.4 percent) and “Decent work and economic growth” (completed on 47 percent).

On July 14, 2022, in New York, Kazakhstan presented the Second Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the SDGs.

The review was prepared with the participation of the population and stakeholders from all 17 regions.

The country’s state planning system is implemented taking into account 262 national indicators directly derived from the SDGs.

The country's state planning system is implemented taking into account 262 national indicators directly derived from the SDGs. Already in October 2021, 10 national projects containing SDG indicators were approved. In Kazakhstan, one of the first among the Central Asian countries, an Assessment of Development Financing was carried out.

On July 14, 2022, in New York, Kazakhstan presented the second Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the SDGs.^{ix} The second Voluntary National Review reflects Kazakhstan’s progress in implementing the SDGs over the past three years since the first review was defended in 2019.

Present review was prepared during a very difficult period, complicated by the negative consequences of COVID-19 and geopolitical tensions in the world. The review was prepared with the active participation of the population and stakeholders in achieving the SDGs in all 17 regions. About 2,000 people (including representatives of local executive bodies) took part in the consultations of the Voluntary National Review.

Kazakhstan continues to contribute to international efforts to implement the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development until 2030. In September 2021, at a high-level event to mark the 75th anniversary of the UN, President Tokayev announced an initiative to create a regional SDG Center for Central Asian countries and Afghanistan in Kazakhstan under the auspices of the UN.

The Framework Program of Cooperation for 2021-2025 is the basis for cooperation between the Government of Kazakhstan and the UN for sustainable development. It includes work in three areas: human development and equal participation;

In September 2021, at the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, the President announced an initiative to create a regional SDG Center for the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan under the auspices of the UN.

In the Index of Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals by the end of 2021, the country ranked 59th out of 166, improving its rating by six points compared to the previous year.

effective institutions, human rights and gender equality; sustainable environment and inclusive economic development.

In 2021, Kazakhstan improved its position by 6 points in the Progress Index for Sustainable Development Goals (Sustainable Development Goals Index), rising from 65th to 59th place compared to 2020.

V. Humanitarian operations “Zhusan” and “Rusafa”. Return of Kazakh citizens to their homeland

As part of the fulfillment of international obligations in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions 2178 and 2396 (on the return of foreign terrorist fighters to their countries of origin), with the assistance of the United States, the “Zhusan” and “Rusafa” humanitarian operations were carried out to evacuate Kazakhstani citizens from areas of terrorist activity.^x

In February 2021, 12 citizens were returned to their homeland from Syria: 4 men, 1 woman and 7 children, including 2 orphans. All of them were former members of Daesh and were captured in the zone of terrorist activity.^{xi}

As a result of five Zhusan operations and one Rusafa operation, more than 700 Kazakh citizens were returned, including 189 women and 522 children (of which 37 are orphans).

Women and children who returned from Syria were initially placed in a specially created adaptation center (30-day quarantine), which is located in a children's health camp located on the coast of the Caspian Sea near the city of Aktau. At the end of the adaptation period, women with children were transferred to their former places of residence. Further rehabilitation was carried out with the participation of non-governmental organizations, as well as with the assistance of local executive bodies. It is especially important to note the joint work of state bodies with public organizations to explain to the population the issue of adaptation in society of citizens who have returned from combat zones.

To organize rehabilitation work, appropriate rehabilitation centers have been created in almost all regions, which include psychologists, lawyers, theologians, teachers, and social workers. The centers provide free legal support and organize training courses for subsequent employment. These humanitarian operations have been recognized as models by the international community, as Kazakhstan demonstrated the possibility of returning women and children from conflict zones.

Children born in the places of hostilities and returned to Kazakhstan began to receive birth certificates of the Republic of Kazakhstan to ensure their further integration into society and in order to prevent stigmatization. Comprehensive

At the beginning of February 2021, another operation was carried out to return a group of Kazakhstani citizens from Syria to their homeland.

Following the results of five operations "Zhusan" and one operation "Rusafa", more than 700 Kazakhstani citizens were returned, including 189 women and 522 children (37 of them orphans).

In December 2021, the first Kazakh comic called "MEIRMAN" was developed. The comic tells about the difficulties that a boy named Meirman had to face during his stay in the zone of terrorist activity in Syria.

assistance to children also continues within the framework of psychological and educational support programs developed for each child on an individual basis.

In December 2021, the first Kazakhstani comics called “MEIRMAN” was developed, commissioned by the Ministry of Information and Social Development, which explains the danger of following a radical religious ideology through the prism of the lives of citizens returned to their homeland as part of the “Zhusan” operation. The comics tells about the difficulties that a boy named Meirman had to face during his stay in the zone of terrorist activity in Syria.

The MEIRMAN comics can be found on TikTok and Instagram social networks, as well as on Internet portals.

VI. Administration of justice and criminal procedure. A three-tier model of the criminal process. Constitutional Court

Kazakhstan continues to reform and improve its judicial system. To simplify citizens’ access to justice, the court system instance was optimized by moving from a five-tier justice system (first, appeal, cassation, supervisory and repeated supervisory) to a three-tier one (first, appeal, cassation).

Since July 1, 2021, with the introduction of the Administrative Procedural and Process-related Code of the Republic, a full-fledged institution of administrative justice has been introduced. The Code regulates relations related to the implementation of administrative procedures and the consideration of public law disputes in court.

The Code introduces the principle of the active role of the court, where the court can collect evidence on its own initiative if necessary. There are 21 administrative courts in the regions. After the introduction of the Code, from July 1, 2021, 52 percent of decisions were made by the courts in favor of citizens and companies, both in court and in the course of pre-trial procedures.

As noted above, one of the key reforms announced in March 2022 by President Tokayev proposed to renew the institution of the Constitutional Court in the Republic. The proposal was supported by voters in the June 5 national referendum, and the relevant provisions will come into force on January 1, 2023. The Constitutional Court exercises control and assessment of the compliance of legal norms with the Constitution. Unlike other courts, this body has the right to annul a law or other normative legal act if it is found unconstitutional. Citizens, the Prosecutor General, and the Commissioner for Human Rights will have the opportunity to appeal to the Constitutional Court. This undertaking will be an important further step towards reform of Kazakhstan’s judiciary, its commitment to the rule of law, and its commitment to honor and protect the human rights of its citizens.

Since July 1, 2021, the Institute of Administrative Justice has been introduced.

21 administrative courts have been established in the regions. 52 percent of the decisions were made by the courts in favor of citizens and companies.

The amendment to the Constitution on the activities of the Constitutional Court, will enter into force on January 1, 2023.

Citizens, the Prosecutor General, and the Commissioner for Human Rights will have the opportunity to appeal to the Constitutional Court.

In other judicial reforms, court procedures are being modernized and simplified and “humanized” to benefit citizens who come into contact with the judicial system. The right to impose sanctions for preventive measures and investigative actions has been transferred from the Prosecutor's Office to the courts. Lawyers have been given additional powers to zealously represent their clients, and the judicial model is being recast as an adversarial system, similar to the those in common law countries. To that end, on June 10, 2021, a law was enacted aimed at strengthening the competitiveness and openness of the criminal process, expanding the powers of lawyers, enhancing the rights of citizens to receive qualified legal assistance, and creating self-regulatory bodies for lawyers and legal consultants.

On June 20, 2022, a law was adopted by which legal consultants are included in the system of providing state-guaranteed legal assistance. With this, representatives of vulnerable segments of the population will have the opportunity to receive legal assistance for free. Representatives of vulnerable segments of the population have the opportunity to receive qualified legal assistance. Also, persons who have been subjected to domestic violence, human trafficking, an act of terrorism and torture have the right to receive free legal assistance in the form of legal advice.

On December 20, 2021, the President signed constitutional laws aimed at improving the mechanisms for the formation of the judiciary, ensuring the priority areas of the ongoing judicial reform to ensure the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. In order to strengthen guarantees for the independence of judges and improve their professional level, the system of selection and career advancement of judges has been radically revised. The Judicial Jury and the Personnel Reserve Commission were transferred from the Supreme Court to the Supreme Judicial Council. The assessment of the professional activity of judges is carried out by the Commission on the Quality of Justice at the Supreme Court according to a new methodology developed on the basis of advanced international standards.

Investigative courts have been created, electronic court proceedings have been introduced, judicial procedures in civil cases have been optimized, and bureaucracy in court proceedings has been reduced, among many other improvements. Innovations have been introduced in the conduct of judicial proceedings and work has been carried out to digitalize the proceedings. Full audio and video recording of all trials has been implemented. Mobile videoconferencing with courts has been introduced. Attorneys and lawyers are allowed to use electronic devices to assist in their advocacy.

Over 1 million documents were submitted through the Judicial Cabinet service in 2021 (more than 16,000 criminal cases were registered in electronic format) of minor gravity (single-episode). A database of judicial acts has been created. 1.2 million court decisions and 120,000 lawsuits were processed and translated into machine-readable form.

Dozens of judicial innovation projects have been implemented, such as “night courts”, “family courts”, “conciliator judges”, “reconciliation centers”, etc., aimed at creating convenience for participants in processes and developing conciliation procedures. To date, 256 front offices have been opened, serving 309 courts.

Kazakhstan continues to improve the legal framework to strengthen guarantees for the protection of human rights in criminal proceedings. The term of pre-trial detention has been reduced from 72 to 48 hours for adults and is limited to 24 hours for minors.

Kazakhstan has provided that criminal cases can be conducted in virtual format. This means that court sessions can be held remotely and will necessarily be recorded in a video recorder. This increased the degree of protection of the rights of participants in the process and reduced the risks of falsification. In 2022, 92.9% percent of registered criminal cases were investigated in electronic form. As of July 2022, 113,430 criminal cases were investigated in electronic form (82 percent). Future plans to modernize and adopt objective standards for improving the Criminal Procedure Code are planned to be put into effect in 2025 as part of the country's Strategic Development Plan.

