

POST 2015

THE FUTURE WE WANT

NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN KAZAKHSTAN



May 2013

The United Nations Country Team in Kazakhstan

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multi Indicator Cluster Survey
MLSP	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
RH	Reproductive health
R&D	Research and development
TB	Tuberculosis
TIR	Convention on the International Transport of Goods
UNAIDS	Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WHO	World Health Organization

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report on the post 2015 national consultations in Kazakhstan reflects a great deal of work conducted by the UN Country Team from October 2012 to March 2013.

The role of the UN staff was instrumental in driving this process from its early stages, organizing consultative events, and providing constructive feedback on this outcome report. Their dedication and contribution is highly appreciated.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their tremendous support and co-ownership of the national consultations. Also the active participation of the Akimats of Mangistau and Kyzylorda oblasts, and of Astana and Almaty cities is also highly appreciated.

A special thank you goes to participating civil society organizations and local communities for their genuine and valuable contribution to discussions. We enjoyed support from entrepreneurs, women, young people and children, people living with HIV/AIDS, people with disabilities, oralmans and others.

I would like to thank, on behalf of the UN Country Team, Ms. Nargiza Juraboeva as the main author of the report and Ms. Dina Khassenova for effective coordination of the process.

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Introduction

Kazakhstan has been identified by the UN Development Group as one of 50 countries to undertake national consultations on the post 2015 global sustainable agenda and is one of 7 countries in Eastern Europe and the CIS region to propose its global vision.¹ In Kazakhstan national consultations were held engaging more than 2,000 people from October 2012 to March 2013. Major consultative events took place in the cities of Astana, Aktau, Almaty and Kyzylorda supported by the Government of Kazakhstan. The main objective was to stimulate an inclusive debate on development challenges and to agree on recommendations for the new global agenda. Inclusivity was highlighted as the main precondition for consultations in order to get a balanced view of existing and future challenges. This report is the result of an open and participatory process that brought together government, civil society, private sector, trade unions, academia, young people, local communities and vulnerable groups. Ideas and recommendations put forward in this report are the *main highlights* of this open dialogue.

Consultations emphasized the need to continue efforts on achieving unmet MDGs, including health and environmental sustainability targets, as well as targets introduced in 2007 related to poverty reduction, education and gender. There is a strong consensus that MDGs remain of high relevance, especially in a growing quest for bridging inequality gaps. Challenges raised resonate among participants that belong to various groups; however, differences are observed in prioritizing those challenges. Overall, the common development challenges most emphasized in the four consultation cities are: 1) environmental protection; 2) health; and 3) peace and security. Other areas noted strongly are: infrastructure, green economy, employment, good governance, local development, education, gender, culture and issues related to the well-being and professionalism of young people.

Infrastructure, green economy and health were strongly raised by government representatives, while NGOs and civil society were more concerned about the state of the environment, protecting vulnerable, and good governance. Issues related to health and education were voiced equally by various groups. Peace and security is seen as important for government and NGOs, to a lesser degree for vulnerable groups and local communities. Similarly, the latter two prioritize employment and local development. Interestingly, young people, family and cultural values were given considerable attention during discussions with a common view shared by various groups of participants. Outcomes of consultations did not come as a surprise to the government during the Steering Committee meeting. On the contrary, additional insights were provided reinforcing the consultation findings.

This report puts forward recommendations for the global post 2015 agenda, based on the outcomes of consultations and with due consideration of global development challenges. Nationally, many participants view the new agenda as consisting of unmet MDGs and complemented by additional goals and targets. A number of interviews with government officials, as well as with senior UN management, helped to sketch the potential structure of the new agenda and its content, so that it addresses interests of all states. As such, discussions suggest that the content of the new agenda be organized around the following pillars: 1) Inclusive Social Development; 2) Equitable Economic Development; 3) Good Governance; 4) Environmental Sustainability; and 5) Peace and Security. These pillars cover a wide range of critical challenges vital for sustainable and equitable development and reflect the views of various stakeholders.

¹ More countries expressed their interest in holding national consultations on post 2015, currently exceeding 100 countries, of which 14 are in Eastern Europe and the CIS region.

Lessons from Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan presents a unique case of development in Eastern Europe and the CIS region. The country jumped on a fast speed train of economic growth and has benefited from this ride since 1999. It is an upper middle-income country with steadily increasing GDP per capita. Relatively high social indicators helped Kazakhstan to focus on economic growth. GDP in real terms has grown sharply from 2.74% in 1999 to 10.7% in 2006, largely due to an increase of prices in the world market for oil, metals and grain. Growth started to slow from 2007 because of the global financial crises, and in 2012 the GDP growth rate reached 5.5%. GDP per capita grew 8 fold, from 1,500 USD in 1998 to 12,000 USD in 2012.² Kazakhstan's rich oil and gas reserves helped to bring the country where it is today. Success, however, lies in the government's ability to utilize its resource-gained wealth for further investment into the economy. The government is well aware that strong dependence on natural reserves makes it vulnerable to external shocks and thus recognizes the need to diversify the economy and to invest into the social sector to improve living standards. Economic and social development is more and more seen as a two-way street in Kazakhstan, in which long-term economic development should gain from advances in human development.

Good progress has been made in implementing Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the national level. Global goals have helped Kazakhstan to focus on some of the main areas to improve the well-being of its population, and the country can show that improvements are possible within a short period of time given a strong political will. While still off-track on health MDGs, notable progress is made in reducing child and maternal mortality, and modernization is seen in many areas of life. The health sector receives a sizable portion of public expenditure, and the government is investing in its human capital, which for Kazakhstan is a prerequisite for long-term development. It also recognizes that inequalities do exist and that "the society still contains an imbalance that affects people's moral and social expectations."³ Such recognition in the national strategy is important in order to guide and implement development processes in the most efficient way.

In 2011 Kazakhstan ranked number 69 out of 187 countries on the Human Development Index.⁴ The Gini index was estimated at 29 in 2009.⁵ At present, 5.3% of population is living below minimum subsistence level, with 8.8% concentrated in rural areas.⁶ The main causes of poverty are unemployment and low incomes, which hit vulnerable groups of the society especially hard: young people, people living in rural areas and people living with disabilities. According to official data only 0.5% of the population live on income below the cost of the food consumption basket⁷. The country has put forward an additional MDG target to reduce the number of people living below the minimum subsistence level in rural areas by 2015. Such efforts need to be complemented by increasing the minimum subsistence level to allow for higher well-being. Kazakhstan's 2050 target of becoming one of 30 most developed countries in the world was often cited during discussions. While its economic growth rates are impressive,

² "Kazakhstan 2050" National Development Strategy, <http://www.akorda.kz> (data in current USD).

³ Ibid.

⁴ UNDP Global Human Development Report, 2012.

⁵ With 0 representing perfect equality and 100 perfect inequality. World Bank indicators.

⁶ Minimum wages amount to 17,439 tenge (approx. \$119). Average wage is 98,736 tenge in 2012. Minimum subsistence level is 16,119 tenge (approx. \$110) as of May 2012. *Kazakhstan legislation update*. BMF legal advisors group, January 2012.

⁷ Statistics Agency of the RoK, <http://www.stat.kz>

participants expressed hope for such growth to mirror the well-being of the entire population, i.e. “the minimum wage needs to increase so that the quality of life corresponds to the country’s economic strength.”

Kazakhstan has taken environment as a priority. As a way of addressing environmental challenges the government is currently paving a path for greening its economy by introducing clean technologies for greater energy efficiency, longer-term cost-saving and, more importantly, for reducing environmental health hazards. EXPO 2017 on clean energy is bound to give an additional impetus to Kazakhstan’s green economy. The country is already a producer and exporter of wind and solar technologies. It is foreseen that large investment will be made into greening initiatives, and it is hoped that such investments serve the benefit of the population at large.

Kazakhstan is an example of a forward-looking state, and the depth of its thirst for development can be seen from its national strategies. The President has recently announced a new vision for the country’s development as outlined in the country’s long-term strategy “Kazakhstan 2050”⁸. The strategy highlights a number of areas related to health, social imbalances, professional skills, professional state, regional and global security, and sets ambitious targets for the renewable energy sector. It also highlights that “[t]he global economic crisis is transforming into a socio-political one, which will inevitably affect Kazakhstan and test our durability. Therefore, one of the key issues on our agenda is social security and social stability.”⁹

Today, the country is proud of its achievements and its role in the global arena. It puts effort into portraying itself as a good global citizen and a good neighbour by actively participating in international relations. Kazakhstan has taken a firm stand on promoting nuclear non-proliferation as its contribution to global stability and security. It is the first post-soviet country to chair the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The country prides itself on becoming a centre for global inter-religious dialogue and hosts the Congress of World Religions on regular basis. The London 2012 Olympic Games was yet another triumph for Kazakhstan to showcase its strength in the area of sports. In 2012 Kazakhstan ranked 51st on economic competitiveness and aims to enter the group of top 30 largest global economies by 2050 as outlined in the country’s new national strategy.¹⁰

Donor agencies mentioned that one of Kazakhstan’s success stories of change is that the government has become open to accepting challenges that exist in society, more and more so in recent years. This is also seen from open discussions during consultations, where government representatives participate in a healthy debate. This is recognized as a big step forward in addressing social issues and many are reflected in the government’s development strategies today.

Kazakhstan could become an example of the UN’s work in a middle-income country. There are some projects that today are co-financed by the UN and the government, and the country is unique in the way that it has resources to tackle development challenges. If such cooperation is expanded to promote joint work in a number of areas and engaging expertise of the wider UN community, not only could Kazakhstan become a model for the UN’s work in the middle income country context, it could also better utilize its access to the UN’s technical expertise and global knowledge in solving complex challenges on its way to sustainable development.

⁸ <http://www.akorda.kz>

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

Preliminary Outcomes of National Consultations

National consultations were held from October 2012 to March 2013 with participation of various stakeholders, including national and local authorities, NGOs, expert community, young people, academia, private sector entrepreneurs, employers, trade unions, and representatives of vulnerable groups. This proved to be an open and enriching discussion with a variety of critical views raised on a number of aspects of social well-being. Outcomes of consultations proved that issues that are being raised in Kazakhstan go well beyond basic needs and rural livelihoods. While vulnerable groups are certainly recognized to be central to stability and well-being, many of the issues are at a level that requires strengthening of the system and establishment of new mechanisms that would allow closing existing loopholes in order to further improve the quality of life.

Various vulnerable groups were identified as requiring more attention from society: people living with disabilities; children and young people, including orphans and marginalized youth; women; people living with HIV/AIDS; internal and external migrants.

Issues raised range from a grass root local context to issues of regional security that are more global in scope. Below are the main thematic areas that were revealed as priority areas based on national consultations. The results of these informal discussions with a wide range of partners will contribute not only to the global agenda, but may also help design new programmes to effectively address critical issues that are faced by Kazakhstan's society.

Environmental Sustainability

Environmental Sustainability is recognized as a priority challenge that Kazakhstan is facing today and is a priority area for the future. There are high degrees of environmental pollution in the country with certain parts of the country suffering from absence or shortage of clean drinking water, air pollution, land degradation, poor waste management and sanitation. Participants from the south of the country are concerned about drying up of the Aral Sea (70% of which has disappeared¹¹) and the Syrdarya riverbed negatively impacting ecosystems. Overall, 60% of land is said to be affected today, which has implications on agriculture, food security and hence on the quality of life.

Access to drinking water is the biggest concern across the country, as consultations suggests. The problem is acute for all groups of population, and especially in areas such as Mangistau oblast, where tap water in households is not suitable for drinking. Access to drinking water was also identified as a top priority for development in a

Basic Facts	
Forest cover	12.4 mln. he (2011) 11.1mln. he (2000)
Access to water taps	65.2% (2011) 53.3 (2002)
CO2 per capita*	14.25 met. tons (2009) 8.54 met. tons (2000)
Household access to drinking water from decentralized sources	17.8 % (2011) 19.5% (2002)
Access to drinking water from public pumps	11.1% (2011) 16.5% (2002)
Access to drinking water from public wells	1.9% (2011) 5.4% (2002)

Sources: Statistics Agency of the RoK.

*MDG Indicators <http://mdgs.un.org>

¹¹ *Hopes for Disappearing Aral Sea*, The Watchers. <http://thewatchers.adorraeli.com>

post 2015 national on-line survey (see annex 2). It was mentioned that capacities of water filtering plants are not sufficient to meet the demand, and water supply networks have become outdated.¹² In addition, an incredibly large amount of fresh water is used in agriculture, 82% of available fresh water, in the sector that contributes only 4.8% of GDP. Most of this water is wasted due to existing inefficiencies in water management. Strategy “Kazakhstan 2050” highlights that the society needs to stop wasting water, which is one of the most precious natural resources that the country has. It says that “Kazakhstan must, once and for all, solve the water supply problem by 2050.”¹³ The Government is currently implementing an “Ak Bulak” programme on expanding water supply networks; however, these efforts have not yet eased the situation and public concern.

Quality of available drinking water is also under question. National water quality standards are in place but need to be improved along with monitoring systems. A local community just outside of Astana referred to a case when the national body on water management infused chlorine into the community well. “We have taken a sample of water to an independent company based in Astana for quality check. The level of chlorine in water was several times above the norm,” said community representatives.