With the adoption of the Law on December 19, 2020, the introduction of a three-tier model of the criminal process with the delimitation of powers and areas of responsibility between the Prosecutor's office, the courts, and law enforcement agencies has begun. The new system will ensure the integrity of the criminal process and the protection of citizens' rights, exclude departmental bias, and also allow an effective system of checks and balances to be put into effect, due to independent filters.

Since January 1, 2021, following the example of developed OECD countries, the first stage of the three-tier model of criminal procedure has been introduced, which has strengthened the protection of participants in criminal proceedings. Now, designation of a person as a suspect, qualification, reclassification of an act scheduling conferences, dismissal or other termination of the case, as well as the protocol of the person's accusation and the decision on the application of writ proceedings in the Unified Register of Pre-Trial Investigations, all occur virtually. These are key procedural decisions in criminal cases where the constitutional rights of participants in criminal proceedings may be violated. The Prosecutor monitors their legality online within the established time limits, and takes measures in case of violations. Without the approval of the Prosecutor, the above procedural decisions will not have legal force.

Since the beginning of 2021, the investigative bodies have adopted and sent for approval to the Prosecutor 609,000 key procedural decisions (222,000 terminations, more than 169,000 term interruptions, more than 89,000 confessions to suspects, 68,000 qualifications of acts). Since the beginning of 2022, the unjustified involvement of more than a thousand citizens in the criminal orbit has been prevented, the illegal termination of 5,439 cases and the suspension of 6,001 cases have been stopped.

Since January 1, 2021, a three-tier model of criminal procedure has been introduced in Kazakhstan. Now, without the approval of the Prosecutor, procedural decisions will not have legal force.

On January 1, 2022, the implementation of the second stage of the three-tier model of justice began. According to model, Prosecutors independently draw up indictments against accused persons for particularly serious crimes.

From 2023, Prosecutors will prepare indictments on corruption cases, and from 2024 – on all other categories of crimes.

The introduction of a three-tier model of the criminal process led to an improvement in the activities of pre-trial production bodies. Thus, since the beginning of 2022, alleged violations of the constitutional rights of citizens have decreased by almost 16 percent (from 148 to 124), and violations of the terms of investigation have decreased by 23 percent (from 19,692 to 15,141).

On January 1, 2022, the implementation of the second stage of the three-tier model of justice began. According to the model, Prosecutors independently draw up indictments against accused persons for particularly serious crimes. It means the Prosecutor summarizes the results of the pre-trial investigation and defines the actions of the suspect.

This will ensure that the Prosecutor thoroughly examines the criminal case when coordinating procedural decisions, especially when defining the suspect's act, in order to determine the prospects for investigation and subsequently preparation an indictment. This contributes to further protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens, as well as the interests of society and the state in criminal proceedings.

As of today, Prosecutors have sent 620 cases of particularly serious crimes to courts with the preparation of an indictment. These are crimes such as murder, robbery, rape, sexual violence against minors, sale of narcotic and psychotropic substances, and others.

From 2023, Prosecutors will prepare indictments on corruption cases, and from 2024 – on all other categories of crimes. This process will contribute to strengthening the independent evaluation of the Prosecutors of the collected evidence of law enforcement agencies, and will increase the responsibility for bringing the accused to trial.

The three-tier model of the criminal process is inextricably linked with the digitalization of the criminal case. The widespread introduction of the investigation of criminal cases in electronic format has contributed to the objectivity and transparency of the process. Since the beginning of 2022, 84.4% of registered criminal cases have been investigated electronically. Transparency aids all parties, especially the accused. The Public Sector information portal has been launched for the participants of the process, with which it is possible to obtain copies of procedural documents in electronic form, submit petitions (complaints) and receive answers. Digitalization has eliminated the possibility of falsification of electronic criminal case materials, allowed the supervising Prosecutor to remotely monitor the progress of the investigation and respond to violations in a timely manner. Digitalization also has contributed to the improvement of the level of professionalism of law enforcement and the judicial system. The time for the investigator to compile not only procedural documents, but also requests and cover letters has been reduced. Technical errors are minimized, since most of the information is filled in automatically. The Prosecutor's supervision and departmental control have been strengthened, which has increased the efficiency of decision-making, both by the investigator and the Prosecutor – 98 percent of groundless decisions have been cancelled.

Penitentiary system

According to the Institute for Criminal Policy Research (“ICPR”, UK), as of September 18, 2020, Kazakhstan ranks 99th out of 223 countries in prison population, with 157 convicts per 100,000 population. 14 penal institutions that do not meet international standards have been closed. A transition is being carried out from detachment-barracks to one-dimensional maintenance. Nine such institutions are already functioning, where 4,000 convicts are serving their sentences. By reviewing the sentences, 349 convicts were released from prisons, 71 from punishments not related to isolation from society, and the rest had their sentences reduced.

The duty of heads of institutions to send all decisions restricting the rights of prisoners to the Prosecutor for verification is legally fixed. Daily supervision of the disciplinary practice of the heads of institutions has reduced the number of illegal decisions on the imposition of penalties by 1,3 times, from 128 to 97.

Registration of persons under probation control with biometric data is being introduced, minimizing corruption risks. In order to strengthen the efficacy of probation, 44 positions of psychologists have been introduced into probation services. Social adaptation and rehabilitation of persons registered with the probation service are provided by local executive bodies.

Over the past 20 years, the number of persons held in places of deprivation of liberty has decreased by 2.5 times (more than 34,000 persons) and in 2022 Kazakhstan moved to 86th place in the “Prison Population Index”. In December 2021, the President of Kazakhstan signed an amnesty law dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the independence of the republic. 945 prisoners have been released from punishment as a result.

VII. Normative and institutional aspects of the protection and promotion of human rights

A. The right to life. Complete abolition of the death penalty

Kazakhstan is committed to the realization of the fundamental right to life. As noted above, on June 24, 2022, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – aimed at the abolition of the death penalty – entered into force for Kazakhstan, which was signed on September 23, 2020. Our country has become the 90th State party to this treaty.

In her statement, the President of the International Commission against the Death Penalty, Navi Pillay, noted that by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol, “Kazakhstan has taken an important step bringing the Central Asian region closer to becoming a region free from the death penalty”.^{xii}

On December 29, 2021, a law was adopted that abolished the death penalty for all crimes provided for by the Criminal Code and replaced it with life imprisonment. A ban has been established on the conditional early release of persons sentenced to

In 2022, the death penalty in the country has been completely abolished.

On June 8, 2022, the concept of "death penalty" was excluded from the Basic Law of the country – the Constitution. In 2021, capital punishment was abolished in the Criminal Code and other laws of Kazakhstan.

Life imprisonment is the highest penalty in the Republic.

death, for which an exceptional measure of punishment has been replaced by imprisonment within the limits of the sanction under which the person was convicted. This work was carried out with the involvement of the Members of Parliament and members of the NCPT.

The President in his message to the People of Kazakhstan dated March 16, 2022 noted that “for the final consolidation of the decision to abolish the death penalty, it is necessary to make appropriate amendments to the Constitution.”

Amendments to the Constitution of Kazakhstan, supported by citizens of the country in a referendum on June 5, on the abolition of the death penalty came into force on June 8, 2022. Thus, life imprisonment is the highest penalty in the Republic, as guaranteed in our newly amended Constitution.

Kazakhstan has been moving towards this step in stages, for many years. Kazakhstan, in accordance with its international obligations in the field of human rights, as well as its membership in the UN and OSCE, pursued a policy of gradually narrowing the scope of the death penalty and humanizing criminal legislation. Since 2003, Kazakhstan has continued to observe an indefinite moratorium on the execution of the death penalty. Since 2004, life imprisonment has been used instead as an alternative. In 2016, Kazakhstan joined the EU Statement on the Abolition of the death penalty, which became the basis of GAUN Resolution 62/149 “Moratorium on the use of the death penalty” and joined the International Commission against the Death Penalty in 2010. In 2020, Kazakhstan increased the share of voluntary contributions to the International Commission against the Death Penalty.

B. Children’s rights. 2022 – the Year of Children. The Index of Children’s Well-being. Law on the protection of the rights of the child

Kazakhstan implements a policy to ensure and protect the rights of children.

The year 2022 has been declared the “Year of Children” in the country. This statement was made by the Head of State in his address to the people: “Special attention should be paid to children. Their well-being is a reliable guarantee of the successful future of our State. Therefore, I believe that next year should be declared the Year of Children.” On March 20, 2022, the Government’s Action Plan for the Year of Children was approved. The plan includes 66 activities in 7 directions. Regional, district, and

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The President of the country declared 2022 the Year of Children. The Action Plan for the Year of Children has been approved. Regional, district and city plans have been adopted.

The country has introduced the posts of a regional commissioner for children's rights on a voluntary basis.

On February 1, 2022, the Index of Children’s Well-being was approved for the first time in the country, which was developed taking into account the principle in the field of sustainable development “Leave no one aside”.

city plans have been adopted. One innovation is creation of a post of unpaid regional commissioner for children's rights. We are also developing proposals to change the existing system of providing financial assistance to students of certain categories, conduct screenings and medical examinations, and introduce reconciliation services in educational institutions.^{xiii}

During the five months of events dedicated to the Year of Children, 130 kindergartens for 9,400 places were opened in Kazakhstan, which is more than a third of all kindergartens in the country. By the end of the year, the coverage of kindergartens for children aged 3-6 years will be increased to 99.3 percent. Work is underway to create a development with elements of artificial intelligence to protect children from bullying and suicide. The conditions for admission to colleges have changed to encourage college attendance, and the number of grants to universities has increased. 2.4 million students of schools gets additional education, this year more than 270,000 children will be covered by additional creative circles and sections. By the end of the year, coverage of childrens in circles will increase by 5 percent.^{xiv}

On February 1, 2022, the Index of Children's Well-being was approved for the first time in the country. The index was developed taking into account the principle in the field of sustainable development "Leave no one aside". The index consists of 4 main areas: Child, Family and Society, Public Policy, and the Welfare of the Country. The introduction of the Index as a national monitoring mechanism will allow timely identification of constraints to the effective implementation of measures in various areas aimed at improving the situation of children in the context of regions, taking into account the views of children and parents.

In 2020, Kazakhstan developed and adopted 22 regulations on the protection of children's rights. The Roadmap for strengthening the Protection of Children's Rights, countering domestic violence, and addressing issues of suicidality among adolescents for 2020-2023 has been approved.^{xv} The Rules and Deadlines for the social rehabilitation of children affected by Terrorist Activities have been adopted.

All secondary schools in the country are 100 percent equipped with video cameras. Educational institutions are working on the introduction of specialized private security services, and a checkpoint system is being introduced. The portal Artsport.edu.kz has been created, where the operators of public procurement - the Department of Culture and Sports - register and qualify service providers, parents and children; parents attach children to sections and circles of additional lessons and creative activities; suppliers submit reports and receive payment from the Treasury.

In order to improve the quality of the investigation of criminal cases on allegations of sexual abuse of children, the investigative units of the internal affairs bodies have been trained and specialized permanent investigative and operational groups have been established to uncover and investigate such crimes from among the most experienced investigators, which include 280 female investigators. A special Prosecutor's supervision has been established for violent crimes of a sexual nature against minors. Such supervision provides for the immediate commencement of a pre-trial investigation for inaction, negligence, and improper performance of official duties by persons responsible for the safety of life and health of children.

In January, 2021, a law came into force that provides for tougher penalties for rape and sexual assault against minors, transferring them to the category of serious crimes. Reconciliation with the victim is excluded and a 20-year imprisonment or life imprisonment without the right to pardon and early release is provided. The list of offenses against the sexual inviolability of minors has been expanded, for example, articles have been added for involving a minor in prostitution, in the manufacture of products of erotic content and for the manufacture and circulation of materials or objects with pornographic images of minors or their involvement in participation in entertainment events of a pornographic nature.

For rape, the lower threshold of punishment has been increased from 15 to 17 years in prison. The criminal sanction for the commission of such an act by a parent, stepfather, teacher, or other person who is entrusted with the duties of education by the law of the Republic has been increased from 17 to 20 years. For acts that negligently caused the death of the victim, liability has been toughened – up to 20 years or life imprisonment. Persons who concealed crimes against the sexual inviolability of minors may be sentenced to six years in prison. Administrative liability has been introduced for failure to report violations to law enforcement agencies of the rights of minors by employees of education, healthcare, and social protection of the population. From the composition of Articles 120 and 121 of the Criminal Code, the element of “knowledge” for crimes against a minor has been removed. This made it possible to prosecute offenders without proving the criminal’s awareness of the age of the victims.

In December 2020, the information website www.stoppedofil.kz was launched, which is aimed at providing information and assistance to parents and children who are victims of sexual violence.^{xvi} The website also provides educational materials aimed at reducing this category of crime. Pedophiles are kept in maximum security institutions, without the right to pardon and early release.

Kazakhstan is taking steps as a matter of state policy to protect children from information that is harmful to their health and development. One aspect of this policy is the creation of criminal liability for incitement to suicide through the use of telecommunications networks, including the Internet.

On May 3, 2022, a law was adopted that provides that allegations of cyberbullying against a minor will be considered by an expert group created specifically for this purpose. The emphasis is placed on removing, in interaction with representatives of online platforms, only information recognized by the expert group as cyberbullying in relation to a child. Such an arrangement is intended to find the necessary balance between the need for a prompt response to allegations of cyberbullying against children and the interests of society in access to information.

In 2022, the number of crimes committed against minors decreased by 16,6 percent.

Since January 2021, the law has increased the penalties for rape and sexual assault of minors. The list of offences against the sexual inviolability of minors has been expanded.

On 3 May 2022, the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child was adopted. Allegations of cyberbullying against a minor will be reviewed by an expert group established specifically for that purpose.

As a result of the measures taken, in 2022 the number of crimes committed against minors decreased by 16,6 percent.

C. Gender equality. Cancellation of the list of restricted professions for women

Since independence, Kazakhstan had made significant progress in advancing gender equality. A national gender policy model was developed and a legal framework for the protection of women's rights was established. As a party to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, the Beijing Declaration, Kazakhstan reaffirmed the guarantees of respect for and protection of women's rights.

In 2015, Kazakhstan joined the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Goal 5 – “Ensuring gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls” – is integrated into strategic state programs. Gender policy is reflected in the Concept of Family and Gender Policy of the Republic until 2030. It is aimed at achieving specific target indicators to ensure equal rights and opportunities for men and women, and overcoming all forms and manifestations of gender discrimination. On April 1, 2022, the Concept was updated by Presidential Decree.

NGOs and international organizations are actively involved in the implementation of the Concept. There are about 500 NGOs in Kazakhstan dealing with family and gender issues. Today, 37 percent of NGOs in Kazakhstan are led by women.

Efforts are being carried out in Parliament to strengthen protection against all forms and manifestations of discrimination on the basis of sex, and to create the necessary conditions for the full realization of the rights of women and men in all spheres of work, public and private life. As noted above, a 30 percent quota has been introduced for women, youth, and persons with disabilities in the electoral party lists, which will facilitate their more active participation in the socio-political life of the country.

On October 12, 2021, a law was adopted removing restrictions on the employment of women from the Labour Code. This measure to eliminate discrimination against women was part of the Government's Human Rights Priority Action Plan of June 11, 2021.

Thus, the list of professions restricted to women has been canceled in Kazakhstan. The cancellation of this List will allow women to expand their employment opportunities by ensuring their access to all jobs at their personal discretion, including in industry (oil and gas, mining, manufacturing), the transport and construction sectors, and others.

In the Report of the World Economic Forum on the Gender Gap (Global Gender Gap Report) dated July 13, 2022, Kazakhstan has risen by 15 positions - from 80 to 65th place among 146 countries

On October 12, 2021, a law was adopted that completely abolished the list of professions barred to women in the country.

At the end of 2021, the country adopted a Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, which includes specific measures to ensure equal participation of women in conflict prevention issues

The Law of 4 May 2020 establishes the right of workers to decent working conditions, and creates liability for employers for discrimination in the provision of equal working conditions.

On July 13, 2022, the World Economic Forum published the annual Report on the Gender Gap (Global Gender Gap Report), in which, for the first time in recent years, Kazakhstan has risen by 15 positions – from 80 to 65th place among 146 countries.^{xvii} According to WEF experts, Kazakhstan has achieved significant success in bridging the gender gap and protecting women’s rights in the economy (from 47th to 29th place) and education (from 65th to 27th place), demonstrating 100 percent education of the female population.

Today, the share of women in the civil service is 55.9 percent, holding senior positions – 39.7 percent. The number of women in local government bodies is 52.4 percent. Representation in the Mazhilis of the Parliament is 27.1 percent, and in the Senate – 18.8 percent. The number of female judges has reached 52 percent. Gender equality is being observed at all levels of the judiciary in our country and can be described as optimal. In district courts, 53.8 percent of judges are women. In regional courts, 44.8 percent of judges are women. In the Supreme Court, female judges account for 45.3 percent. In the judicial system, female administrative civil servants make up a steady majority – 65.5 percent (3,697 women and 1,946 men). Of these, 61 percent of women hold leadership positions. The number of women in the Prosecutor’s Office is 22 percent. Of these, 7 percent of women hold leadership positions.^{xviii}

On behalf of the Head of State, efforts are being made to gradually increase the proportion of women to 30 percent in the governing bodies of companies with State participation. A roadmap for 2021-2022 has been developed and is being implemented.

Women occupy leading positions in small and medium-sized businesses. With government support to ensure broad access to financial resources, the development of women’s business is carried out through the state program “Business Roadmap – 2025”, as well as through the Entrepreneurship Development Fund “Damu” and various programs of international financial institutions. Since November 15, 2021, Women’s Entrepreneurship Development Centers have been opened in all regions of the country.

At the end of 2021, Kazakhstan adopted a Plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122, 2242, 2467. The Plan includes specific measures to ensure women’s equal participation in conflict prevention and resolution, ensuring peace and security, preventing violence against women, raising awareness, and strengthening interaction with civil society in conflict prevention and women’s protection. In accordance with the Plan, female diplomatic staff will be involved in international negotiations and consultations on disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons and international security.

Currently, five Kazakh military observers, including one female servicewoman, are participating in the UN mission for the referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

D. Protection of persons with disabilities. The Law on improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities. Draft Social Code

Special attention is paid to supporting persons with disabilities. Kazakhstan strives to observe the principle of «nothing about us without us» to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in any decision-making process. With the participation of non-governmental organizations, the Government approved and is implementing a national plan to ensure the rights and improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities until 2025.

Work is continuing to create a barrier-free environment for people with limited mobility. Since February 2021, a Roadmap to ensure 100% barrier-free access for people with disabilities for 2021-2023 has been implemented. Since 2020, the information portal “Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities” (inva.gov.kz) operates a map of accessibility of facilities in the regions, which contains information on the adaptation of more than 35,000 objects of social infrastructure throughout the country.^{xix} Work continues aimed at creating a barrier-free environment in financial institutions for people with disabilities and representatives of low-mobility groups of the population.