The issue of *air pollution* was brought up during Astana, Almaty and Kyzylorda consultations as a contributing factor to poor health, morbidity, and possibly influencing reproduction. The rate of respiratory diseases increased rapidly during recent years. Air pollution is largely a result of emissions from industrial parks and poor quality of fuel used for transport, filling the air with hazardous pollutants. Alatau Mountains were famous for their beauty,” said one of the participants. “There is no such beauty seen today and this is worrying. Mountain peaks no longer have white icing on them, which is also a reason why there is less water in rivers. Air gets polluted also as a consequence of forest fires in Russia. It is impossible to breathe the air as it is filled with smoke at times.”

Concerns were raised over resource extraction in the *Caspian Sea*. Environmental NGOs of Mangistau oblast noted that the state monitoring of the Caspian Sea is not sufficiently effective to prevent contamination of seawater. With intensification of oil and gas extraction there is a risk of oil spills, especially due to extreme weather conditions in aquatoria of the Caspian Sea. This can negatively affect the whole ecosystem and the population because the sea remains the only source of water for local residents. Contingency plans are in place, but need to be revised and strengthened due to intensification of the oil industry. Insurance policies are limited and the population is not protected properly from risks associated with water. It was noted that in the case of an oil spill in the Caspian equivalent to what happened in the Gulf of Mexico, it is highly unlikely that the situation can be resolved immediately.

Waste and sanitation is an issue for NGOs and academia circles, especially in major cities. Waste landfills affect peoples’ health, poison the environment and sanitation, not to mention aesthetics of neighbourhoods. On the one hand participants are concerned about health and safety, on the other hand, about the image that Kazakhstan portrays to the world. The latter is associated with people’s careless attitude towards the environment. Participants asked that regional and local authorities be held accountable for keeping cities, as well as rural areas, clean. It was suggested that there must be improvement in timely collection of waste and waste recycling.

¹² *Regional Review: Water supply and sanitation in the countries of Central Asia and Southern Caucasus*. Global Water Partnership, Central Asia and Caucasus, 2009.

¹³ Strategy “Kazakhstan 2050”, <http://www.akorda.kz>

Climate Change is recognized as a global challenge, implications of which are seen today and expected to increase if no collective action is taken. It must be noted that participants were more outspoken about challenges that affect them directly (like drinking water, air pollution, social services) and perhaps given the global nature of the issue of climate change, this has been brought up in passing. There is, however, a general understanding that climate change contributes to land degradation, adversely affecting agricultural harvest, food security and people's livelihoods. Potential risks of water scarcity and natural disasters inevitably lead to increased migration, as people leave affected lands in search of better living conditions. Kazakhstan is one of highest CO2 emitters (14 metric tons of CO2 per capita in 2009), and it is foreseen that the country needs to take measures to reduce its emissions domestically, as well as promote CO2 reduction in the international arena.

Overall, participants are concerned about implications of environmental changes on the population's health, future livelihoods, including potential dislocations of population. Effects of environmental degradation are especially visible during the last few decades and within one generation. There is an understanding that the cost of not taking action can be detrimental. Future policies will therefore need to link environmental issues with broader human development and population issues. Participants have asked for the government to initiate comprehensive assessments on the implications of the environment on people's health in various parts of the country, as well as taking decisive actions in stopping and reversing environmental degradation.

Regional Security

Conflicts around the world were noted as worrying, including instabilities in the Arab region and the spillover effect that such conflicts may have on other parts of the globe. Regional cooperation and security is becoming critically important in order for nations to have guarantees of security. The fact that every state in Central Asia is developing on its own, with varying degrees of progress, keeps the region off balance. Government representatives and civil society agree that it is imperative for Kazakhstan to remain strong, in order to sustain a degree of regional stability and not to allow Central Asia to collapse economically. It was also expressed that greater cooperation is required with neighbouring states to address common challenges, which include environmental issues, labour migration, overall social and economic development, as well as the potential threat from Afghanistan as NATO allies withdraw their troops in 2014. There is a risk that withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan may increase drug trafficking, religious extremism and terrorism. According to recent reports, already today traffickers have access to a well-developed road and rail network to transfer opiates through Kazakhstan to Russia's markets. Increase in general trade flows between Central Asia and Russia, as well as a growing number of TIR trucks (under an international road transport convention) in the region give reasons to suspect that drug trafficking organizations are blending into licit flows by misusing TIR agreements. In addition, the recent customs union agreement between Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus, will make Kazakhstan the last customs check before the EU borders, which calls for strengthening of border management in the region.¹⁴

Labour migration was also discussed as a matter of regional security. A special consultative meeting dedicated to regional security and migration and represented by various ministries and NGOs emphasized the vulnerable position of labour migrants in Kazakhstan and the need for better monitoring and targeted assistance. While labour migrants arrive to the country in search of better economic opportunities, trends of migration are also seen as having potential

¹⁴ *Opiate Flows through Northern Afghanistan and Central Asia: A Threat Assessment*, May 2012.

threats to regional security. These include potential inflow of religious associations that are banned in Kazakhstan, as well as mass movements of population following withdrawal of NATO troops from the south of the region, which may impact migration dynamics in Central Asia.

Trends of *internal migration* are also increasing. For example, more people from Shymkent, Karaganda, and Ekibastuz come to Astana in search of work. On the one hand, NGOs say that ignoring the situation of migrants in the labour force and social spectrum may cause unrest and instability. On the other hand, government representatives emphasize that the country needs to help its own citizens first, and that improved living conditions of Kazakhstan’s population will have a favourable impact on migrants. The representative from the Ministry of Economy noted that the new strategy “Kazakhstan 2050” foresees developing a plan of action on migration and that NGOs can provide formal recommendations to this plan.

Food security was featured in the discussions on regional and global security. Kazakhstan is the 6th leading producer of wheat in the world. The country also produces barley, oats, corn and rice and supplies the markets of Central Asia and exports beyond. Food security risks are seen in population movements, as more people leave rural areas; climate change implications; absence of insurance for farmers; insufficient investments into the agricultural sector; and lack of qualified human capital in farming. Sustaining a strong agricultural sector in Kazakhstan is hugely important not only to supply the domestic market, but also to balance the supply for the global market.

Access to water is also seen as a matter of regional security, especially given that waters of Central Asia originate in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan. Government representatives, environmental NGOs and academia circles are concerned about the level of cross border cooperation among neighbouring states on division of water – a vitally important source for a country that experiences lack of it for livelihoods and agriculture. There have been a number of attempts for regional cooperation on water issues; however, this remains a contentious dilemma, which keeps Kazakhstan in a vulnerable position.

Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure is identified as a development area for post 2015. Government representatives are eager for the country to build transport connectivity domestically and abroad. This includes transport roads and railways. Kazakhstan is a landlocked, transcontinental country in Central Asia. Its geographical location provides a unique opportunity to develop transport links between China and Europe and establish itself as a primary provider of transportation logistics in the region. Today, there are oblasts that are poorly connected even within the country. This complicates economic growth through domestic and foreign trade for areas with high potential, as well as affects the overall mobility of population. Investments in transport infrastructure can widen access to world markets, tremendously boosting economies of scale and business competitiveness. This in turn may create more jobs for people. The main challenge is in large investments that such openness to markets requires, especially given Kazakhstan’s large territory and low population density that makes is rather difficult to

Basic Facts	
Households with central sewage	53% (2011) 45.6 (2006)
Electricity consumption per capita**	4,728kWh (2010) 3,170kWh (2000)
Energy use per capita, in kg of oil**	4,595 (2010) 2,397 (2000)
Number of deaths from road accidents*	3,424 (2011)
Telephone lines per 100 people	25.8 (2011) 16.3 (2003)
Internet users per 100 people	45.9 (2011) 15.1 (2008)

Source: Statistics Agency of the RoK.

*World Health Rankings, WHO.

** World Bank data

justify large investments. In the long-term, however, better transport links will have favourable impact on the cost and mobility of goods and people, and increased trade.

Kazakhstan has the highest energy intensity for its level of development and among countries with similar GDP¹⁵. In 2011 primary energy consumption increased by 2% (+5.7% in 2010). Energy intensity (energy consumption per unit of GDP) declined by 1.1% in 2011 and still remains three times higher than the European Union average.¹⁶ The industrial sector consumes most of the energy. Household heating demand in the country is also high, at a time when heating distribution networks are outdated, often due to external and internal corrosion of distribution pipes. In Kazakhstan, corrosion is intensified by the use of open heating water systems, which suffer from poor water treatment and require continuous refills of fresh water. The energy sector is one of the seven priorities in “Kazakhstan 2030” strategy and is recognized as a global energy security challenge in “Kazakhstan 2050”, highlighting the need for renewable energy sources. The main objectives are to attract foreign investment, technology and know-how, and to form long-term stable partnerships with major international companies, with an ultimate aim of establishing an energy efficient infrastructure - a necessity for Kazakhstan’s move to green economy.

Academia circles and UN representatives raised concerns over safety of roads in Kazakhstan. WHO data confirms that compared to developed or developing countries with similar GDP, Kazakhstan’s roads are far from safe. The number of casualties per million population in Kazakhstan is at least 5 times higher than in developed countries including Japan, Norway, and Germany; and more than 2 times higher than in Armenia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.¹⁷ According to 2011 WHO data, fatalities from road accidents contribute 2.21% to the total number of deaths, placing Kazakhstan number 64 in the world ranking for road traffic accidents.¹⁸ Better road infrastructure will play positively on the number of fatalities. According to the estimates of the Asian Development Bank, by 2040 more than 800 lives could be saved every year with an upgrade of the 13,000 km of the Asian Highway within Kazakhstan¹⁹.

There are a number of programmes underway to address transport and energy efficiency issues. If Kazakhstan aims to achieve sustainable growth, the country needs to ensure that infrastructure projects bring tangible results in the near future without undermining environmental and natural resources. This link is especially important, as environmental protection has not been clearly defined in “Kazakhstan 2050”, but is a crucial consideration in developing and implementing infrastructure projects. Engagement of the private sector could be instrumental in this area to allow them to deliver services and encourage greater private sector investment into infrastructure development.

Good Governance

Efficiency and effectiveness of civil service was mentioned as a critical part of good governance. Government representatives and NGOs believe that insufficient capacities are a major problem for inefficiency of civil service at all levels. Notable features include: poor coordination among public institutions both at central and local levels, lack of responsibilities to bring change by developing sound programmes and projects, as well as their weak implementation resulting in

¹⁵ *An Infrastructure Roadmap for Kazakhstan*, ADB Report, 2012.

¹⁶ *Kazakhstan 2012 Energy Report*, Research and Markets at <http://www.businesswire.com/news>

¹⁷ The World Health Organization,

http://www.photius.com/rankings/road_traffic_deaths_country_rankings_2009.html

¹⁸ World Health Rankings, <http://www.worldlifeexpectancy.com/kazakhstan-road-traffic-accidents>

¹⁹ *An Infrastructure Roadmap for Kazakhstan*, ADB Report, 2012.

inefficient use of government resources. Participants expressed that wages of civil servants remain relatively low and there are no benefit packages to compensate for low wages. Oblasts are facing shortage of personnel in public service; however, attracting strong specialists from outside the region has not been easy in the absence of adequate remuneration. Linkage is made to the concept of *trust* in public service, which has reportedly degraded substantially over the years. Participants said that it is important to make people trust in public service and this can be done by making public service jobs more rewarding, so that qualified and competent professionals are attracted.

NGOs emphasized that ability to prioritize the needs is essential for effective governance. Government may set many goals and targets, and there is a vision of where the country wants to be. However, questions that are being asked are: is there a detailed roadmap for achieving set targets? Are there resources to tackle all the issues? What capacities are needed? Who is accountable for results? It was emphasized that effective governance requires certain skills to perform public sector duties.

Corruption is seen as the root cause of many social and economic imbalances and as a critical challenge for development. This is perhaps one of the most widely discussed topics raised during consultations by various groups, including government representatives, young people, civil society and vulnerable groups. At the political level, corruption is recognized as an issue, and there is a law in place on elimination of corruption at all levels. However, participants are in agreement that corruption is a matter of business as usual in the society that distorts the effectiveness of systems and institutions. It hits strong on investments made by the public sector on various government programmes. A recent EBRD survey on life satisfaction reports a slight increase in reported bribery in police, civil courts, and public health care since 2006.²⁰ Young people also expressed concern over corruption and fear of future involvement in activities that include bribery. While not willingly, they see corruption as part of coexisting in the society. NGO participants emphasized that until corruption is tackled at its roots, it will continuously and considerably slow achievement of desired results.

Civil society participation in policy formulation, implementation and monitoring of government programmes is seen as insufficient by NGO participants. NGOs have asked for greater participation of civil society in consultative and decision-making processes in order to strengthen dialogue with the government, as well as with private sector. There is a strong representation of NGOs currently in Kazakhstan, and they are active in many fields of social and environmental development. Some NGOs that represent vulnerable and marginalized population groups, such as people living with HIV/AIDS, sex workers, drug injectors and former prisoners, feel especially left out from decision-making processes and have to rely on support from or joint work with international organizations. Participants asked for a social dialogue to allow for greater transparency and opportunities for NGOs to contribute with knowledge and expertise, and for the private sector to engage in social corporate responsibility. The future that Kazakhstan sees for itself, after all, cannot be built by the government alone. The future of green economy and sustainability is one that requires complex interrelationships of various actors and a collective action. Assuming shared responsibilities is a critical part of development in post 2015.

NGOs that participated in national consultations expressed strong willingness to continue such dialogue to help bring about tangible results. These consultations have presented a rare opportunity for different parties to sit at a round table and discuss the challenges of today and tomorrow. This was greatly appreciated, and there was a call for the UN to continue and

²⁰ *Life in Transition: After Crisis*. EBRD Survey, 2012.

strengthen such open social dialogue. There was also a great interest from all participants in receiving an outcome document of consultations.

Health and Health Care

Health of people and the health care were discussed as two distinct, but interrelated subjects. Participants especially voiced promotion of *health* and *healthy lifestyles* as a necessary element of society's health status. There are some social indicators that especially stand out for Kazakhstan, such as life expectancy, mortality among men and suicide rates. Looking at the correlation between the economic strength of the country and life expectancy of the population, one can notice a rather low life expectancy in Kazakhstan compared to countries with similar GDP level. Among men in active ages (between 20-60 years old) mortality is much higher than in less developed countries. Suicide rates among adults are also reported to be high in the country. The big task ahead for Kazakhstan is to focus on what is causing ill health and who are the victims.²¹

Participants emphasized a need to promote and educate people on *healthy lifestyle*. One health specialist noted that, "most of ill health in Kazakhstan is a consequence of lack of people's responsibility of caring for their health." There is a need for awareness campaigns, use of media channels to inform population of healthy nutrition and healthy behaviour (free from alcohol and tobacco, work-life balance, sports, etc.).

Deliberations were made on introducing healthy lifestyle in the education curriculum, as well on preparing qualified medical professionals who would continuously advocate for and promote healthy lifestyle among the population. It is also suggested that the new global agenda reflects on healthy lifestyle by introducing adequate methodology for measuring the progress.

Kazakhstan gives priority to *health care* and allocates to *health care* the highest proportion of overall public expenditure. There are clearly unmet targets, and the country recognizes the need to speed up the achievement of MDGs 4, 5 and 6. Considerable achievements are noted in reducing maternal mortality: 17.4 per 100,000 women in 2011. Highest mortality rates are observed in Akmola and Mangistau oblasts, 32.2 and 30.9 respectively.²² Efforts in reducing infant mortality desire better results: 13.6 per 1,000 live births in 2012 and under-five mortality is at the

Basic Facts	
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	13.6 (2012) 18.8 (2000)
Maternal mortality (per 100,000 live births)	17.4 (2011) 60.9 (2000)
Under 5 mortality	17.84 (2011) 24.95 (2000)
Antenatal care coverage	89.5% (2011) 96.6% (2000)
Adolescent fertility rate, women of 15-19 (births per 1,000)	29.4 (2011) 32.9 (2000)
HIV infected injecting drug users	3.77 % (2011) 3.4 % (2000)
People with advanced HIV infection having access to antiretroviral treatment	70.3 % (2011) 0 (2000)
HIV infected pregnant women under antiretroviral treatment	93.26% (2011) 37.50% (2000)
TB morbidity (per 100,000)	86.6 (2011) 153.2 (2000)
TB mortality (per 100,000)	8.4 (2011) 26.4 (2000)

Source: Statistics Agency of the RoK.

²¹ On the global level suggestions are being made for the new agenda to focus on mortality and morbidity, rather than on certain diseases.

²² Statistics Agency of the RoK, 2012.

level of 15.8 per 1,000 according to 2012 data²³. Child mortality rates also vary considerably across oblasts. One can note a direct correlation with poverty rates at the oblast level, indicating a strong link between poverty and poor health outcomes.

The country is still far from achieving *universal access to sexual and reproductive health (RH)*. In accordance with the Multi-indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 1 out of 9 women face unwanted pregnancies and many of them practice abortions. Largely due to lack of access of young people to family planning and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, the prevalence of infertility among married couples in Kazakhstan comes to 17 percent²⁴. NGOs and health specialists voiced the importance of strengthening RH services and ensuring free universal coverage. This relates to reproductive health of both young women and young men. Lack of these services lead to pregnancy complications, staggering maternal mortality and increase in sexually transmitted infections. While RH was principally discussed in the context of health, it covers a much larger share of social architecture, namely family planning directly related to individual rights and the country's demographics.

In regards to *HIV*, Kazakhstan is currently on a concentrated epidemic stage. In Kazakhstan 20,000 people today live with HIV and the rate of sexual transmission is increasing. In the last 10 years, between 2001 and 2011, new cases of HIV infections increased from 1,175 to 2,006 respectively. While HIV is mainly prevalent among men, the number of women with HIV is increasing. In 2011, of the newly registered HIV infections 40% was among women, and 10% among pregnant women.

Some NGOs expressed concern over limited access to HIV consultations and testing for vulnerable groups, such as ex-prisoners, migrants, refugees, and people without *propiska* (registration), which is worrying for the country with increasing HIV rates. Denial of such services is both affecting people's right to health and may contribute to the HIV epidemic. It was mentioned that there are a number of anonymous HIV testing centres; however, lack of this information among wider population may be limiting access for those who need it the most.

It follows from discussions that while free universal health coverage is *de jure* in place, it is not consistent across health care services and there are instances of out-of-pocket payments. Access is especially seen to be a challenge for some vulnerable groups of population, mainly due to absence of registration. It was also mentioned that young people that leave orphanages also have difficulty accessing health care services.

A recent EBRD survey highlighted the fact that only 54% of the population in Kazakhstan is satisfied with health care services, and the prevalence of unofficial payments in the health system is at 18%.²⁵ A number of participants referred to "long waiting times" in medical clinics. A participant with a disability said she feels "humiliated and looked down upon" when she visits doctors. "Doctors make biased decisions when they see me. On one occasion, I was told I couldn't have a baby because of my condition, which devastated me. A few years later, I am a happy mother and have a happy and a healthy child." There was a strong consensus that medical personnel need to become "patient friendly, learn how to work with people and remember that they are service providers."

²³ Statistics Agency of the RoK, 2012.

²⁴ UNICEF, *Multi-indicator Cluster Survey*, 2010.

²⁵ EBRD, *Life in Transition: After the Crisis*, 2012. Data is based on 2010 survey.

In addition to ongoing efforts in achieving MDGs, investments are required to strengthen preventive public health services, primary care services and making it accessible to all layers of the population. Observations showed that state health departments strongly promote investments into specialized services, while health specialists from polyclinics, family centres, and donor agencies are concerned about lack of attention to primary health care. Current allocation of the health expenditures in favour of inpatient care is diminishing attention to primary care, at a time when quality primary care could help prevent diseases at early stages, as well as educate the population on basic preventative measures, which is very much needed in Kazakhstan. Stronger primary health care can directly contribute to universal access to quality prevention and treatment. This includes improved uptake of vaccinations, improved family planning and pregnancy outcomes, thus reducing unwanted and teenage pregnancies, educating on family planning, pregnancy, parenthood, healthy lifestyles, and other health related issues. Strengthening of primary care, backed up by adequate resources, and establishing a strong link with secondary care will help ensure continuity of care and avoid duplication and inefficiencies in the health system.

A number of health specialists emphasized that *non-communicable diseases*, such as oncological diseases, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes require adequate attention at global and national levels. The main cause of mortality in Kazakhstan is cardiovascular diseases, followed by oncological diseases. The high number of deaths from accidents is noted as alarming, particularly burns and road injuries, especially among small children.

Another discussion area is a universal coverage with *health protection*, as an integral element of social protection. This means that every person (not only citizens) in Kazakhstan needs to have access to a certain level of quality public health services on the individual and community level, adequate access to health services, treatment and care, based on the notion of solidarity and equity, and proportional to the country's ability to expand, with a continuous trend for improvement and coverage.

Discussions have also touched on the *shortage of medical personnel* across the country as well as inadequate quality or obsolete training. Mangistau oblast alone is short of about 700 qualified doctors, according to health officials, and the picture is similar across the country. One reason for shortage of medical staff is the eroded image of the medical profession in the society, with a high demand for commitment and quality and relatively low economic remuneration that often for young people does not justify the investment, i.e., long years of training. This can be seen in the *low wages* that medical workers receive in the public health care system. Another reason is seen in the absence of *social benefits* that would motivate medical professionals to rotate from region to region to satisfy market demand. The current health system does not allocate housing and/or any form of social benefits to attract the best personnel.

Local Development

Discussions on local development evolved around an increasing need to improve opportunities for the rural population, where 46% of Kazakhstan's population is concentrated. These include employment opportunities, improved quality of social services and better residential and public infrastructure. Socio-economic disparities observed within regions and also inside the same areas are a predictor and cause of inequalities that can ultimately erode social cohesion and become a cause of social instability.

Representatives of civil society are concerned about gaps in rural vs. urban development, with rural areas lagging considerably behind. As such, it was stated that rural development needs to remain a priority for targeted policy action and that stronger focus should be made on creating opportunities and conditions for employment, by increasing opportunities for farmers and developing a favourable social environment, including expansion of cultural spots, promoting craftsmanship, greater opportunities for vocational education, etc. Participants suggested participatory approaches in developing and implementing regional and rural development programmes, complemented by robust accountability systems. It was suggested by NGO participants that, “in absence of visible progress, those responsible need to be punished for negligence and lack of commitment.” Yet, this approach might need to be complemented with a process of learning from mistakes and using positive evaluation as a tool for future improvements rather than individual blaming.

Basic Facts	
People living below minimum subsistence level	5.3% (2011) urban 2.4% rural 8.8%
	31.8% (2000) urban 30% rural 34.2%
People living on income below the cost of food consumption basket (acute poverty)	0.5% (2011) urban 0.1% rural 0.9%
	16.1% (2001) urban 10.7% rural 22.6%
Rural population	46.4% (2011)
Share of agricultural sector in GDP	4.8% (2011)
	8.6% (2000)*

Source: Statistics Agency of the RoK.
* World Bank data.

In relation to poverty profile, wide differences are seen across oblasts, with Mangistau (10.4%), South Kazakhstan (10.4%) and North Kazakhstan (9.6%) having the highest number of people living on income below the minimum subsistence level in 2011. At the same time, Akmola and South Kazakhstan oblasts have a larger proportion of people living on income below the cost of food basket, 1.2% and 1% respectively.²⁶ This is a good indication of where more attention is required.

Communities in rural settings cited a number of challenges related to infrastructure (roads, heating, streetlights, schools, medical clinics, access to water, etc.), transport links to access public services (hospitals, kindergartens), proximity of public services, absence of recreational facilities and other services that people are not able to enjoy because of geographical disadvantage. The cause is seen in unequal distribution of resources for urban and rural development, as a result of which income poverty is higher in rural areas.

MDGs have shown that analysis of progress at global and national levels needs to be focused beyond averages, as they do not show the gaps in attainments and the discrepancies between urban and rural development. Rural areas continuously and substantially lag behind. Data needs to be disaggregated by vulnerable groups in order to reveal who suffers the most and where most support is needed.

Population Dynamics

Consultations show that Kazakhstan is facing a few demographic challenges, which may become even more pressing in the years to come. These include trends in natural population growth, internal and external migration, urbanization, and population aging. While there are also trends in emigration (outward migration), this was not discussed in length during consultations.

²⁶ Statistics Agency of the RoK.

Ranking 9th in the world for the size of its territory, Kazakhstan has one of the lowest densities of population worldwide. The country has experienced decrease of the population during the 1990s, and this trend was reversed since the middle of the first decade of the third millennium. For the last 5 years the *natural growth of the population* stabilized at around 11-12 per 1,000 annually due to the increased birth rate and decreased death rate. This is a positive achievement for Kazakhstan, however one where growth of population also requires expansion of sustainable and green services, such as health care, education, energy supply, and employment in a way where environment is not compromised by the needs of human livelihoods.

Labour migration was raised constantly as a critical issue, both by regional or local government representatives and by NGOs. Kazakhstan today is a recipient of an estimated 2 mln. labour migrants mainly working in an informal sector. Migrants come from neighbouring countries due to lack of economic opportunities and as such this causes shifts in Kazakhstan's labour market. Government and some civil society representatives are concerned about external migrants taking up jobs, while they also realize that there are some jobs in the market that nationals are not willing to take.

Labour migration is also taking place within Kazakhstan, as more people leave rural areas to find employment in bigger cities. There is a concern that external and internal migration puts additional pressure on social structures in urban areas, which requires expansion of services. In addition, movement of people from rural to urban areas may lead to an increase of urban poor, thus creating another vulnerable group in cities requiring more attention from society, including targeted social assistance. This is a worrying factor for NGOs that protect the interests of vulnerable groups. Urbanization rate is estimated at 1.3 % of annual rate between 2010 and 2015²⁷. According to forecasts, Almaty alone may face a population increase of up to 4 mln. by 2040 (now close to 1.5 mln.). Such movements, however, may also have a positive impact on economic development if this additional labour can be effectively utilized.