The full implementation of the Social Services Portal in 2021, providing persons with disabilities the right to choose the type of technical means of rehabilitation (TMR) or services, has increased participation in individual rehabilitation programs to 87 percent. The portal allows recipients and providers of social services for persons with disabilities to interact directly on a single digital platform. 817 medical and social institutions (departments) providing special social services, 234 TMR providers, more than 24,000 providers of individual assistant services, 628 sign language providers, 91 sanatorium treatment providers, and 62 providers for guaranteed social packages are registered on the Portal.

There are 27 rehabilitation centers in the area of social protection. By 2025, it is planned to build 12 additional big rehabilitation centers.

In 2022, a project on the correspondence format of medical and social expertise to establish a disability group was launched in all regions in a pilot mode. To receive the service, the applicant only needs to go to the clinic at the place of residence and undergo the necessary examination. The rest of the processes take place without his participation due to the integration of information systems.

As part of the pilot project, more than 18,800 applications from all regions of Kazakhstan, i.e. 20.2 percent of the total number of persons examined, have been considered. 589 medical organizations are connected to the project.

At the beginning of 2022, 696,800 people with disabilities live in the country.

On January 3, 2022, a law was adopted that provides for a compensation contribution for employers to co-finance special jobs for people with disabilities.

The Atlas of recommended professions and occupations for persons with disabilities is posted on the Electronic Labor Exchange. More than 5,000 vacancies have been posted. Atlas was developed jointly with UNDP.

The socially important project “People’s empowerment” is being implemented, providing for the involvement of “people's controllers empowerment”.

Since 2022, as noted above, legislative amendments have included persons with disabilities among the quota categories with women and youth, in the distribution of deputy seats in the Mazhilis.

On January 3, 2022, a new Law was adopted providing a financial assistance to employers who develop special jobs for persons with disabilities. Over the past five years, 24,000 people with disabilities have been employed within the quota.

The People's empowerment project is being implemented jointly with the Federation of Trade Unions of Kazakhstan. The project provides for the involvement of persons with disabilities as "people's empowerment". To date, 164 enterprises are involved in the project, where 521 employees are employed. The project "People's empowerment" is an opportunity to fully employ people with special needs. Preference is given to employees who have left the company because of disability.

The Law of June 26, 2022 changed the concepts of "disabled person" to "person with disabilities" and "disabled child" to "child with disabilities". The rights to priority care of persons with disabilities in healthcare organizations have been established. Persons with disabilities are exempt from paying for the services of private notaries when performing notarial actions of a legal and technical nature. The concept of "habilitation" has been introduced – a set of measures aimed at the formation and development of the domestic, social and professional activities of persons with disabilities.

A draft Concept of the Social Code is being developed, which provides for a comprehensive improvement of the social security system aimed at increasing the satisfaction of the population with the social policy pursued by the state, and measures to modernize social services, among other improvements.

E. Protection from torture. Improving legislation and bringing it into line with international standards

Kazakhstan adheres to zero tolerance for torture. Penalties for crimes related to torture have been tightened. The maximum term of imprisonment for those convicted of torture has been increased from 10 to 12 years. There is no longer a statute of limitation for torture offenses, and exemptions from criminal liability for torture on the basis of amnesty or repentance and reconciliation of the parties have been abolished.

An alternative investigative procedure has been introduced in the investigation of allegations of torture. We have developed a methodology for investigating torture based on the Istanbul Protocol, as well as an electronic record of persons brought to law enforcement agencies. The process of delivering and detaining suspects is

On June 26, 2022 the Law was adopted that changed the concepts of "disabled person" to "person with disabilities" and "disabled child" to "child with disabilities", etc.

The Social Services Portal has brought an increasing of the implementation of individual rehabilitation programs to 87 percent.

Persons with disabilities have the right to choose the type of technical means of rehabilitation.

In 2022, a project on the correspondence format of medical and social expertise to establish a disability group was launched in a pilot mode.

589 medical organizations are connected to the project.

detailed. The “Miranda Rules” on clarifying rights during detention, access to a lawyer, and medical care have been introduced. More than 500 “transparent” interrogation rooms with video recording have been opened, the monitors of which are displayed in the lobby, the duty station and the Prosecutor’s office. The Prosecutor has the authority to immediately release illegally detained persons. Specialized Prosecutor's offices have been established in regions with a large number of penal institutions (Almaty, Karaganda, and East Kazakhstan regions).

Mechanisms for paying compensation to victims of torture from the State fund have been introduced, and crisis centers provide victims with free social, medical, and psychological assistance.

As part of the modernization of the penitentiary infrastructure, a gradual transition to holding in separate cells for one detainee is being carried out. In total, there are 9 institutions with one-dimensional maintenance. The limit of this category of institutions is 5,485 places, 4,500 convicts are held. The number of places allows detainees to be kept in separate cells.

In December 2020, a decision was made to gradually transfer the function of medical support for convicts to the Ministry of Health. This will ensure their access to modern methods of examination, diagnosis, and treatment. Medical workers will be independent from the administration of institutions. From July 1, 2022, the Ministry of Health will be responsible for the medical support of 16 pre-trial detention facilities, and 64 minimum security institutions and institutions for the detention of juvenile convicts and convicted women. From January 1, 2023, it is planned to transfer the remaining medical services.

The Commissioner for Human Rights, public monitoring commissions, and the National Preventive Mechanism can visit prisons at any time, talk to convicts, and receive complaints. Constant monitoring is also carried out by the Prosecutor’s office. In the penal institutions, joint receptions of convicts with representatives of the National Preventive Mechanism and Public Monitoring Commission (NPM and PMC) are held monthly. In 2021, 232 (117-NPM, 115-PMC) visits were carried out. Search activities in the prisons are carried out with the mandatory participation of human rights defenders, Prosecutors and video recording of the entire process. In 2021, non-governmental organizations visited institutions of the penitentiary system 250 times.

121 special terminals have been installed for submitting appeals of convicts in electronic form, directly to the court, the Prosecutor’s office, and the anti-corruption service, bypassing the administration of institutions. It is planned to install 608 terminals by 2024. As additional levers to prevent torture, special boxes have been created in the prisons for convicts to file complaints and appeals against

In December 2020, a decision was made to gradually transfer the function of medical support for convicts to the Ministry of Healthcare.

In 2022, the functions of medical support in pre-trial detention facilities, minimum security institutions, and institutions for the detention of minors and women will be transferred.

From January 1, 2023, it is planned to transfer the remaining medical services.

The transition to one-dimensional content is underway. Today there are 9 institutions.

Specialized Prosecutor's offices have been established in regions with a large number of penal institutions.

illegal actions of officials. Appeals submitted to mailboxes are confidential, and are collected by the Prosecutor, not prison officials.

Currently, video cameras are being installed in all penitentiary institutions to exclude “blind spots”. There are more than 14,000 video cameras. The introduction of continuous video surveillance in institutions of the penitentiary system will be implemented within two years.

In all law enforcement agencies, including the Prosecutor’s office, there are Call centers and hotlines where anyone can apply, including to complain of torture.

Taken together, the above measures will make it possible to achieve the eradication of torture as a systemic phenomenon, the protection of human rights in general, will increase public confidence in law enforcement agencies, and will contribute to obtaining public support in solving criminal justice problems.

As noted above, a draft law has been developed to clarify the definitions of the concept of “torture”, as well as the introduction of the definition of “ill-treatment” (social institutions with children and persons with disabilities). The circle of persons potentially liable for torture will be expanded by defining the term “person acting in an official capacity” to include, in addition to law enforcement officers, employees of orphanages, nurses of psychiatric clinics, and other employees who, by virtue of their position, can cause harm to persons dependent on them. The draft law also introduces a new offence of “cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment”.

A package of amendments aimed at strengthening the criminal law prevention of torture and ill-treatment has been submitted to the Parliament for consideration. It is proposed to exclude the investigation in cases of torture and to establish their investigation by the prosecutor's office.

F. Protection from violence, other cruel or degrading treatment. Draft Law on Strengthening the Institution of the Family

Kazakhstan has created the necessary conditions to protect women and children from all types of violence. “Preservation of family values and non-admission of gender discrimination” are designated as priorities in Kazakhstan, as indicated in the Concept of Family and Gender Policy until 2030 and in the Strategic Development Plan until 2025.

With the active participation of civil society, the Law “On the Prevention of Domestic Violence” was substantially amended to improve the system of prevention

Currently, a draft law has been developed, which provides for clarifying the definitions of the concept of “torture” and the introduction of the definition of “ill-treatment”.

It is also planned to expand the circle of persons related to the subjects of the crime by legislating the term “person acting in an official capacity”, who, by virtue of their position, can cause harm to persons dependent on them.

A package of amendments aimed at strengthening the criminal law prevention of torture and ill-treatment has been submitted to the Parliament for consideration. It is proposed to establish the jurisdiction of the prosecutor's office in cases of torture.

of domestic violence and improve the situation in the protection of women and children from violence.

Punishments for domestic violence have been tightened. Sanctions for illegal actions in the sphere of family and household relations have been strengthened, so the term of administrative arrest has been increased to 5 days, for intentional infliction of minor harm to health up to 15 days, and for beatings up to 10 days.

All cases of domestic violence are subject to review by the courts. The prosecution will not be undertaken in court by a private person, but by a Prosecutor. In case of repeated offenses, criminal liability for torture is provided, even if the injured party does not file a claim.

In 2021, the number of inspectors of internal affairs bodies for the protection of women and children from violence has been doubled, and a policy has been implemented to retain specialized women investigators in investigating crimes against women and children. Currently these investigators are available in every city and district police department. Their work is aimed at responding promptly to allegations of violence against women and children. Employees accept applications, provide legal, psychological, and social assistance to victims, and actively cooperate with local executive bodies.