The greatest challenge is being able to quickly respond to increases in population and plan ahead for sustainable growth of cities. Today this represents a global phenomenon and involves making more affordable homes, increasing energy efficiency and improving water supply networks, improving transport systems, creating employment opportunities, reversing environmental degradation, and continuously reducing CO2 emissions.

Basic Facts	
Total population	16.6mln
Urban population	53.6% (2011) 41.8% (2009)
Rural population	46.4% (2011)
Dominant ethnic groups (2009 census)	Kazakhs: 63.1% Russians: 23.7%
Life expectancy at birth	Male: 64.93 (2011) Female: 73.44 (2011) Male: 60.2 (2000)* Female: 71.1 (2000)*
Population growth rate	1.4% (2011) -0.30% (2000)*
Average household size	3.5 (2011) 3.4 (2000)
Birth rate, crude (per 1000)	22.5 (2011) 14.70 (2000)
Death rate, crude (per 1000)	8.7 (2011) 10.1 (2000)
Population over 65*	7% (2011) 6.8% (2000)

Source: Statistics Agency of the RoK.

* World Bank data.

²⁷ CIA World Factbook.

While labour migration is a question of population dynamics, it is increasingly an issue of human rights and stability, and there are a number of NGOs in Kazakhstan promoting the rights of migrants. They voiced that from a human rights perspective needs of migrants are not addressed in terms of their access to education, health care, decent housing and decent work. From a demographics perspective, the country is in need of labour and could utilize it in sectors where the state is experiencing a shortage of labour. A comprehensive picture of the labour market, its dynamics and forecasts, could help the state in addressing labour migration issues and maintaining social cohesion and stability.

Population aging – the number of people aged over 65 has surpassed 7%, which is a threshold that defines nations as aging. It is estimated that by 2030 11.5% of Kazakhstan’s population will be older than 65. This may cause labour force imbalances, as well as other economic and social issues. Particularly, additional pressure falls on health care costs, pensions, creating improved living arrangements and addressing other social and emotional needs of elderly. Another important aspect to consider is a rather low life expectancy among men – 64 years according to 2011 data, compared to that of women – 74 years,²⁸ indicating to gender gap in life expectancy. Understanding the causes of such population trends may help systems to better cope and respond to changes in population structures and new emerging needs, including improved environment for socialization and emotional support of elderly.

Employment and Decent Work

Since 2000 unemployment fell from over 10% to below 6%. Youth employment is rather low and the highest unemployment rates are among females aged 25-29.²⁹ Women in the employed population have on average a higher educational level compared to their male colleagues. However, women’s opportunities in work and employment are limited by the segmentation by the country’s labour market along regional and income dimensions.

Concerns were raised over the mismatch between the skillsets and labour market demand. This is a shared view among various groups of participants. Employment opportunities are said to be there; however there are not enough of the required skills to fill in jobs in agriculture, manufacturing, construction, etc. According to official sources, there are 470 thousand unemployed in the country at a time when employers face of qualified engineers and workers in various industries.³⁰ Three reasons for this trend are identified: 1) mid-level jobs across sectors are not well paid; 2) such jobs lost their status and image, hence people are not willing to go there; 3) not enough adequate training or education is in place to develop required skills. The skillset that is available in the market does not always meet the market demand and thus slows the development of existing and new industries and businesses.

Basic Facts	
Unemployment rate	5.3 % (2012) 10.60 % (2000)*
Unemployment rate for men	6.2 % (2011) 12 % (2001)
Unemployment rate for women	4.6% (2011) 8.9% (2001)
Youth unemployment**	6.7% (2012) male: 6.8% female: 8.2%
Labor force**	8.7mln (2012)
Share of youth unemployed to youth population**	3.5% (2008) male: 3.4% female: 3.6%

Sources: Statistics Agency of the RoK.

*World Bank data; ** CIA World Factbook

²⁸ Statistics Agency of the RoK.

²⁹ Kazakhstan – An Overview of Women’s Work, Minimum Wages and Employment, www.wage.indicator.org

³⁰ From discussions in the consultative meeting on Employment and Social Protection, organized by the Ministry of Labor, 15 February, 2013.

A similar picture is reported with social sector jobs: low wages of medical and education professionals and their low levels of qualifications.

Employment of young people is characteristic of the above. Young graduates are not able to find jobs they want, while a number of businesses are not able to fill in jobs. It was mentioned by a government representative that an effort to conduct a comprehensive assessment of labour market demand was made on several occasions; however such work did not translate into any positive outcome. Also, given Kazakhstan's dynamic growth, it is especially difficult to keep up with the demand for new skillsets.

Access to employment is also a challenge for vulnerable groups, including disabled, internal and external migrants, and people living with HIV. National consultations included a focus group with people living with disabilities, where employment was raised as the number one concern. Regardless of the type of disability, access to employment is reportedly very limited. Employment is difficult for internal migrants who relocate to urban areas in search for better economic opportunities. Absence of *propiska* prevents them from finding formal employment. External migrants are also victims of informal employment and in the absence of work permits they are often exposed to harsh labour conditions to make their living, without appropriate occupational safety and health and any kind of social protection. It was mentioned that people living with HIV/AIDS also face restrictions to work in formal settings. A consultative meeting on employment and social protection highlighted the unacceptability of any discrimination at the work place, including on the basis of terms of employment, wages, access to preventive medical treatment, stigma and social exclusion. Vulnerable groups are in need of special attention as decent work opportunities can improve the quality of their lives and reduce existing social inequalities.

A large share of the workforce currently is concentrated in employment with low productivity, i.e., in labour-intensive sectors. The number of self-employed, including those employed in subsistence farming, is rather high; so is the informal employment. Shortages in the labour force were forecasted for 2012-2020, and it was estimated that a total of 1.2 mln. of foreign workforce will be needed by 2015 to satisfy demand for labour.³¹

Employment wage levels are of a big concern in many sectors, especially in the public sector. According to consultations that involved the Ministry of Labour, trade unions, employers and ILO, two reasons were identified to explain dissatisfaction with wages: a) low productivity in virtually all sectors of the economy that push employers and entrepreneurs to focus on low wages; b) an increasing demand for highly skilled and well-paid workers, which is outgrowing the supply of labour. Consequently, workers with lower skills are in less demand and are offered lower wages. According to the Confederation of Employers of Kazakhstan, adequate supply of qualified workers and engineers could help reduce existing unemployment and wage gaps between various groups of the population. Participants highlighted the need for Kazakhstan to modernize enterprises and adopt work practices on the principles on sustainability, equality and inclusivity. This includes creating and maintaining a safe work environment and protecting human dignity in the workplace. Development and introduction of an internationally recognized national qualifications system in the country is seen as paramount in order to prepare a qualified work force to fill in the labour market³². The country's medium-term goal of laying foundations for green economy needs to factor in the labour market dynamics, where labour dislocation across sectors can be imminent.

³¹ Quote of the State Statistics Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 11 November 2008.

³² Recommendations made during tripartite consultative meeting, organized by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection on the post 2015 agenda.

Young People

Issues of young people were discussed extensively as seen by adults and as seen by young people. Views of the two groups are presented separately below:

As viewed by adults: over the last years values have considerably changed as well as priorities that young people set for themselves: getting any kind of education, getting a good job, earning more money by any means. The feeling of belonging to a culture and a nation is diminishing among young people. Commercialization of values and materialistic approach to life, their thirst for status, or, on the contrary, negative behaviour of alcoholism, and drug use is negatively impacting the values that characterize the nation. This is connected with the situation that young people face - there are no social structures to engage young people into social activism and community service. No opportunities are in place for young people and children from low-income families to engage in sports.

Consultations in rural areas confirmed that young people and children lack opportunities for social life, there are no after school clubs in rural schools and limited recreation or sport facilities in place to keep young people away from engaging in risky behaviour. Sports is one area where rural communities see a great need for development. The world has witnessed the pride of Kazakhstan's sportsmen and sportswomen in the London Olympics. This pride needs to live within the nation so that the country can carry on the spirit and build a healthy and a strong nation, one that is united. Participants emphasized a need to better support involvement of young people in social life of their schools and communities through sports, culture, arts, and other activities that shape a good citizen.

Internet content has come up as having a negative influence on children's and young peoples' upbringing and behaviour. There is a worry that unlimited and uncontrolled access may lead to unfavourable consequences, such as increased violence among youth, suicidal behaviour and low ethics. It is suggested that certain mechanisms be created to control Internet content for young people.

In relation to this, the *role of family* was emphasized as having an important role in upbringing. It was emphasized that children's behaviour and attitude towards life derives from a family, from upbringing that forms physiological, spiritual and social values of the human being. The young generation needs to be brought up by learning what is acceptable and what is not in a modern society, while respecting historical roots and cultural values of the nation. Values and morals need to be embedded in children from small ages: respect to community and the nation, respect to other nations, and growing up as responsible citizens.

In this respect the government is asked to pay more attention to family as a foundation of Kazakhstan's society. Unfortunately, for many reasons, not all families are able to provide appropriate care, teach life skills and adequately deal with emotional needs. Participants see a need in establishing centres that would support families, communities and school teachers with advice on parenthood, psychological and emotional aspects of dealing with children, trainings on life skills and similar things.

Development of young peoples' potential and professionalism is seen as critical, as they are the backbone of tomorrow's state structures. Creating opportunities for young people to get on the ladder of employment is becoming imperative. Graduates with diplomas are having difficulties getting their first jobs. There is a need for government-supported programmes that would help graduates get their first jobs. This may include public and private sector organizations creating internship opportunities for recent graduates on an annual basis through university

recruitment events or similar programmes. Such opportunities can be strengthened by a mentoring system to support on-job learning. There are many practices in other countries that can be replicated by making employers more responsible to cities and communities where they operate by means of supporting the young generation, among others.

As viewed by young people: Young people think that their needs are not being adequately assessed. They feel responsible for their self-development and seek opportunities to exercise their rights in absence of support from society. Being active means being engaged in employment that would help them improve their living conditions. Young people are not willing to be passive recipients of state benefits and feel that they need to share the responsibility.

Young people from low-income households and orphanages also tend to rely on themselves rather than on government and community support. They prefer to live in a fair and just environment with better access to employment opportunities, housing, and quality health care services. Children and young people from low-income households believe that they are responsible for their own happiness. They look for opportunities to resolve financial issues and to support their families. A majority of respondents stated that well-being at home makes them feel happy and safe.

Affordable housing was raised by young people as an important aspect of their well-being. It was noted that young people are not able to access and afford housing through state housing programs, which greatly weakens their confidence about the future. Lack of employment opportunities and high cost of living do not allow young people to be competitive, thus limiting their choices in life. Young people have asked for the state housing programs and the land owning system to be reformed, making them affordable for young people and young professionals.

Providing children and youth with opportunities to be engaged in decision-making processes and voice their opinions are also cited as important aspects of their development. Young people feel that the traditional concept of “adults know better” and “respect for elder” limits their freedom to speak out. This established pattern of obedience, in their view, contributes to immaturity of many young people in making choices and taking responsibility for their actions. Young people are willing to be heard and for their voices to count in decision-making, both in a family setting and in society at large.

Education

Kazakhstan is a highly literate nation with mandatory and universal coverage in primary and secondary education. Gender parity is high in both levels. Income differences play a major role in further education after secondary school, though many more young women than men enrol in universities and colleges.

A number of weaknesses in the education system were revealed during consultations, with a strong recommendation to reform the national education system from pre-school to high education, including education in technical colleges and vocational education, so that it is continuous, comprehensive

Basic Facts	
Access to basic education (ages 5-10)	90.9% (2011) 94.8% (2000)
Access to secondary education (ages 7-17)	96.3 % (2011) 97.9 % (2000)
Children entering higher education (age 16-18)	20.3% (2009) 15.6% (2000)

Source: Statistics Agency of the RoK.

and is in line with the changing labour market. In addition to education standards, recommendations were made to expand access for children of labour migrants, especially seasonal migrants.

Quality of education is voiced as the biggest concern at all levels. It was mentioned that a high turnover of ministerial staff at the national level is blocking an opportunity for an education system to develop. While Kazakhstan maintains high literacy rates and attainments, it was mentioned that its level of development requires new skills and new ways of thinking. The education system needs to nurture young people that are ready to face modern day advances to help Kazakhstan stay competitive in the global arena.

Poor competencies of teaching and administrative personnel largely reflect education attainments. There are not enough qualified education professionals who are competent in delivering education programmes and working with children. It is not only about teachers being able to teach literacy, but also about using interactive methodology to motivate children to express and experiment. Qualified school managers (directors) and school administrators are also reportedly in shortage.

A consultative meeting that involved a number of school teachers and administrators emphasized the need for education professionals to be trained in child safety, child protection and child rights. Participants reported on instances when children require psychological and emotional support and that schools today are not able to provide such support. They are concerned that the national education curriculum is lacking in many aspects that are essential in forming a positive mentality and responsible citizenship among children. As the country moves towards development that is sustainable, it is hoped that the education system will integrate principles of sustainability, tolerance, respect to environment, basics of healthy lifestyle, respect to peers and elderly, among others.