Victims of domestic violence can contact law enforcement agencies by any means convenient for them, including a free round-the-clock police phone number 102 or a special mobile application. A special algorithm has been developed to identify victims of violence who are unable to contact the police in a timely manner, using a code word signaling that domestic violence is occurring.

In order to provide comprehensive assistance to victims of domestic violence, 49 crisis centers operate in all regions of the country, 39 of which have a shelter. Special social services for victims of domestic violence are provided in 36 crisis centers. Since the beginning of 2022 alone, police officers have sent over 3,200 women in difficult life situations to crisis centers, and 986 of them have been assigned to shelters.

Family support resource centers have been established. There are 34 family support centers “Zhanuya”, “Bakytty otbasy”, and “Shanyrak”, operating in all regions, providing consulting services to low-income and large families on all issues of interest on the principle of “one window”.

Psychologists, lawyers, mediators, and social workers work to help families in social

In 2021, the number of inspectors for the protection of women from violence of the internal affairs bodies has been increased by 2 times.

A policy has been implemented to hire specialized female investigators in investigating crimes against women and children.

Now these investigators are available in every city and district police department, whose activities will be aimed at promptly responding to violence against women and children.

It is planned to expand the powers of district police inspectors to issue protective orders and to compile administrative materials without taking into account the opinion of the victim. Where two or more offenses in the field of family and household relations have been committed, reconciliation would no longer be an option.

The draft Law would introduce special social rehabilitation programs for offenders and the expansion of family support services.

adaptation. It is planned to create 234 centers for family support, family conflict resolution, and temporary accommodation for women with children.

Information and educational campaigns “No to domestic violence!” and “16 days without violence” are held annually in all regions.

The share of crimes in the sphere of family and domestic relations out of the total number of registered criminal offenses is 1.2 percent. Since the beginning of 2022, the number of crimes in the sphere of family and household relations has decreased by 8.2% compared to last year. 53.4% of victims of domestic violence are women.

About 80,000 protective orders are issued annually. The courts establish approximately 10,000 special requirements for the behavior of offenders. In 2022, police officers have already issued more than 48,000 protective orders, and courts have established special requirements for behavior for more than 2,000 offenders. Almost 6,000 people have been charged for violating the established prohibitions and restrictions on domestic violence. For the period of the restrictions, these persons are tracked by the police, with regular visits to their place of residence for preventive conversations and monitoring of their behavior.

It is planned to expand the powers of local police inspectors to issue protective orders and to compile administrative evidence against the offender without taking into account the opinion of the victim. According to current legislation, law enforcement agencies can initiate administrative proceedings only upon the application of the injured party. Where there are two or more offenses in the field of family and household relations, reconciliation would no longer be an option. This norm will contribute to strengthening the prevention of offenses, and will strengthen law enforcement tools to go after serial abusers.

In order to counter trends in the spread of domestic violence and strengthen the institution of the family, the draft Law provides norms for the introduction of rehabilitation programs for offenders, measures for the prevention of domestic violence and their division into general and individual prevention measures, the creation of centers of the expansion of family support services, and education of children the basics of family values and healthy lifestyles.

The draft Law includes amendments to expand the range of subjects subject to the provision of comprehensive social legal assistance by including victims of domestic violence, protection of victims of domestic violence by excluding the possibility of reconciliation for the repeated commission of domestic violence, etc.

G. The right to health care. Draft Concept of the Health care Development until 2026

The coronavirus has become a serious test for the Kazakh healthcare system, as is the case globally. Measures have been taken to control the spread of infection. Kazakhstan is one of the few states that has developed its own vaccine against coronavirus (QazVac).

In Kazakhstan, by 2025, 60 percent of all health care spending will be directed to primary health care (PHC) and public health. In 2022, this figure reached 54 percent. This progress made it possible to increase the preventive focus of PHC. The main problems of outdated infrastructure and the availability of primary health care, especially at the rural level, are planned to be solved in stages as part of the implementation of regional plans for the development of health infrastructure. To this end, on May 24, 2022, Kazakhstan launched a project to launch medical trains that will provide free medical care to residents of remote areas for five months.

In December 2020, the official launch of the PHC Operational Mechanism to promote the Astana Declaration on PHC took place. The document was developed with the support of WHO and approved in November 2020 by 194 countries of the world at the 73rd session of the World Health Assembly. The document offers countries 14 strategic and operational levers to strengthen PHC at the national level.^{xx}

In 2020, Kazakhstan for the first time chaired the 70th session of the WHO Standing Regional Committee. In 2021, the Kazakh delegation actively participated in the adoption of a number of resolutions on PHC, mental health, and in approving the implementation of the European Immunization Agenda.

Proposals have been made regarding the improvement of the standards of care in the provision of PHC in the country, the activities of health organizations providing outpatient care, etc. Measures to improve PHC for 2021-2025 will be continued within the framework of the National Project “Quality and affordable healthcare for every Citizen “Healthy Nation” and the Action Plan to improve the availability of PHC towards greater mobility and accessibility to a wide range of the population, including those living in rural areas.

The National Project “Quality and affordable healthcare for every citizen “Healthy Nation” was approved by the Government on October 12, 2021. Particular attention will be paid to the availability and quality of medical care; formation of a modern system of epidemiological forecasting and response; availability of medicines and medical products of domestic production; increase in the proportion of the population leading a healthy lifestyle; and the development of mass sports. Patient satisfaction is one of the important indicators of the quality of medical care.

Since 2021, according to the Map of Strategic Indicators until 2025, the patient satisfaction indicator with the quality of medical care has been defined as one of the main strategic indicators of the country, which also defines target values for the regions until 2025.

Since January 2020, Kazakhstan has switched to a new financing model – mandatory social health insurance. An additional package of medical services covers at least 94 percent of the population. Thus, insurance of 11 million residents out of

In Kazakhstan, by 2025, 60 percent of all healthcare expenditures will be directed to primary health care (PHC) and public health of the population.

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In December 2020, the official launch of the PHC Operational Mechanism to promote the Astana Declaration on PHC took place.

On January 14, 2022, the public social fund "Kazakhstan Khalkyna" was established to solve social problems, health and childhood issues.

18 million of the total population is fully covered by the state, including for 15 categories of socially vulnerable people.

The country has a new Code “On public health and the healthcare system”, which was adopted in July 2020. According to the Code, citizens of the Republic have the right “to give informed consent or refusal to treatment and other medical interventions, including preventive vaccinations”. The age limit for the sale of tobacco products has been raised from 18 to 21 years, criminal liability for medical errors has been abolished, and the term “medical incident” has been introduced.

The State Program for the development of Healthcare in the Republic for 2020-2025 is being implemented. By 2026, the life expectancy of Kazakhstanis will reach 75 years, the risk of premature mortality will decrease to 15.43 percent and, the health of the population will improve according to key indicators.

In order to accomplish early detection and carry out timely correction and treatment of diseases of childhood, new methods for diagnosing hereditary metabolic diseases and sensory disorders are being introduced, improving the quality of life and reducing the burden of socially significant diseases.

On January 14, 2022, the public social fund “Kazakhstan khalkyna” was launched to solve social problems, improve health care, and address childhood health problems, including assistance to children with rare diseases. The Foundation has already purchased Onasemnogen for four children with spinal muscular atrophy abeparvovec (Zolgensma), and for 22 people with Spinraza disease.

It is prohibited by law to infringe on the rights and legitimate interests of HIV-infected persons, while treatment is fully covered by the state. The effectiveness of tuberculosis treatment in Kazakhstan is one of the highest in the world and amounted to 90.1 percent for susceptible cases of the disease and 78.6 percent for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

On May 21, 2022, the Law “On Biological Safety” was adopted. The main purpose of the Law is prediction, early detection, and prevention of biological threats. An authorized body is being introduced, whose main task will be to ensure interdepartmental interaction and coordination of actions of state bodies within the framework of the biosafety system. The body will collect and analyze information from various fields to develop early and effective measures to prevent bio-threats. Work is underway to create a National Biosafety Forecasting System for the country.

Currently, work is also underway to prepare a draft Concept for the development of healthcare until 2026. The document provides for strengthening the integrated model of service provision and provides a set of care standards for “every woman, every child” based on innovative, grounded approaches and covering the life cycle – the health of newborns, children and adolescents, reproductive and maternal health.

On May 21, 2022, the President signed the Laws "On Biological Safety". The main purpose of the Law is prediction, early detection, and prevention of biological threats.

A draft Concept for the development of healthcare until 2026 is being developed. The document provides for strengthening the integrated model of service provision and providing a set of basic types of assistance to "every woman, every child".

H. The right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. The Law on Religious Activity. Legislative amendments on religious issues

The Constitution enshrines the principles of freedom of conscience and freedom of religion accepted by the international community.

Followers of all confessions have equal and favorable conditions in Kazakhstan to meet their spiritual needs. The state immediately reacts to violations of the rights of believers and minimizes their negative consequences. Thanks to this, representatives of more than 3,800 religious associations representing 18 confessions and more than 100 ethnic groups live peacefully in Kazakhstan today.

One example of the country's commitment to the ideas of supporting peaceful coexistence and establishing interfaith, interreligious dialogue is the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions held in Kazakhstan every three years, including the upcoming Seventh Congress in September 2022. This year marks the 19th anniversary of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

In the regions, Clubs of Leaders of Religious Associations and Councils for Relations with Religious Associations operate under local executive bodies. The participants exchange views on the consolidation of society, the universal values of confessions, measures taken to preserve and strengthen interreligious and interfaith harmony, and discuss problematic issues in the religious sphere.

In order to continue systematic work in this direction, a Comprehensive Plan for the Implementation of State Policy in the Religious Sphere for 2021-2023 was adopted.

Kazakhstan is making significant efforts to improve the legislation on religious activities, which are aimed at building constructive relationships between the state and religious institutions.

On December 29, 2021, a law was adopted aimed at improving and simplifying legislation in the field of religion. The concept of "information materials of religious content" is defined, meaning "printed, electronic and other information of a religious nature in any medium". The procedure for holding religious events outside religious buildings has been simplified by requiring only notification, instead of prior approval. The circle of persons conducting religious expertise has been expanded. The requirements for registration of regional religious associations have been simplified by establishing a general criterion for registration of 500 citizens. Based on this change in law, it became possible to create a regional religious association on the territory of one region.

Representatives of more than 3,800 religious associations representing 18 confessions and more than 100 ethnic groups live peacefully in Kazakhstan.

There are 232 regional information and explanatory groups on religious issues in the regions in the number of 2899 people.

On December 29, 2021, a law was adopted that simplified the requirements for registration of regional religious associations by establishing a general criterion for registration of 500 citizens. The procedure for holding religious events outside religious buildings has been simplified by requiring only notification instead of prior approval.

As part of the humanization of administrative legislation, work is underway to amend the Code of Administrative Offenses. In particular, it is planned to provide for a type of administrative responsibility in the field of religious activity in the form of a “warning” and to reduce the amount of administrative fines (up to 50 percent).

I. The right to peaceful assembly. The practice of applying the new Law "On the procedure for organizing and holding peaceful assemblies"

The new Law “On the procedure for organizing and holding peaceful assemblies in the Republic of Kazakhstan”, which entered into force in June 2020, is one of the first laws developed on the initiative of President Tokayev. The last law regulating the organization and holding of peaceful assemblies was adopted more than 25 years ago – in 1995.

In 7 months of 2022, 213 peaceful assemblies were organized in the country.

On March 8, 2022, the largest march for women's rights in the history of Kazakhstan took place in Almaty, with the participation of about 300 people (“Kazfem”, “Feminita”, “Femsreda”, etc.).

From the adoption of the Law until June 2021, 552 peaceful assemblies have been organized in the country on the basis of the notification procedure, while in 2018 and 2019, before the adoption of the Law, about 27 peaceful assemblies had been organized. The number of peaceful assemblies has increased by about ten times since the entry into force of the Law.

In 7 months of 2022, 213 peaceful assemblies were organized in the country.

In Kazakhstan, peaceful assemblies are organized on a variety of issues: the state of ecology of Almaty, against the bill on blocking social networks, etc. For example, on March 8, 2022, the largest march for women’s rights in the history of independent Kazakhstan took place in Almaty, which gathered about 300 people from various groups, including “Kazfem”, “Feminita”, “Femsreda”, etc. The Women’s March of 2021 can also be recognized as the largest peaceful assembly for civil, labor, and political rights in recent years. During the peaceful assembly, police officers acted strictly in accordance with the requirements of the Law, without interference, and ensured the protection of public order in the places where it was held.

The consolidation of legislative approaches aimed at reducing administrative barriers made it possible to reduce the number of illegal actions and, accordingly, to increase the number of approved assemblies. Moreover, in 2021, the number of unsanctioned gatherings in the country decreased by almost two times (from 251 to 132). At the same time, the number of peaceful and lawful assemblies has increased significantly – from one to 57.

Under the new Law, the protection of public order in places of peaceful assembly is provided in a new format. Control over the observance of law and order in the places of meetings is carried out remotely, through the use of video surveillance cameras of operational management centers. In cases of detection of violations of the law by local executive bodies and the Prosecutor's office, clarification of the provisions of the Law with the participants of the meetings is

carried out. In turn, the police record the actions of the participants for their subsequent legal assessment by the Prosecutor's office.

A culture of peaceful assemblies is being formed in society, while the topics of peaceful assemblies are formed by the organizers themselves.

In accordance with paragraph 19 of the national action plan for the implementation of the Address of the Head of State to the People of Kazakhstan dated March 16, 2022 "New Kazakhstan: the path of renewal and modernization", an instruction was given to ensure strict compliance with the Law.

In this regard, the central and local executive bodies are working on the qualitative organization of public relations aimed at implementing the rights of citizens of the country to hold peaceful events established by the Constitution.

J. The right to information. The first draft of the annual report on the state of access to information in the country

The Government is carrying out large-scale work to modernize the domestic media sphere, develop strong and competitive domestic media, create conditions for dialogue between the state and society and professional participants of the media market. The National Plan for the Development of the media sphere is being implemented, aimed at increasing the competitiveness of the Kazakh media. The plan is intended to create conditions for the development of mass media in the digital space, to improve the quality of produced content focused on multimedia and authenticity, and to improve the ecosystem of the media sphere, including economic and institutional measures to support the media.

More than 5,076 media outlets operate in Kazakhstan, of which 3,635 are periodicals, 191 are television channels, 84 are radio, and 890 are news agencies and online publications. The choice of topics for published materials and directions of editorial policy is the exclusive prerogative of the media itself. Measures of criminal and administrative liability are envisaged in relation to persons interfering with the lawful activities of the media.

In professional activities, a journalist is guaranteed the protection of honor, dignity, health, life and property. In order to ensure the safety of journalists and the unhindered exercise of their professional activities in covering peaceful assemblies, at the end of August 2020, the Rules for the Activities of a Journalist (Media Representative) Present at Peaceful Assemblies were put into effect. The document received support from the media and the civil sector.

In June 2020, Article 130 of the Criminal Code (*Defamation*) was decriminalized by its transfer to the Code "On Administrative Offenses". Also,

The Government is carrying out large-scale work to modernize the domestic media sphere, develop strong and competitive domestic media, create conditions for dialogue between the state and society and professional participants in the media market.

For the first time, a draft annual report was prepared for the Head of State on the state of the sphere of access to information in Kazakhstan.

For the convenience of information users, over 1000 websites of government agencies were combined on one platform – EPIR GO (www.gov.kz).

The institute of authorized persons for access to information has been introduced in all government agencies.

Article 174 of the Criminal Code (*Inciting social, national, tribal, racial, class or religious hatred*) has been reformed.

For the first time, a draft annual report to the Head of State on the state of the sphere of access to information in Kazakhstan was prepared. The report went through extensive public and expert discussions, and was also considered at a meeting of the Commission on Access to Information.

The list of information not allowed for dissemination is clearly defined by law. For example, propaganda and justification of extremism or terrorism, propaganda of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues and precursors, as well as the cult of cruelty, violence, and others are prohibited.

The requirements for the protection of domain names in the Kazakhstan segment of the Internet were determined, and in December 2020, the concepts of an authorized body in the field of access to information were introduced. In all state bodies, the institute of authorized persons on issues of access to information has been introduced who will make sure that all employees have access to open information. The concept of a blog platform of the first heads of state bodies has been expanded by including subjects of the quasi-public sector (on the Internet portal “Open Dialogue”).

For the convenience of users of information, over 1000 websites of state bodies were combined on one platform - EPIR GO (www.gov.kz). The functionality of the Open Government portals (www.open.egov.kz) has been significantly improved and measures have been taken to stabilize their work.^{xxi} The version for the visually impaired has been improved, and the process of integrating portals with some information systems is being completed.

In June 2020, administrative liability was introduced for non-implementation or improper implementation of measures to protect information systems containing personal data and for their use in order to cause property and (or) moral harm, or restrict the exercise of rights and freedoms guaranteed by law.

Work is underway to improve legislation in the field of information. On December 30, 2021, the Personal Data Protection Law was adopted, which will give citizens the right to be forgotten on the Internet.^{xxii} The Personal Data Security Service has been introduced, which will allow citizens to control their personal information themselves: give consent to its use or to withdraw consent.

Taking into account international experience, work is underway to develop a draft law "On Mass Media" taking into account the needs of society and trends in the development of the media sphere. In general, the mechanisms of legal regulation will be aimed at guaranteeing freedom of speech, free receipt and dissemination of

On December 30, 2021, a law was passed that gives citizens the right to be forgotten on the Internet.

A Personal data Security Service has been introduced, which will allow citizens to control their personal information themselves: to consent to its use or revoke consent.

By the end of 2023, it is planned to develop a bill that strengthens responsibility for violation or restriction of access rights to information.

Taking into account international experience, work is underway to develop a draft law "On Mass Media" taking into account the needs of society and trends in the development of the media sphere

information in any way not prohibited by law, taking into account compliance with all constitutional rights.

By the end of 2023, it is planned to develop a draft law on access to information, which will include amendments related to the consolidation of monitoring and control mechanisms, as well as increased liability for violation or restriction of the right to access to information.

K. Combating human trafficking. The Concept of the Draft Law “On Combating Human Trafficking”

Kazakhstan pays great attention to the issues of combating human trafficking. The country has formed a sufficient legislative framework aimed at combating human trafficking, which is being systematically improved. 13 international treaties have been ratified in the field of combating human trafficking.

With the involvement of representatives of non-governmental organizations, IOM and OSCE, periodic plans are gradually adopted (every 3 years). Since 2021, an Action Plan for the prophylaxis, prevention, and combating of crimes related to human trafficking for 2021-2023 has been implemented. The Plan provides for an analysis of national legislation, the study of international experience, as well as consideration of the definition of “trafficking in persons” in the Criminal Code.^{xxiii}

There is a “11616” hotline to report human trafficking or seek help, through which specific allegations of human exploitation are also identified. Within the framework of the Interstate Program of Joint Measures against Crime for 2019-2023, an operational and preventive measure “STOP Trafficking” is carried out on a quarterly basis.

A victim of human trafficking is recognized as a victim regardless of the fact that a criminal case has been initiated. Victims are protected and assisted. In order to rehabilitate victims of human trafficking, the Criteria for Assessing the Identification of Victims of Human Trafficking and, since 2016, the Standard for Special Social Services have been in place. Work on compensation for victims of crimes related to trafficking in human beings is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Law on the Victims’ Compensation Fund, which entered into force in July 2020.