Poor school facilities, especially in rural areas, were described by education specialists and parents. Heating of schools in rural areas remains a problem. Hygiene, including access to safe drinking water and appropriate sewage, require more attention, especially that MDG targets and hygiene for children should be treated as a priority. Some schools also have no facilities for physical education and many have no sports equipment. In rural areas there is no access to stadiums and sports clubs, which is said to be a big limitation for children's and young people's physical development.

In addition, schools are suffering from a lack of extracurricular activities. Children are not able to engage in after-school clubs, as there is no budget allocated into supporting such initiatives. Use of interactive boards is limited in rural areas. The school that was visited for national consultations in a rural area only had three classrooms with interactive boards.

When it comes to *learning achievements*, complaints were raised over the bulkiness of the national curriculum, which puts a lot of pressure on children in relation to material that is expected to be covered. Critical thinking and creativity is not encouraged. Tests are based on fact learning, rather than applied knowledge, logic and reasoning. There is no adequate equipment in schools to learn science subjects: biology, chemistry, physics, in order to understand in practice the rules of nature. In the same vein, quality of textbooks and learning materials were mentioned to be of poor quality.

Access to pre-school education was reported to be limited. There are not enough kindergartens in the country. According to UNICEF's MICS for 2010-2011 only 37% of children aged 3-4

attended pre-school, with considerable variation between urban (45.3%) and rural (29.4%).³³ Pre-school education for 5-year olds is also relatively low, with only 41% of children attending pre-school at this age.³⁴ This is despite the fact that the Law on Education (article 23) stipulates mandatory and free pre-school education for 5 and 6-year olds. This situation limits early learning for young children, as well as women's ability to work, impacting their career opportunities.

Education in technical colleges was raised by education specialists and academia circles as not responding to market demand. Technical colleges do not provide practical skills that are required for engineering, construction, architecture and similar professions. They are not well equipped with know-how that is necessary to learn operating machines or tools. Lack of these practical skills further limits job opportunities for graduates of technical colleges – they do not have the required skills to perform technical jobs. As a result, jobs of this nature do not get filled, creating a gap in the labour market. It was mentioned that the curriculum of these colleges needs to be redesigned and backed up by adequate investment in order for these colleges to serve the intended purpose.

Cost of higher education is said to be increasing from year to year. Some NGOs expressed that many households are not able to afford higher education and for those young people who cannot enter a university on a state subsidy, there are no other alternatives but to go to technical colleges, where the quality of education is questionable and limit future employment opportunities.

Gender

Importance of gender issues remains high for Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan ranks number 31 in the Gender Gap Index of the World Economic Forum in 2012. Rather high scores are attached to women's health and survival, as well as economic participation. However, the country scored lower in education attainments by women and on women's political empowerment, ranking it 66 and 61 respectively.³⁵

Gender parity is high in education and the female labour force participation rate was 66% in 2010³⁶. The country set an additional target to eliminate domestic violence against women, which is still of critical concern. Of all registered crimes in 2011 38% were against women and 4.3% against children.³⁷ Discussions revealed increasing rates of violence against girls. Government's protective policies for women were highly praised, and it was strongly recommended that children are similarly afforded legal protection and that measures are put in place to address violence against children. Participants asked for implementation of such programmes to be closely monitored, promoting behavioural changes and access to adequate services in order to reduce repeated violence.

Basic Facts	
Share of women in parliament	11.3 % (2000) 13.7 % (2011)
Share of women in political life	8.8% (2000) 9.5% (2011)
Wage gap between women and men	68% (2011) 61.5 % (2000)
Female unemployment rate	6.2 % (2011) 12 % (2001)

Source: Statistics Agency of the RoK.

³³ Agency for Statistics and UNICEF, MICS for 2010-2011.

³⁴ National MDG Report for Kazakhstan, 2010.

³⁵ Gender Gap Report, World Economic Forum, 2012.

³⁶ World Bank data. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator>

³⁷ Report from National Consultations on Inequalities in Almaty, 12 February, 2013.

There are also visible efforts to promote women in decision-making roles. This was set as a target+ for Kazakhstan in 2007, as number of women in civil service decision-making roles is roughly 10%.³⁸ These are small numbers compared to the overall number of highly educated females in the labour force (4.2 mln. out of 8.5 mln. of economically capable population in 2010) . Wage inequality is still present in some occupations and activities, regardless of the fact that Kazakhstan ratified the ILO Convention on Equal Remuneration in 2001.

New initiatives are tailored to promote women entrepreneurs; more women are gradually getting self-employment. Stronger support to women led SMEs through better access to credit, along with other incentives, would positively contribute to women's status in society, indirectly increasing the overall well-being. By using full labour potential and enforcing equal opportunities and equal pay Kazakhstan's growth could in the long run be more inclusive and sustainable.

Culture

Culture was discussed in two contexts: 1) protection of cultural heritage; 2) people's behaviour as not being ethically or culturally appropriate to uphold national values. While the first point was raised by NGOs working in the area of culture, the second aspect was raised widely by various groups.

Kazakhstan is said to be losing its cultural heritage. Craftsmanship skills are being rapidly lost. It is believed that this is related to rapid industrial growth in some parts of the country. In the example of Almaty, from 8 archaeological monuments that existed, only one remains today. Last year the president of the country raised concern over the nation's ability to preserve the history, culture and traditions. Kazakhstan recently signed a declaration on cultural heritage, which is an important step for placing culture high on the government agenda; however, stronger political and societal will and attention are required to fulfil declared commitments and search for ways to integrate cultural values into the mainstream.

The second cultural element relates to people's behavioural aspect. Disrespect and arrogance towards each other, littering of one's own neighbourhood and streets are cited to be degrading the true cultural values of the nation. It was recognized that changing people's behaviour requires changes in mindsets and mentality, which is a long-term endeavour that requires a holistic inter-sectoral approach. More short-term quick fixes are seen in addressing the quality of some public services, such as public transport and parking facilities, as well as taking stricter measures to maintain order and aesthetics by utilizing various enforcement mechanisms (e.g., anti-littering enforcement fees, illegal parking fees, etc.).

³⁸ From the Statement of Mrs. Madina Jarbussynova, Ambassador at Large of the MFA for the 55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Feb 2011.

Recommendations for the Global Sustainable Agenda

National consultations have identified 12 thematic areas that dominated discussions. These revolve around current day challenges and the challenges that the population of Kazakhstan may be facing during the next 10 years. Some of the concerns raised are relatively country or region-specific, while some are more global in scope. This section outlines a number of recommendations for the post 2015 global agenda based on the outcomes of national consultations.

Vision for the Global Agenda

Various groups expressed that human rights, equality and sustainability should serve as fundamental principles for a new post 2015 global agenda. Participants said that the new agenda should in many ways revive the spirit of the Millennium Declaration, which had a much broader agenda, as well as reinforce Rio+20 outcomes. It is equally important that new sustainable goals are not seen as UN goals; they need to be seen as goals of every member-state and goals of every citizen. Everybody has a role in building a future the nation wants. Realizing shared responsibilities and taking collective action is the only way to move towards development that is sustainable. In this light, the roles of civil society, private sector, employers, trade unions, states and individuals need to be reinforced, as the complexity of new challenges cannot be solved by governments alone.

Improving conditions for the most vulnerable is seen at the centre of the post 2015 sustainable agenda. Lessons from the MDGs show that there is a need to focus on those layers of population that are lagging behind: people living in rural areas and vulnerable groups. Achievements at the global level have little meaning for millions of marginalized people that have not benefited from investments in MDGs. It was suggested that the new agenda look at disaggregated data through a human rights-based approach and to promote the progress of the most vulnerable.

In order to promote sustainability, the global agenda will need to look holistically at development challenges, and create a nexus of social and economic development, and environmental protection. This is an extremely complex task, given the current state of the environment and human needs to achieve a better living. Consultations in Kazakhstan suggest that the principles of sustainable development are integrated under each goal, so that sustainability is promoted by all sectors at all levels.

Universality of Global Goals

When it comes to universality of global goals, there is a divergence in views. On the one hand a number of participants suggest a universal approach that is applicable to all countries, so that the new agenda can indeed portray a unified global vision for the future. On the other hand, lessons learned from MDGs have shown that not all countries found MDGs, or at least some of them, applicable to their development context. Some government representatives expressed that all countries are at different levels of development and therefore goals cannot be the same for all. The argument is that Kazakhstan is a fast growing economy with a number of social problems and these problems may not be at the same level as those faced in other countries. This is said to be true of other states that have graduated to middle-income country status or are at upper middle-income level. Given this divergence of views, it is recommended that the applicability of global goals for post 2015 to countries with different levels of development be carefully assessed. Recommendations on the structure of the global agenda will provide options

for deliberations, and it is hoped that the agenda reflects on new global challenges by reflecting on the development needs of all countries.

Timeframe

Civil society suggests a 15-25 year period as the timeframe of the new agenda. Government representatives recommended a longer-term agenda (mostly referring to long-term national development strategies). On the other hand, a number of UN agencies recommended that the new agenda “not be overly long-term”. The following considerations may be kept in mind in deciding on a timeframe:

First, setting long-term targets may slow the progress as the final target year for achieving goals may seem too far away for urgent action. This is especially so for countries with high turnover in the public sector. The closer the target year, the more effort will be made in achieving the goals. In addition, the world needs to keep the momentum of Rio+20 outcomes and the current global efforts in formulating the new agenda, so that countries maintain the spirit.

Second, MDGs’ 15-year timeframe has proved that the world changes rapidly and the global challenges of today are not the same as they were back in 2000. It is necessary to find opportunities in the relatively short term, not in a very distant future for the world to reflect broadly on the global development landscape, the same way as it is being done today with national consultations.

Third, it should be emphasized that the new global agenda is equivalent to an action plan for countries to take specific actions for achieving targets. It should not be interpreted as a long-term strategy, for which the Rio+20 outcome document is a better contender as it provides a long-term vision on the basis of which an action plan for sustainable development is now being formed.

Structure

There is a wide consensus that the current content of MDGs needs to remain as a starting point for a new global framework, so that work on unmet targets can continue. However, consultations concluded that goals and targets need to be broadened to reflect current day challenges. Participants expressed that Kazakhstan has moved a step up from addressing basic needs to focusing on additional aspects of well-being, which are undoubtedly directly related to improving the living standards of the population.

The difficulty of proposing a certain structure for the global agenda is finding a common ground that accommodates universality, inclusivity and existing cross-country differences. Universality assumes adopting one single approach for all. Inclusivity assumes widening the coverage so that poverty eradication efforts are directed to the most vulnerable, including people trapped in conflict, post-conflict settings, and hard-to-reach places (especially of concern to NGOs and development agencies protecting the interests of vulnerable groups, as well as participants who believe that inequality is an issue). Whereas, an increasing number of new middle-income countries that succeeded on a number of MDGs strive to continue their progress under more ambitious targets (especially promoted by government representatives).

Bearing in mind divergence in views, the High-Level Panel³⁹ may consider two options for the structure:

1. Universal sustainable agenda around five main pillars suggested below with fixed targets;
2. Universal *framework* for sustainable development with tailored targets for regions or groups of countries to reflect differences in the level of development, where fragile states or states in post-conflict settings have flexible targets, while the rest can work on achieving fixed targets.

The first option will require countries to tailor the global agenda to the national development context by setting national targets. The second option allows targets to be set for groups of countries under one universal framework. A rather innovative approach was raised by the UN in Kazakhstan where engagement of strong regional organizations in post 2015 can be considered, while maintaining the role of UN as a global custodian.

Regardless of the option for the structure, there is a unanimous agreement among participants of national consultations that sustainable goals need to be organized around the following broad pillars:

- 1) Inclusive Social Development (health, education, gender, social protection, demographic issues)
- 2) Equitable Economic Development (employment and decent work, infrastructure, green economy)
- 3) Good Governance (strengthening of institutions, implementation of international obligations, human rights, and participation of civil society and private sector)
- 4) Environmental Sustainability (loss of environmental and natural resources, energy efficiency, waste management)
- 5) Peace and Security (regional cooperation, security threats)

Content of the New Global Agenda

Pillar 1: Inclusive Social Development

Health - it is suggested that health issues be compressed into one goal with a number of targets that address different health issues. In regard to HIV, a strong recommendation was voiced to ensure free and universal HIV testing, regardless of citizenship or place of registration. Similarly, universal health care needs to be extended to every person residing in the country, regardless of citizenship, in order to combat increasing rates of TB and other diseases. The health goal under the new agenda also needs to include non-communicable diseases (oncological and cardiovascular diseases, diabetes). Special attention needs to be given to identifying causes of morbidity and mortality for prevention and treatment.

The health goal also needs to promote strengthening of universal primary health care as an integral part of the health system, aimed to prevent diseases and/or treat them at early stages. Strong and universal primary health care can considerably contribute to effectiveness of the health care system in general (better social indicators) and reduce government costs in the long-term.

³⁹ 27-member High Level Panel established by the UN SG to advise on the post 2015 global sustainable agenda. The Panel will be reviewing country reports on national consultations.