The possibility of reconciliation of the parties in the case of human trafficking offenses has been excluded, and penalties for organ trafficking have been tightened. The lower limit has been increased from five to six years, the penalty has been increased from 15 to 18 years for trafficking in minors, and the threshold has been

Since 2021, the next Government Plan for the Prevention, Prevention and Fight against Crimes Related to Human Trafficking for 2021-2023 has been implemented.

The concept of the draft Law “On Combating Human Trafficking” is being developed with the participation of the Commissioner for Human Rights, representatives of State bodies, international and non-governmental organizations.

The Law will further define the concepts of “human trafficking”, “identification of victims of human trafficking”, provide interdepartmental coordination and interaction, and provide assistance to victims of human trafficking, including foreigners who have become victims in the country, etc.

The Concept is planned to be prepared by the end of September 2022.

increased from seven to eight years for involving minors in prostitution. One-time compensation is provided for victims, and the possibility of extending the period of stay in the country has been introduced for foreign victims. Since 2020, 242 persons have been convicted of criminal offenses related to human trafficking. Since the beginning of 2022, 58 crimes related to human trafficking have been registered.

Work is underway to improve the practice of pre-trial investigation of criminal offenses related to human trafficking by law enforcement agencies. Specific measures are being taken to improve the effectiveness of prevention and detection of criminal offenses related to human trafficking and extend the provision of legal assistance to all persons, including foreign citizens, who are victims of human trafficking and forced labor. On June 27, 2022, within the framework of the "Law on improving the quality of life of Persons with Disabilities", it was established that foreigners identified and identified as victims of human trafficking in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan are provided with a guaranteed amount of special social services.^{xxiv}

In December 2020, the obligations of state labor inspectors to report facts of forced labor to law enforcement agencies were enshrined at the legislative level.

Currently, work is underway to develop the concept of the draft Law "On Combating Human Trafficking" with the participation of the Commissioner for Human Rights, representatives of State bodies, and international and non-governmental organizations. The Concept defines "human trafficking" and "identification of victims of human trafficking", provides for interdepartmental coordination and interaction, and extends assistance to victims of human trafficking, including foreigners who have become victims in the country, etc. Preparation of the concept of the draft law is planned until the end of September 2022.

L. Anti-corruption reforms. Results of the first visit of the experts of the Group of States on Combating Corruption ("GRECO")

Combating corruption is a priority in the country's strategic development. Systemic and comprehensive anti-corruption measures are being implemented in this direction with the involvement of civil society. Due to this, in the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index for 2021, Kazakhstan scored 37 points out of 100 possible, taking 102nd place among 180 countries.^{xxv} The strategic goal is to achieve 47 points by the end of 2025, and 55 points by 2030.

On March 25, 2022, following the results of the first visit of GRECO experts, a country report with 27 recommendations for improving the country's anti-corruption system was approved.

Kazakhstan is working towards a fundamental change in public consciousness and rejection of any form of corruption by the population. The President in his Address to the People of Kazakhstan dated September 1, 2021 called for development of a new strategic document to further the fight against corruption, including "household" corruption. For this purpose, on February 2, 2022, the Concept of Anti-Corruption Policy for 2022-2026 and the Action Plan for its

implementation were approved. The reforms laid down therein are the main reference points of the anti-corruption agenda in the medium term.

Active interaction with foreign and international partners continues. In 2021, a first visit of the GRECO evaluation team in Kazakhstan took place. The experts assessed the anti-corruption system for its compliance with international standards. During the visit, meetings of experts were held with representatives of state bodies, the civil sector, the media, and professional associations. Based on the results of March 25, 2022, at the regular plenary meeting of GRECO, a country report was adopted, which contains 27 recommendations for improving the country's anti-corruption system. Many of the recommendations are in line with the Anti-Corruption Policy Concept for 2022-2026, while others are being worked on with the active involvement of government agencies and the non-governmental sector. Kazakhstan will update GRECO with information on their implementation by September 2023.

In March 2022, in order to broadly inform the society about the results of implementing the anti-corruption policy of Kazakhstan, the national anti-corruption report for 2021 was published. It highlights the work of the anti-corruption service itself and other state bodies, subjects of the quasi-public sector and the public in this direction, as well as the adopted legislative and practical measures for anti-corruption education, prevention of corruption, and the inevitability of liability.

The report shows that the number of cases of corruption registered in Kazakhstan has decreased by 29 percent. This happened due to systematic preventive work, and the transition to a three-tier model of the justice system.

Parole for persons convicted of grave and especially grave corruption crimes has been canceled, sanctions have been tightened against judges and law enforcement officers, and a ban has been introduced for officials to hold accounts in foreign banks. The competence of the authorized body for combating corruption has been expanded to identify and suppress administrative offenses with the right to draw up protocols on administrative offenses.

A complete ban has been introduced on giving and receiving gifts to public servants and persons equated to them, (according to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on combating Corruption) and members of their families, in connection with the official powers of these persons. There are also restrictions on the joint work of civil servants and persons equated to them with close relatives, spouses, and in-laws.

Since 2019, the law imposes personal responsibility on managers for corruption of subordinates and weak preventive work.

As a result, 11 political civil servants have already been dismissed, 265 top managers (of which 135 administrative civil servants, 109 heads of the power unit

In the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index for 2021, Kazakhstan scored 37 points, taking 102 place.

By the end of 2025, it is planned to achieve 47 points.

On February 2, 2022, a new strategic document was adopted to further the fight against corruption, including "domestic".

In March 2022, the country's national anti-corruption report for 2021 was published.

The report says that the number of corruption cases registered in Kazakhstan has decreased by 29 percent.

and 21 top managers of the quasi-public sector) have been brought to disciplinary responsibility.

Since February 2020, a branched system of rewarding citizens for reporting facts of corruption has been successfully implemented as part of an effort to establish zero tolerance for corruption and to involve civil society in the prevention of corruption. The government pays rewards, depending on the size of the bribe or the damage caused, instead of a fixed amount, which was the case previously. Over the past three years, 518 citizens have been rewarded for reporting evidence of corruption in the amount of more than 102 million tenge.

From January 2021, the 1st stage of the general declaration of income and property by civil servants and persons equated to them, as well as their spouses, began.^{xxvi} At the second stage (from January 1, 2023), employees of state institutions and their spouses, as well as employees of subjects of the quasi-public sector and their spouses will be required to submit a declaration. At the third stage – from 2024 – heads and founders (participants) of legal entities and their spouses, and individual entrepreneurs and their spouses will be required to report.

Other international standards are also being introduced. One of them is the introduction and use of anti-corruption policy in the corporate sector. Today, more than 6,000 quasi-public and private sector entities have implemented compliance programs. Additional amendments to the law have been prepared to strengthen anti-corruption compliance. The legislation is currently under consideration in the Mazhilis.

Kazakhstan plans to submit a number of proposals for anti-corruption legislation for discussion. Among them: creation of a public register of corrupt officials as one of the methods of combating corruption; introduction of criminal liability for the promise/offer of a bribe; improvement of legal mechanisms of responsibility for failure to take measures to combat corruption; liability of legal entities for committing corruption offenses; lengthening the duration of the statute of limitations for corrupt administrative offenses; and amending the Code of Administrative Offenses to accede to the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions.

The amendments are scheduled to be submitted to the Parliament in 2023.

M. Rights of national minorities. Kazakh diplomat as OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities

The Constitution of Kazakhstan guarantees the equal rights of citizens regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, membership in social groups, and public

Conditional early release for persons convicted of serious and especially serious corruption crimes has been canceled. Sanctions against judges and law enforcement officers have been tightened. A ban has been introduced for officials to own accounts in foreign banks. There is an institute of personal responsibility of managers for the corruption of subordinates.

A system has been introduced to encourage citizens to report corruption. Over the past three years, 518 citizens have used the system.

More than 6,000 quasi-public and private sector entities have implemented compliance services.

associations. The Government's actions proceed from the principle of "unity in diversity".

Last year's election of a candidate from Kazakhstan to the post of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities is a recognition Kazakhstan's efforts to promote diversity. Kazakh diplomat K.K. Abdrakhmanov officially took office in 2021 and became the first representative of the CIS and Central Asian countries to take up a post in the leadership of the OSCE.^{xxvii}

Kazakhstan is actively cooperating with international organizations. On April 21-22, 2022 in Geneva at the 106th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Republic of Kazakhstan defended the eighth-tenth consolidated periodic report on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, prepared jointly with representatives of ethno-cultural associations and independent human rights experts. During the dialogue, the Kazakh side provided explanations and answers to questions from international experts.

Today, representatives of more than 100 ethnic groups live in peace and harmony in Kazakhstan. There are more than 1,000 ethno-cultural associations and their branches in the country, 33 of them national. The analysis of the interethnic situation in 2021 showed that the majority of Kazakhstanis assess the interethnic situation as calm (58.9 percent) and prosperous (35.2 percent). 75.6 percent of the surveyed population noted the absence of violations of rights based on ethnicity.

The level of satisfaction of the population with the state policy in the field of ensuring interethnic harmony is 85.9 percent. These figures indicate the overall effectiveness of the functioning of the Kazakh model of peace and harmony. By 2026, it is planned to increase the level of strengthening social harmony and unity to 80.9 percent, tolerance among the ethnic groups of Kazakhstan to 69.5 percent, and the level of social well-being of the ethnic groups of Kazakhstan to 77.5 percent.

Work is underway to involve various ethnic groups in a single socio-cultural space. To this end, more than 174 Sunday schools operate in the regions, in which there are 124 groups for teaching the state language, and 50 for the native language. There are 40 Friendship Houses in the Republic, which are the most important resource, cultural, and methodological centers for ethno-cultural associations. In each of the 17 regions there are state institutions "Kogamdyk kelisim". 52 ethnic media outlets in 10 languages and 4 ethnic theaters are registered in the country, and 9 newspapers in Kazakh, Russian, Korean, German, Turkish,

Kazakhstan proceeds from the principle of "unity in diversity".

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By 2026, it is planned to increase the level of strengthening social harmony and unity to 80.9 percent.

On April 21-22, 2022, Kazakhstan defended the eighth-tenth consolidated periodic report on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in Geneva.

The Kazakh diplomat has officially assumed the post of OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities since 2021. He became the first representative of the CIS and Central Asian countries to take up a post in the OSCE leadership.

Uighur, Uzbek, English, and Azerbaijani languages are published on a regular basis.

The Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan (APK) is an important element of the political system of Kazakhstan, and for 25 years has been helping to ensure constructive dialogue, public harmony and unity among all ethnic groups. The Chairman of the APK is the President, who is the guarantor of the rights and freedoms of citizens.

A draft Concept for the development of the APK until 2026 has been developed. The purpose of the Concept is to ensure the participation of the APK in the development of state policy to strengthen social harmony and unity based on the principles of Kazakhstani patriotism, civil equality, etc.

In Kazakhstan, within the framework of the Presidential Address of March 16, 2022, the formation of the legislative branch of government is being transformed. One of those reforms moves members of the APK from the Mazhilis to the upper chamber, the Senate. Senators from the APK will represent the whole set of interests of ethnic groups of Kazakhstan on the basis of national integration and ethno-cultural diversity. An effective and transparent procedure for selecting candidates for deputies of the Senate will be reflected in the updated Law “On the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan”.

Today, the activities of the APK are aimed not only at the realization of the goals of national unity, but also at the development of language learning, the institute of mediation, charity, and the accreditation of ethnic and cultural associations of the country. The public structures of the APK are actively working with the population of the country.

To date, 341 dialogue platforms have been opened under the auspices of the APK.^{xxviii} In all regions of the country, there are 2,590 Councils of Public Accord of the APK, which include 18,734 active representatives of ethnic groups. These councils provide assistance to the population in cooperation with government agencies, as well as charitable assistance to the poor, large families, lonely elderly people, and citizens with disabilities. There are 1,837 Councils of Mothers of the APK, which are constantly working to improve the status of the family, increase the value of the family, promote the patriotic education of youth in order to attract young people to active participation in public life, increase political literacy, develop citizenship and education, and maintain unity and harmony in the country.

The Councils of Mediation of the APK take an active part in efforts to preserve social harmony and unity. In total, there are 1 national and 19 regional Mediation Councils that resolve controversial issues of various kinds among representatives of ethnic groups. There are 17 mediation offices at Friendship Houses. In 2021, more than 4,700 appeals were allowed, of which 1,919 were resolved by the conclusion of a mediation agreement and 2,780 were resolved at the consultation stage.

From 2022, deputies from the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan will be represented in the Senate, not in the Mazhilis of the Parliament.

Senators from the APK will represent the whole set of interests of ethnic groups of Kazakhstan.

Currently, a draft Concept for the development of the APK until 2026 has been developed. The purpose of the Concept is to ensure the participation of the APK in the development of state policy to strengthen social harmony and unity.

N. The right to a favorable environment and the promotion of a green agenda. Implementation of the new Environmental Code

Environmental protection and ecological development are at the forefront of Kazakhstan's agenda.

Since July 1, 2021, a new Environmental Code has been in effect, which assumes a transition to higher environmental standards of the OECD.^{xxix} Its tasks are to ensure a high level of environmental protection through the implementation of state regulation, prevention of environmental damage in any form, ensuring the elimination of the consequences of environmental damage caused, tightening responsibility for violation of environmental legislation, ensuring environmental safety, etc. The principles of "polluter pays", "corrects", and "prevents" have been introduced. Such conditions encourage companies to avoid negative impact on the environment and introduce the most modern available "green" technologies into production.

The Government is implementing systemic reforms to apply the best international green practices. Since July 29, 2020, a plan for the transition to a "green economy" for 2021-2030 is being implemented. The plan is aimed at the careful use of water, encouraging and stimulating development, and the widespread introduction of renewable energy technologies.^{xxx}

The national project "Zhasyl Kazakhstan" and Roadmaps for improving the environmental situation in the context of regions have been approved, including 485 measures until 2025. Memoranda have been signed with 16 large enterprises, according to which it is planned to reduce emissions from 20% to 30% in the ten most polluted cities. It is expected that their implementation will reduce the index of atmospheric pollution.

As a party to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Kazakhstan plans to reduce greenhouse gases by 15 percent by 2030. In April 2021, Kazakhstan put forward an initiative to create a Regional Hub in Central Asia on climate issues in the country, aimed at combining efforts to ensure "green" economic growth in the region.

In December 2020, President Tokayev announced Kazakhstan's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2060. At the moment, a strategy is being developed to achieve carbon neutrality of the country until

Since July 1, 2021, a new Environmental Code has been in effect, which assumes a transition to higher environmental standards of the OECD. The principle of "the polluter pays and corrects" has been introduced.

On December 30, 2021, the President signed the Law "On Responsible Treatment of Animals".

From September 1, 2023, the accounting of pets will be introduced.

In December 2020, the President announced that Kazakhstan would become a carbon-neutral state by 2060.

A strategy is being developed to achieve the country's carbon neutrality by 2060.

Kazakhstan plans to reduce greenhouse gases by 15 percent by 2030.

In April 2021, Kazakhstan launched an initiative to create a Regional hub in Central Asia on climate issues in the country.

The national project "Zhasyl Kazakhstan" and Roadmaps for improving the environmental situation have been approved.

Memoranda have been signed with 16 large enterprises. In the ten most polluted cities, it is planned to reduce emissions up to 30 percent.

2060. The Strategy includes such important areas as the international climate agenda, approaches, stages, and scenarios of development, as well as mechanisms for achieving carbon neutrality.

All these measures contribute to achieving the long-term global goal of maintaining a global temperature increase of no more than two degrees Celsius.

Since March 2, 2022, the Law “On the Responsible Treatment of Animals”, developed jointly with the civil sector, has been in force.^{xxxii} The law introduces liability for cruelty to animals and regulates treatment of animals in order to protect animals, ensure the safety, rights, and other legitimate interests of citizens when treating animals, as well as strengthening morality and observing the principles of humane society. The obligation of the owner to ensure the necessary conditions of detention and the timely provision of veterinary care and the implementation of the prevention of animal diseases is provided.

Starting September 1, 2023, pet owners will have to register their pets. Registration will be carried out at the expense of the owners, but for socially vulnerable segments of the population this service will be paid by the state.

In order to centralize all announcements on public hearings on the environmental impact of planned activities, a Single environmental portal has been created .

VIII. Sources of additional information

ⁱRepublic of Kazakhstan and UN treaty bodies
https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=Ru&CountryID=89;

ⁱⁱ Official website of the European Union
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/kazakhstan-statement-spokesperson-constitutional-referendum_en;

ⁱⁱⁱ Official website of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/enbek?lang=ru>;

^{iv} Official website of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<https://www.akorda.kz/ru>;

^v Official website of the Center for Support of Civil Initiatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<https://cisc.kz/ru/>;

^{vi} Official website of the Ministry of Information and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/qogam?lang=ru>

^{vii} KAZKENES.kz - a single portal about the activities of Public Councils
<https://kazkenes.kz/ru/>;

^{viii} Official website of the United Nations Kazakhstan
<https://kazakhstan.un.org/en/sdgs>;

^{ix} High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
<https://hlpf.un.org/countries/kazakhstan/voluntary-national-review-2022>;

^x Official website of the French edition of “Drapeau rouge”
<https://www.drapeaurouge.fr/2021/03/10/delicate-rapatriement-enfants-daesh/>

^{xi} The official website of the newspaper of the European Union "New Europe" - the leading newspaper of the EU
<https://www.neweurope.eu/article/kazakhs-return-home-from-syria/>

^{xii} Official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/mfa?lang=ru>

^{xiii} “Adilet” Information and legal system normative legal acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan (<https://adilet.zan.kz/rus>);

^{xiv} Official information resource of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan (<https://primeminister.kz/ru>);

^{xv} Official website of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/edu?lang=ru>;

^{xvi} Official Website Stop pedofil.kz <https://stoppedofil.kz/ru/>;

^{xvii} Official website of the World Economic Forum
<https://www.weforum.org/reports/global-gender-gap-report-2022>);

^{xviii} Official website of the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Civil Service Affairs
<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/qyzmet/press/news/details/170252?lang=ru>;

^{xix} Information portal social protection of persons with disabilities
<https://inva.gov.kz/ru>);

^{xx}Official website of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/dsm?lang=ru>;

^{xxi}Official website of “eGov” public services and information online
https://egov.kz/cms/ru/articles/open_gov;

^{xxii}Official website of the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/mdai?lang=ru>;

^{xxiii}Official website of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/enbek?lang=ru>;

^{xxiv}Official website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/qriim?lang=ru>;

^{xxv}Official Transparency International website
<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2021/index/kaz>;

^{xxvi}Official website of the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/anticorruption?lang=ru>;

^{xxvii}Official website of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
<https://www.osce.org/hcnm>;

^{xxviii}Official website of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan
<https://assembly.kz/ru/>;

^{xxix}Official website of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<https://www.akorda.kz/public/ru>;

^{xxx}Official website of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/ecogeo?lang=ru>

^{xxxi}Official website of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
(<https://www.akorda.kz/public/ru>);