Competencies and accountabilities of medical staff need to be given adequate attention in the new agenda. Delivery of quality health services is to a large extent dependent on specialists that provide such services. There is a notable discontent among the population covered during national consultations over the quality of health care services provided and low competencies of medical professionals. This aspect of the health care system is often overlooked. Rigorous competency checks that are based on international standards are required for various levels of medical professionals. The new agenda needs to highlight the need for well-qualified doctors and nurses and introduce appropriate indicators.

Education: The Education goal needs to include universal secondary education and quality of education in basic and secondary levels. Additional indicators are needed to measure the quality of education, completion rates, learning achievements, access to pre-school education and access to all levels of education for marginalized groups, such as refugees and migrants. The psychological and emotional state of children remains a concern, and measuring these areas will help to better address the well-being of children. In addition, the goal will benefit from incorporating the principles of sustainable development and healthy lifestyles into education curriculums. Similarly, indicators are required to measure the quality of teaching, such as teacher to student ratio, and indicators that would measure qualifications of teachers.

Another issue that was prominent during consultations is the mismatch between qualifications taught in the education system and the labour market demand. Indicators need to be introduced to measure employability of graduates, disaggregated by gender, age, urban/rural and vulnerable groups.

Gender remains critical given that it addresses deep inequalities between men and women around the world. There is a need to add complementing indicators looking at participation and decision-making by women in political, economic and social life, violence against women, girls and boys, mortality of men and boys, etc. One also needs to bear in mind that a large number of women are out of employment and fulfil functions of housewives and caregivers. It is important that targets/indicators on gender address these women, as it is largely these women that face domestic violence, abuse and are not provided career opportunities. Also, a substantial proportion of women earn their living in the informal sector, and it is suggested that monitoring mechanisms be available to track dynamics of women in the informal sector and policies be developed to attract these women into a formal workforce. Gender policies need to be inclusive to integrate the most marginalized.

Social Protection: All people need to have access to a certain quality of social protection proportional to countries' capacity to expand⁴⁰. Universal social protection is one of the main state policies that can help reduce inequalities and poverty. While Kazakhstan maintains free universal education and health care, out-of-pocket payments are a norm, especially in the health sector, putting more pressure on low-income households. Ensuring free health care and education services, along with a number of social benefits for the most vulnerable, is a necessary precondition to avoid people being trapped in poverty. These include social protection benefits to low-income households, unemployed, child benefits, people living with disabilities, pensioners and other vulnerable groups. The Social Protection Floor as defined by WHO and ILO needs to be integrated into national policies and post the 2015 agenda. The new agenda needs to call for comprehensive policies to ensure that all people, regardless of their level of income, have free access to basic services in line with a social protection floor and that

⁴⁰ The quality standards are to be determined by the government, taking into account its ability to extend the same quality for all.

states take additional protective measures for vulnerable groups through targeted interventions.

Demography: With rapidly increasing population globally, it becomes imperative to keep track of population changes and its implications on development. Over the past 25 years population increased by 2 billion, and is likely to increase by the same amount by 2050. There are many social, economic and environmental implications behind these numbers, which may change demographic structures and the global poverty profile. There is a trend of increasing life expectancy at a global level. Older people are the world's fastest growing population group and, as such, this has implications on health systems, social security and related social investments. Population is increasing in much of the developing world due to high birth rates and this calls for wider access to reproductive health services, along with protection of reproductive rights.

The worrying side of these dynamics is a potential pressure on natural resources and risk of greater carbon emissions that may adversely hit the most vulnerable. Higher demand for water, energy, and arable land may slow down efforts on environmental sustainability. Developing green economies and investing in clean technologies are even more important in post 2015.

In addition, movements of population across borders as a result of conflicts, natural disasters, or limited economic opportunities and political freedoms also contribute to demographic changes.⁴¹ Their protection is often not fulfilled and human rights not respected. The post 2015 agenda needs to reflect on providing opportunities for migrants and refugees and promote their integration in host societies with guaranteed access to basic services, social security and decent work.

Pillar 2: Equitable Economic Development

Employment and Decent Work: Job creation is a global development priority. Poverty, first and foremost, is directly related to employment and income. People's access to employment increases economic growth and, therefore, job creation needs to be in the interest of every state. The new agenda has an opportunity to highlight labour and decent work as engines of economic growth and human development, especially when it is inclusive and makes maximum use of available human resources.

The new agenda needs to call for job creation, increases in productivity and inclusive employment. Particular attention needs to be paid to modernizing enterprises and developing training and retraining schemes for workers and jobseekers. In countries with a large share of rural population employment opportunities are needed in rural areas, with access to decent work for vulnerable groups, including women, the disabled, labour migrants, refugees, and young people. Employers need to be encouraged to provide decent work opportunities to vulnerable groups, to help lift these groups out of poverty. Greater state support is required for strengthening of entrepreneurship and creation of new small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) to create more jobs at local levels. In post 2015 employers need to be aware of national and international labour codes and provide jobs in a non-discriminatory manner, with equal wage pay to men and women, respecting human rights, and providing protection and security at work.

⁴¹ By 2010 estimates, there are over 214 mln. international migrants and close to 50 mln refugees. *Population Dynamics, Thematic Think Piece*. UN System Task Team on Post 2015 UN Development Agenda. UNDESA and UNFPA, 2012.

In addition, the new agenda needs to be forward-looking and anticipate shifts in the labour market as countries transition to green economies. According to ILO estimates at least half of the global workforce - or 1.5 billion people - could be affected in some way by such transition.⁴² This means that with the move to new green industries, many people will lose jobs in traditional sectors. New jobs will in turn be created in new industries, which means that new skills will be required.

Green Economy: The global state of the environment and growing population pressure on natural resources makes transition to green economies ever more important. Rio+20 reached a new consensus to accelerate transition to an inclusive green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction. As a result, new initiatives are being designed to promote green economy in a number of countries. Such initiatives need to aim for a three-way impact: 1) promote use of clean technologies and gradual switch to alternative sources of energy; 2) better manage and reduce exploration of natural resources; 3) ensure that the poor and vulnerable are not the last to benefit from greening efforts. Transition to green economies needs to go hand in hand with progress in environmental protection, and not at the expense of fragile ecosystems. In terms of targets, this pillar may include:

- Transformation of energy intensive production patterns towards green and sustainable production processes (to reduce CO2 emissions and consumption of natural resources)
- Transfer and use of clean technologies
- Corporate social responsibility of large corporations and SMEs (to become environmentally and socially responsible)
- Research and development for green growth (investments in innovation and strategies for green growth)

Kazakhstan is taking steps towards green economy by launching its “Green Bridge” initiative aimed to promote green economies across Europe and Asia Pacific region. Within the frame of the Green Economy Strategy the country will be developing a holistic national green growth plan for all priority sectors, including critical issues for Kazakhstan, such as water resource management and energy efficiency⁴³. This initiative was put forward during Rio+20 as an example of green growth and it is hoped that it becomes a model on green economy for other countries. At the same time, EXPO 2017 – a global event that will bring all countries together in Kazakhstan - will be devoted to Future Energy. EXPO will showcase the latest technological advances in the energy sector and aims to pave the way for sustainable development solutions. The new agenda needs to promote knowledge sharing across the developed world and emerging economies, and promote innovation in this area.

Food Security was also identified as a global challenge. In the world, where one in eight people worldwide suffer from chronic malnutrition, urgent efforts to addressing existing food security issues are required. Globally, agricultural productivity is declining due to under-investment and low levels of R&D. It is insufficient to meet the world’s needs at a time when population is increasing. Critical imbalances are also seen in consumption patterns and access to land.

Kazakhstan is 9th in the world for the size of its territory and is the leading producer of wheat in the world. It also produces other important crops, such as rice, barley, and sugar beets. Not only does the country sustain its domestic market, it also supplies the entire sub-region and exports globally. Recently, with increasing trends of urbanization, less and less labour is

⁴² Statement of ILO Director-General Guy Ryder. UN News Center: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44169#.USsx746PCiV>

⁴³ The strategy is aimed to be developed by August 2013.

available to sustain farming. Notable reduction is reported in naturally grown vegetables at local levels, and it was mentioned that producers do not comply with food production standards with regard to using fertilizers and chemicals.

On the global scale it is important to look at food security from two angles:

- 1) Support the agricultural sector, which would help generate employment, diversify crops and encourage trade
- 2) Improve food distribution channels to benefit those who need it the most and reduce waste of food products

While doing so, one needs to bear in mind climate change implications along with other environmental changes, such as land degradation, which are critical considerations for food security. Food security at a global level will depend on the collective action on mitigating and adapting to climate change, as well as reversing environmental degradation, and is therefore an important element of the nexus of sustainable environment and human livelihoods. From the productivity angle, particular attention is needed in equipping agricultural sectors with the most optimal technology, adequately assessing varieties of agricultural products, developing weather forecasting systems, and creating effective insurance systems for agricultural producers.

Pillar 3: Environmental Sustainability

Rio+20 strengthened the importance of advancing sustainable development through implementing Rio Conventions and state commitments under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). To date, globally there has been insufficient progress on implementing these commitments. The new agenda needs to build on existing efforts and reinforce the importance of environmental protection. In this light, government representatives and environmental NGOs suggest that this pillar addresses:

- Loss of environmental and natural resources
- Efficient use of natural resources
- Waste management and recycling
- Reduction of carbon emissions

Extraction of oil and gas and other natural resources needs to comply with technical and environmental standards. Green economy may enhance ability of states to manage natural resources sustainably, reducing negative environmental impact and increasing efficiency in energy production and supply.

Such targets need to be supported with solid, measurable and quantifiable indicators that would allow measurement of access to alternative energy sources, carbon footprint, and efficiency as a result of the switch to alternative energy sources.

Unfinished work needs to continue in relation to access to clean drinking water. However, there need to be universal standards on what defines clean drinking water, so that monitoring is in place in countries to ensure that water supplied corresponds to quality standards. Measurements of access to water need to be clearly defined. Access of a village to one single water pump is different from access of water in every household. Sanitation is still an issue and requires more than setting technical standards. In many contexts sanitation is an issue of mentality and lifestyle and requires an inter-sectoral approach. Very rarely have national

consultations in Kazakhstan identified sanitation as an issue; however, when asked, there is a uniform agreement that sanitation needs to be drastically improved.

This goal needs to highlight the need for shared ownership and responsibilities of various parties – government, civil society, private sector and individuals. Targets on environmental sustainability need to be closely linked with social and economic aspects of development, such as health, education, green jobs, food security, and urbanization. Capacity building will be required involving all stakeholders to raise awareness on existing environmental issues and their linkages with different sectors.

Pillar 4: Good Governance

Based on national consultations, there is a need for concerted actions in strengthening governance structures. It was noted that inefficiencies in the public sector slow down development processes. Mechanisms and policies are required to address gaps in existing systems and institutions in order to enable improved and inclusive delivery of services, as well as implementation of international commitments and national development strategies. Furthermore, with strong shifts to sustainable development, it is imperative that state institutions take measures to transition from business as usual to supporting inclusive and sustainable initiatives. Capacity building and/or capacity development need to become an essential component of institution strengthening across all sectors. In addition, it is also seen instrumental to design efficient transparency and accountability mechanisms for governments and development partners in implementing development initiatives through wider engagement of civil society, including involvement of the most disadvantaged groups as agents for change.

The Good Governance pillar under the new agenda needs to address:

- Effectiveness of public administration and efficiency and quality of public service provision
- Implementation, monitoring and reporting on international obligations and conventions
- Respect and protection of human rights, including the rights of refugees, migrants, and stateless people
- Inclusivity in consultations, design and formulation of government strategies and programmes. Promotion and facilitation of a dialogue bridge among government, civil society and private sector, including empowerment of young people and marginalized groups to be a part of the dialogue.

Pillar 5: Peace and Security

Peace and security is of concern to the population, even in a country like Kazakhstan, which currently is politically and economically a stable state. Regional security is especially a concern, given the unstable situation in the south of Central Asia, as well as uneven development within Central Asia. Recent ethnic clashes in neighbouring states, rise of terrorism, conflicts resulting in an unstable political environment, religious extremism and other types of violence globally leave no country with a guarantee for stability. There are risks that movements in population may affect the fragile status quo of some Central Asian states, bringing more havoc in the future. Therefore, it is suggested that the new global agenda emphasize the need for promoting and maintaining peace and security around the world.

One should also not forget that peace and security is at the heart of the UN mandate and this is the reason why the UN was established in the first place. The new agenda provides an opportunity for the UN to place peace and security at the centre of sustainable agenda. It also

provides an opportunity to reach out to millions of people that have been left out of the MDGs: marginalized, refugees, people trapped in conflicts and wars. The humanitarian aspect of the UN's work in this regard should be reflected in new goals set forth by the UN for humanity. Targets under this pillar can address border management issues, crime and violence, safety, political stability, regional disputes, etc. Efficient enforcement of the UN Security Council resolution on Women, Peace and Security was also suggested within a development programming at the global level⁴⁴.

Implementing partners

The new agenda needs to strongly emphasize the need for developing partnerships involving government, civil society organizations and private sector. Complex challenges require more capacities, ideas, innovation, coordination, and close cooperation. Civil society can be hugely instrumental in implementing development projects at grass-root and local levels, design and lead awareness campaigns, and communicate to the government the loopholes in the society.

Private sector participation was rather limited during national consultations in Kazakhstan. This is perhaps an indicator of the role that the private sector plays in social development. Those who participated have pointed to the fact that "not all issues can be solved by government and the UN, and that there are private tools that can be used to solve those problems". The role of the private sector is especially valuable in developing infrastructure, such as housing, utilities, improving transport links, and many others. They also create jobs, increase competitiveness and innovation. Entrepreneurs called for increased dialogue with the private sector in order to increase awareness and social responsibility.

Monitoring of goals

The methodology of indicators is a challenging area, and there are many difficulties related to definition of indicators and data collection. There are 77 MDG indicators and at the country level not all are synchronized with international methodologies. Often detailed methodological guidelines are not available in languages other than English, which makes it extremely difficult for national statistical offices.

The new agenda needs to include solid quantifiable and disaggregated indicators to allow accurate measurement of progress, supported with methodological guidelines. Some indicators, such as quality of drinking water and sanitation, need to be well defined and standardized to allow for accurate measurement.

It is important that countries' statistical capacities are kept in mind when proposing indicators and if required the global agenda needs to account for additional work and training to help countries to synchronize methodologies. Data is perhaps the most important element of global agreements, which allows tracking progress and results. At the same time, participants expressed little confidence in data used for national reporting and global comparisons. Mechanisms need to be created for continuous improvements in data collection and capacities of statisticians. This requires additional financial resources both at global and country levels.

Movement from traditional measurements, such as mortality rates, enrolment, attendance, etc. to quality indicators is also suggested. The world is at a phase of development where looking beyond numbers is critical in order to address root causes of social issues. Psychological indicators that look into the emotional state of people, level of happiness, satisfaction with life,

⁴⁴ Security Council Resolution (S/RES/1325) on Women and Peace and Security adapted on 31 October, 2000.

especially in relation to vulnerable groups, may help accurately design development interventions. The main problem lies in the complexity of measurement and definitions of such indicators, as happiness may mean different things for different layers of the population.

Financing for Development and Aid Efficiency

A new financing framework was proposed at Rio+20 where the UN General Assembly will facilitate inter-governmental process on assessment of financing needs, efficiency of existing mechanisms and financing structures in order to propose options to support sustainable development strategies. The new financing framework needs to prioritize poverty eradication efforts and innovative approaches to sustainable development. Member states and other donors need to be encouraged to channel development funds through agreed on financing mechanisms in order to reduce inefficiencies in aid architecture.

Aid efficiency was emphasized by donor agencies as especially critical for the new agenda as all development partners witness fall in aid and governments are still recovering from the global financial crisis. The new agenda will require doing more with less. The most critical element of financing is not only in securing aid, but strengthening accountabilities for disbursement and use of aid, including adequate monitoring to ensure that aid reaches beneficiaries in the most efficient way. The contribution of aid to development has been widely questioned among academic circles, and there is little evidence today that suggests the positive effect of aid. Hence, financing for development needs to be reshaped in a way that no aid is wasted in post 2015. Donors should not only be concerned by making a contribution, such contributions should be made in a meaningful way for a specific purpose and identifying an implementing partner that is best placed to deliver the required support. The new global agenda needs to address the effectiveness of aid architecture between now and 2015 so that there is no room for inefficiencies in aid spending.

An international commitment for developed countries to allocate 0.7% of national income needs to be revisited. As of today only 5 countries have met this target, and recently the UK government pledged to allocate 0.7% for ODA aiming to do so starting from 2013. New ways of financing need to be explored, including ways to strengthen south-south cooperation. In addition, as an outcome of the sub-regional conference on post 2015 which took place in Almaty in September 2012, it was also suggested that establishment of a Green Growth Fund to promote green economy be considered.

Accountability of the UN

A more comprehensive clarity is needed on the role of the UN in global poverty reduction and sustainable development. National consultations have at times questioned the role of the UN and its contribution to the global development. It is seen as not fulfilling its aims as set in global goals. The new sustainable agenda needs to spell out the role of the UN, responsibilities of states and other international players, and keep parties accountable for their obligations. Similarly, such accountabilities need to be regularly reinforced and the public adequately informed.

ANNEX 1: Process and Methodology

Kazakhstan started the process of post 2015 consultations with a regional conference on Millennium Development Goals and the Post 2015 Development Framework for Central and East Asia, which was held in September of 2012 in Almaty. This was one of a series of regional conferences organized by the ESCAP/ADB/UNDP partnership aiming to kick start consultations on post 2015. The conference was attended by 10 countries of Central and East Asia, and resulted in an outcome document to serve as a contribution to the global post 2015 report.

Following the conference, the UNCT engaged into a dialogue with the office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan to initiate national consultations on post 2015. The initiative was welcomed and supported by the Government. As a result, a high level Steering Committee was established to guide and oversee the process of national consultations. The high level Steering Committee was co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Y. Orynbayev. and the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Stephen Tull.

The Steering Committee was comprised of a number of deputy ministers and members of the UNCT. Given a very tight timeframe for consultations it was decided to focus on selected regions of the country that would represent geographical diversity, as well as have a sizable population. As a result four cities were selected in four different regions of the country: Astana - the capital city in the north, Almaty - the most densely populated city in the south and the former capital, Mangistau region - the region rich in natural resources in the west, and Kyzylorda region – the region in the south.

A joint action plan with the Government was agreed on during the first Steering Committee meeting, which outlined the roadmap for national consultations and identified responsible parties to organize town hall meetings. It was also agreed from the onset that the Steering Committee would meet three times during the consultative process in order to monitor progress and provide necessary guidance and support.

To support the coordination and facilitation of national consultations, the UNCT tasked the UN Inter-Agency group to develop an action plan for the consultative process, which would outline joint UN activities in support of national consultations. UN agencies also contributed to national consultations by organizing thematic discussions with their partners and beneficiaries. In addition, an international facilitator was recruited to support the UNCT to facilitate consultations and to draft a final report on national consultations in Kazakhstan for submission to the UNDG.

Types of consultations included:

- Town Hall Meetings
- Press Conferences
- Theme-based meetings
- Focus Groups
- Surveys
- Interviews
- Student essays and Model UN

The table below shows the list of major events and responsible parties:

#	Town Hall Meetings	Date	Lead
1	Consultation meeting organized by the MFA in Astana	18 January	RC office
2	A town hall meeting at the Akimat of Mangistau oblast	22 January	UNDP
3	Press conference in Almaty	28 January	UNFPA
4	A town hall meeting at the Akimat of Almaty	29 January	UNFPA
5	A town hall meeting at the Akimat in Astana	11 February	RC office
6	A town hall meeting at the Akimat of Kyzylorda	14 February	UNICEF

#	Agency Led Consultations	Date	Agency
1	Consultations with children and youth in Kazakhstan	Jan-Feb 2013	UNICEF
2	Consultations with communities on health and healthy life style	30 Jan 2013 Astana	WHO
3	Consultations with reps of organizations of PWDs	6 Feb 2013 Astana	UNDP
4	Consultations with rural communities working on environmental issues	7 Feb 2013 Akmola oblast	UNDP
5	Consultations with students of the Nazarbayev University	7 Feb 2013 Astana	RC Office
6	Consultations on "Inequality" with a special focus on inequalities towards vulnerable groups and based on gender	12 Feb 2013 Almaty	UN Women UNICEF UNAIDS
7	National consultations on migration and regional security	13 Feb 2013 Astana	IOM UNODC UNHCR OHCHR
8	Tripartite roundtable on Employment, Decent Work and Social Protection	15 Feb 2013 Astana	ILO with MLSP
9	Consultations with CSOs: media, environment, people living with disabilities, private sector	Feb 2013	UNESCO

Consultative meetings were aimed at identifying issues facing the population today and looking 10 years ahead, specifically focusing on local, oblast, national levels, as well as the global vision. Town hall meetings discussions as well as a number of focus group meetings were based on the same set of questions, while a few focus group/agency specific events used questions tailored to the audience.

Questions used during Town Hall Meetings and selected focus group meetings:

1. *What challenges do you see related to regional (oblast level) development?*
2. *In your opinion, what are some of the main challenges that Kazakhstan may face during the next 10 years?*
3. *What sectors do you believe should become priorities for Kazakhstan for post 2015?*
4. *What is your vision for a global sustainable agenda? What critical questions should it include?*

A number of interviews were held with UN senior management and government officials on their vision of the post 2015 sustainable agenda, drawing from lessons learned in achieving MDGs and the country's progress over the last 12 years. These interviews were focused on positioning of Kazakhstan for the new sustainable agenda given its middle-income country context, as well as recommendations pertaining to the structure of the new global agenda.

Questions used during interviews:

1. *What do you think about MDGs? Do you believe they have helped to bring about progress? What are the notable benefits of the MDG agenda for Kazakhstan?*
2. *In general what can you highlight as strengths and weaknesses of MDGs - what lessons can we take?*
3. *In your opinion, what are the priority areas for Kazakhstan for post 2015? Where should it focus?*
4. *In view of Kazakhstan's priorities - do you feel that there is a stronger focus on economic growth and does it in any way distract attention away from social sector, particularly from addressing inequalities?*
5. *How do you see Kazakhstan positioning itself in the new global agenda as a middle- income country - what could be the main message coming from Kazakhstan?*
6. *What is your vision of the new global agenda in relation to its structure and content? What should it include? Should it resemble MDGs or take a different form?*

On-line surveys, "The Future We Want", were in place in addition to consultative meetings. Surveys were available in Russian and Kazakh and were circulated widely to the general population. UNICEF had an additional on-line survey covering children and young people.

University students were actively engaged in post 2015 discussions. Consultations were held in four major universities: Nazarbayev University and the Eurasian National University in Astana, KIMEP University and Kazakhstan National University in Almaty.

Young people in selected universities had an opportunity to express their views on the future through an essay competition called "The World After 2015 Through the Eyes of Students in Kazakhstan." UN Model events were organized in four academic institutions.

Stakeholder Coverage

The Government of Kazakhstan supported organization of a number of meetings in selected regions of the country. The first meeting was held in Astana, the capital, with representatives of 60 state structures, civil society and academia. In addition, town hall meetings were organized in Astana, Almaty, Aktau, and Kyzylorda cities. The following groups were covered by national consultations:

- National government bodies
- Local government bodies
- NGOs
- Private sector
- Academia
- Young people
- Local communities (including elderly)
- Self employed
- People living with disabilities

- Labour migrants
- Women with HIV
- Victims of violence

In total consultations reached roughly 2,200 people. Approximately 2,000 people were involved in face-to-face consultative events around Kazakhstan. On-line survey on post 2015 generated 284 responses nationwide with respondents representing various groups of society. The survey was circulated among partners, as well as posted on UN agencies' social media pages. UNICEF has undertaken a separate survey targeting children and young people.

Breakdown of participants by events

	Event	Number of participants	Partners by type
1	Steering Committee meetings	60	National government authorities and UNCT
2	Consultations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	60	National government authorities, NGOs
3	Town Hall meeting in Aktau	50	Oblast level government authorities, heads of sectoral departments, media, and NGOs
4	Town Hall meeting in Almaty	80	Regional and city government authorities, NGOs, young people, research institutes
5	Town Hall meeting in Astana	35	Heads of sectoral departments, Academia
6	Town Hall meeting in Kyzylorda	40	Oblast and local authorities, heads of sectoral departments
7	Press Conference in Almaty	12	Media (print, TV, radio and information agencies)
8	Consultations with children and youth in Kazakhstan	336	Children and young people
9	Consultations with communities on health and healthy life style	35	Local communities (including elderly), school teachers, health workers, academia, young people
10	Consultations with reps of organizations of PWDs	15	People living with disabilities
11	Consultations with rural communities working on environmental issues	40	School teachers, school administrators, NGOs, local communities (parents)
12	Consultations with students of the Nazarbayev University	30	Students
13	Consultations on "Inequality" with a special focus on inequalities towards vulnerable groups and based on gender	75	Government, NGOs, media, young people, women with HIV, victims of violence, labour migrants, international organizations
14	National consultations on migration and regional security	50	Astana (35), Almaty (15)
15	Thematic meetings on	105	7 Migrants' Support Centres

	migration and development with vulnerable groups		
16	Special session on Migrants' Rights in Kazakhstan	35	IOM with Human Rights Commission
17	Consultations with young people in Kyzylorda	50	Young people, youth NGOs
18	Consultations with students of KIMEP University	30	Young people
19	Consultations with students of Kazakhstan National University	40	Young people
20	Miras International School (Almaty)	30	Young people
21	Kazakh-American University (Almaty)	40	Young people
22	Foundation of the First President (Almaty)	40	
23	Association of Young Leaders (Temirtau)	30	Young people
24	Alumni Leaders League (ALL), USG alumni association	100	Young people
25	School of young diplomats, Astana	80	Young people
26	Consultations with organizations representing people living with HIV/AIDS (14 organizations)	70	People living with HIV/AIDS
27	Tripartite roundtable on Employment, Decent Work and Social Protection	138	Video conference with 14 oblasts and cities of Astana, Almaty
28	Consultation of the Right to Information	50	National Government, CSOs: media, environment, people with disabilities
29	Consultation of Sustainable Development	60	Kazakhstan National University, KIMEP, Youth, Turan University, Academia
30	16 days against violence	70	
31	Women living with HIV/AIDS	30	
32	Media networks on migration	55	
33	Consultations with Kazakh ethnic repatriates in East Kazakhstan oblast	60	In the framework of the UN JP in East Kazakhstan Oblast
34	Student essays	50	NazUni, KazNU
35	Consultations with representatives of the primary health system in Shymkent	220	Ministry of Health, MCH Leading Institution and key paediatricians from south regions of the country such as South Kazakhstan, Zhambul, Kyzylorda oblasts.
36	Consultations on climate change and health	42	Representatives of the Ministries of health and environment, NGOs

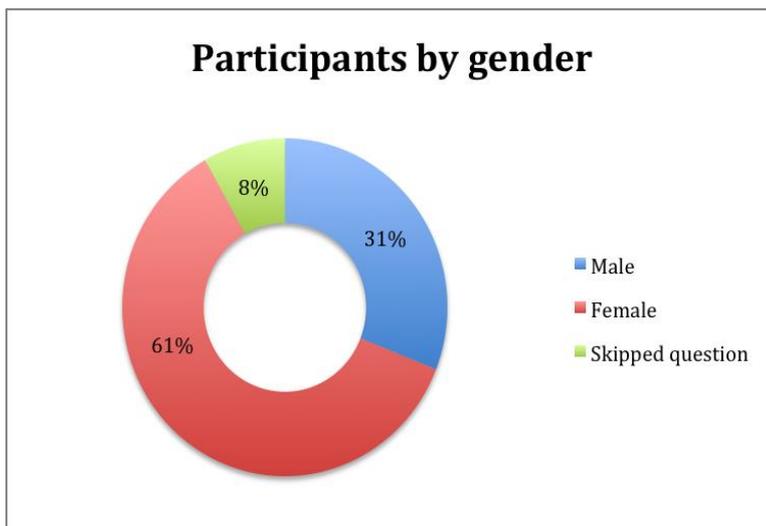
ANNEX 2: Participant and on-line survey results

This survey was designed on the basis of the post 2015 global survey “My World” with additional areas characterizing Kazakhstan’s development context. The list of development areas in the survey is not exhaustive; however, it is helpful to rank existing challenges. Respondents were allowed to include additional areas they think are important and that are not included in the list.

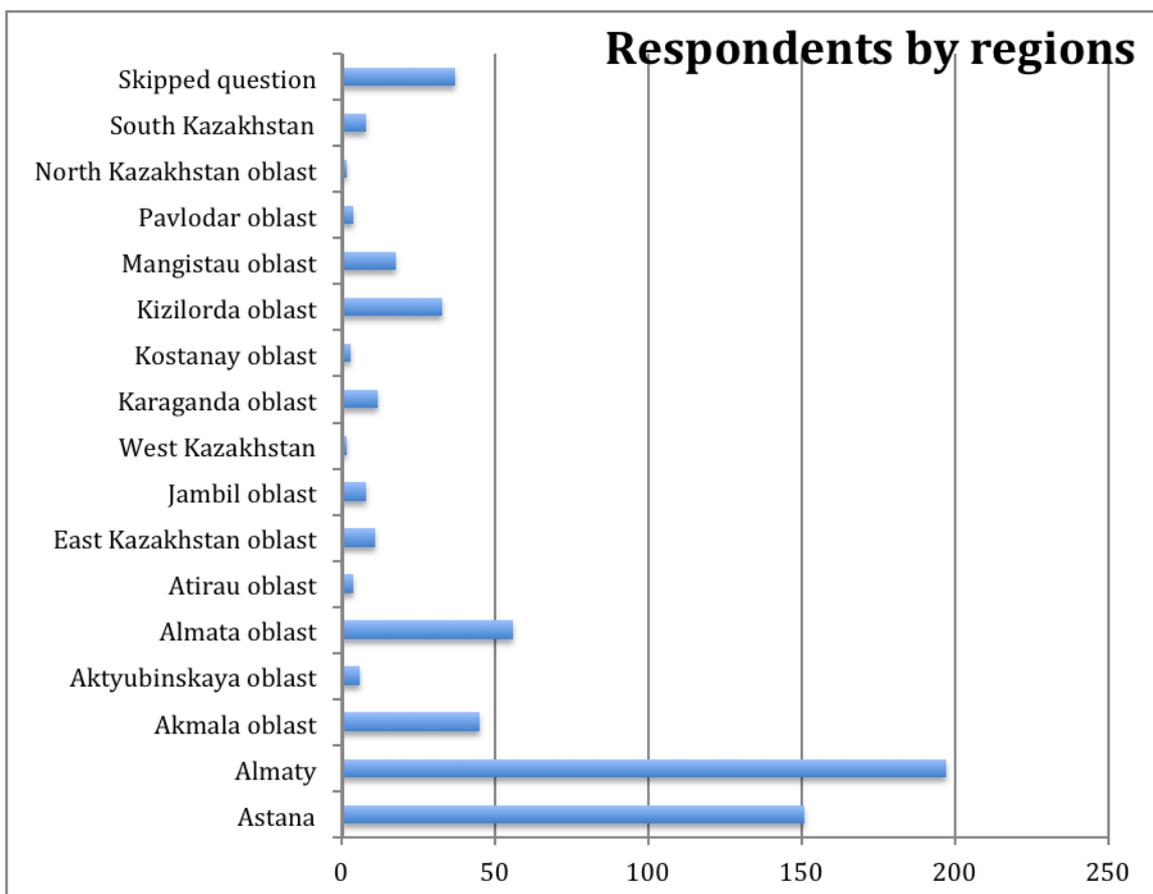
Participants were asked to fill out a survey by scoring 25 development areas from a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest priority. In total 600 people responded to the post 2015 survey. 316 of survey respondents participated in various consultative meetings, and the other 284 respondents filled in surveys online. Below is the result of the relative ranking of development areas by priority based on post 2015 survey in Kazakhstan.

	Development area
1	Protection and promotion of human rights
2	Improved access to quality specialised health care services
3	Improved quality of education
4	Rule of law
5	Environmental protection
6	Continuous access to drinking water
7	Improved social protection
8	Improved quality of jobs (decent work)
9	Access to employment opportunities
10	Reliable supply of energy to households
11	Improved governance efficiency and quality of public services
12	Improved efficiency of government institutions (good governance)
13	Improved access to higher education
14	Increase in wages
15	Access to and quality of preschool education
16	Regional security and cooperation
17	Improved sanitation
18	Reliable supply of electricity
19	Healthy food in educational facilities
20	Improved transport systems and quality of roads
21	Improved quality of residential housing
22	Improved quality of telephone networks and internet
23	Improved quality of private sector services
24	Gender equality in access to jobs and income
25	Gender equality in political and economic life

Survey results are very much in line with priorities identified during consultative processes, and the top 10 list reinforces the findings of this report. One area that has slipped in ranking is gender equality, even though females constitute 61% of respondents.

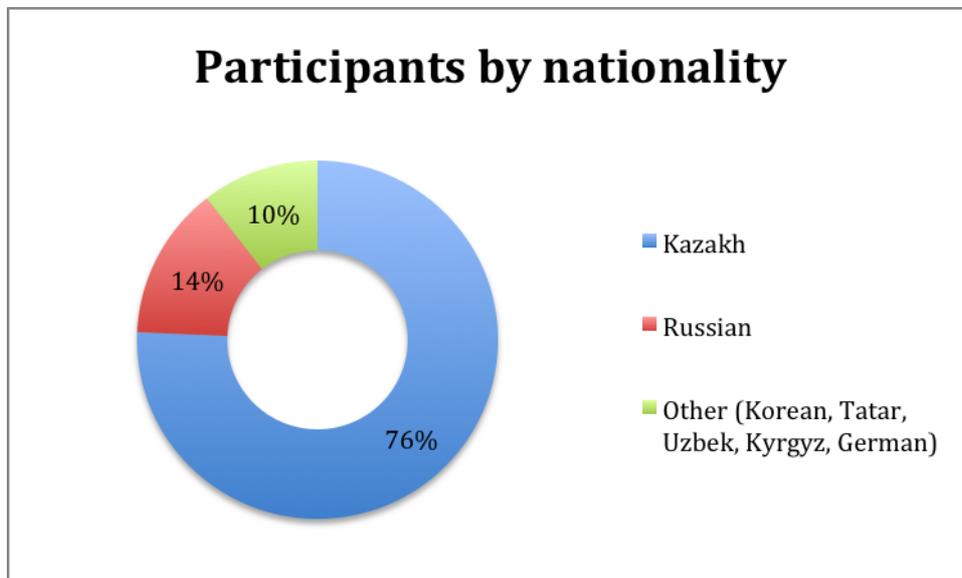


58% of respondents are from two main cities of Kazakhstan: Astana, the capital, and Almaty, business and financial centre. These are also two cities where majority of consultations have taken place. 86% of respondents have higher education and the remaining 13% with secondary education respectively⁴⁵. The graph below shows the geographical coverage of respondents.

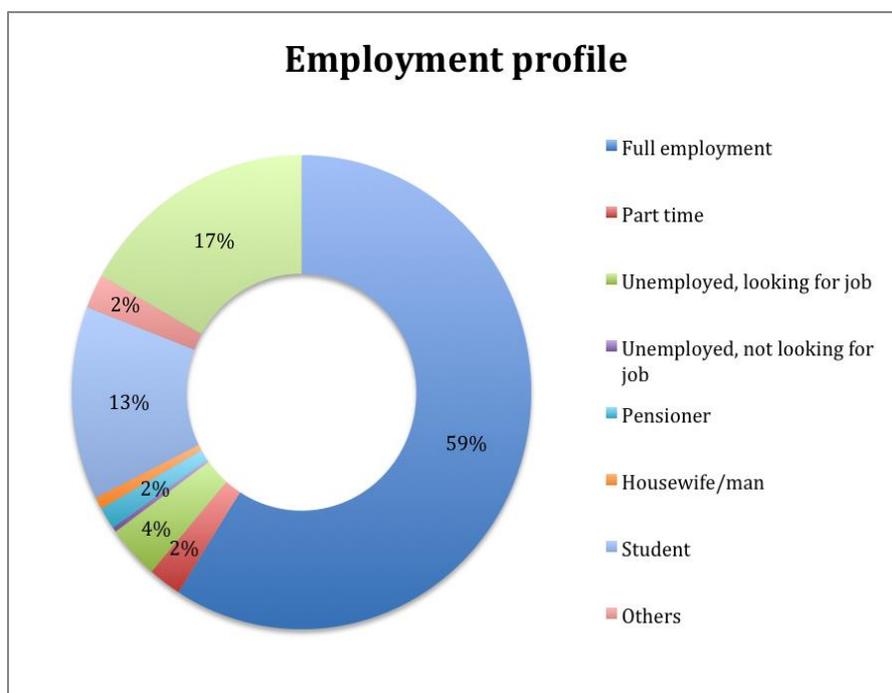


⁴⁵ Out of 572 who answered this question. 28 people skipped a question on the level of education. 17% of this total number of respondents are young people that are either current students or have not yet entered universities.

Kazakh nationals represent 76% of respondents, followed by Russians and other nationalities, including Korean, German, Tatar, Uzbek and Kyrgyz.



Close to 60% of respondents are employed full time; 17% are unemployed and looking for jobs.



Additional areas of concern to respondents as indicated in the surveys are the following:

Support to vulnerable:

1. Support to single mothers
2. Inclusivity of people living with disabilities into the mainstream

3. Access to employment for people living with disabilities
4. Elimination of domestic violence
5. Housing for young people and those serving in military
6. Improving services for elderly
7. Professional development of youth and their employment, including leisure
8. Absence of educational scholarships for children of Oralman
9. Support to all vulnerable groups

Social services:

1. Equal opportunities for all
2. Housing for all
3. Housing for young medical professionals
4. Creating leisure opportunities for children (clubs, activities)
5. Ethical and moral upbringing of young people
6. Culture and protection of cultural heritage
7. Increasing qualifications of teachers, as well as parents in family upbringing
8. Reproductive health of women
9. Psychological health of the population
10. Increasing population awareness on various types of infections
11. Access to HIV diagnostics and treatment

Governance:

1. Fight against corruption
2. Developing and improving the quality of work with NGOs
3. Expanding cooperation areas with NGOs
4. Speed up implementation of Kazakhstan's national development strategy
5. Access to information
6. Freedom of speech

Public services

1. Improvement of quality of public transport
2. Strengthen the population's preparedness to earthquakes in Almaty city
3. Improve readiness of the state and public to address emergency situations

Economic development

1. Development of agricultural sector
2. Development of manufacturing
3. Development of alternative sources of energy
4. Creating of agro-towns
5. Constant price increases on food products

Security

1. Public safety
2. Juvenile delinquency
3. Protection and crime reduction
4. Creation of a strong army
5. Promotion of inter-ethnic and inter-faith harmony
6. Terrorism issues
7. Regulatory issues of internal and external migration
8. Environmental security in the Caspian region

ANNEX 3: Reports from Consultative Meetings

(SEPARATE ATTACHMENT)