
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific

Seventh session

Bangkok, 5-8 September 2017

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda*

Review of implementation of: Astana

Green Bridge Initiative

**Brief country progress report on the implementation of
the Astana Green Bridge Initiative and the Green Bridge
Partnership Programme over the period 2010-2017****

Summary

The present document contains an overview of the implementation of the Astana Green Bridge Initiative and the Green Bridge Partnership Programme over the period 2010-2017, as received by the secretariat from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to ESCAP.

**Brief country progress report on the implementation of
the Astana Green Bridge Initiative and the Green Bridge
Partnership Programme over the period 2010-2017**

1. Recognizing that sustainable development is the only possible condition for existence in modern realities, Kazakhstan is actively and consistently implementing the key provisions of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio 20 “The future we want” (June 20-22, 2012, Rio de Janeiro), and its Green Bridge Partnership Programme has singled out as the only inter-regional mechanism for transitioning towards sustainable development.

2. The Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative, initiated¹ by the President of Kazakhstan and further adopted as an outcome of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific, outlines the blueprint for the first interregional partnership between Europe and Asia and the Pacific, a partnership that is expected to stimulate further cooperation for eco-efficient use of natural resources, investment in ecosystem services, low-carbon development and adaptation to climate change, sustainable urban development and the promotion of green business and green technology, as well as sustainable lifestyles and improvement of quality of life.

* E/ESCAP/MCED(7)/L.1

** The present report is being issued without formal editing.

¹ E/ESCAP/67/8, chap. I. Sect. C.

3. The Government of Kazakhstan has developed, with expert assistance provided by the secretariat, a Europe–Asia-Pacific Green Bridge Partnership Programme (GBPP) and an **operational mechanism**, which was discussed at the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21-23 September 2011),² which welcomed and supported it.³ Such a political commitment from the European region ensured the validity of trans-regional partnerships. Two consultation meetings with partners were held by the Government of Kazakhstan in Astana: the first one was held back-to-back with the Fourth Astana Economic Forum (4-5 May 2011), and the second was held on 17 August 2011.

4. At present, the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan (hereinafter referred to as the MOE) together with international experts is working on the preparation of the institutional framework for the GBPP. These documents are a basic condition for attracting “green” technologies and investments. To date, the GBPP Charter has been signed in September 2013-2016 by the respective Governments and Ministries of the fifteen countries (Kazakhstan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Germany, Mongolia, Belarus, Montenegro, the Republic of Latvia, Albania, Finland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Sweden, Spain) and sixteen non-governmental organizations (“Finnish Water Forum” Association, Association of Legal Entities “International Secretariat G-Global”, Association of Legal Entities “Coalition for Green Economy and Development G-GLOBAL”, Establishment-club “Zhanatau”, Public Foundation “GREEN BRIDGE & G- GLOBAL”, Public Association “KazAliance” (Germany), PF “UNISON” (Kyrgyzstan), “Green Peak” Research and Production Association (Russia), “Civic Initiatives Support Fund” (Tajikistan), “Green PIK in Turkey” (Turkey), MTU Rohiline sild (Estonia), NGO “Green Standards Center” (Russia), Corporate Development Agency “KSO Central Asia” (Kyrgyzstan), NGO “Ecological Union” (Russia), Alternative Energy Club (Uzbekistan)).

5. The Charter provides for the establishment of an International Association, which will consist of two organizations. The Government of Kazakhstan has intention to establish the **“Green Bridge” Institution** and the **“Green Bridge” Foundation**, which underline the consistency with its commitments to the Astana Green Bridge Initiative, supported by the ESCAP’s Commission Session Resolution 67/3 at the sixty-seventh session of the Commission, which was held in May 2011 and further by the Commission Session Resolution 69/9, which is encouraging the development and application of policies and tools, such as environmentally sound technologies, for promoting and facilitating, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies, on mutually agreed terms and conditions.

6. **The “Green Bridge” Institute** will be financially supported at its initial stages by the Kazakh government with funds provided for the research, as well as from the proceeds from the successful commercialization of technologies, products and services. **The “Green Bridge” Foundation** is open for contributions of public sources, along with support from the EU, ADB and other global funds and financial institutions and the private sector.

7. Guided by Commission resolution 67/3, the ESCAP secretariat has provided substantial support, for the implementation of the Astana Green Bridge Initiative and its proposed programme for partnership between Europe and Asia and the Pacific, through various activities, including participation in

² See ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/6.

³ See ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.1, para. 17.

meetings and conferences organized by the Government of Kazakhstan and ECE during the period of 2011-2017 and capacity building activities. In support of the above process, the ESCAP secretariat has conducted various consultations with the Government of Kazakhstan for the purpose of developing a workplan and a partnership programme to implement the Astana Green Bridge Initiative and has signed the MoU with the Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan on 2 July 2015, defining the scope and thematic areas for collaboration.

8. In summary GBPP has been promoted in two tracks. *On the internal track:* In 2014, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan approved the Action Plan for the further promotion of the Green Bridge Partnership Program. On an annual basis, conferences, forums and various kinds of events are held on the coverage and promotion of the GBPP. The work is conducted on an ongoing basis and in an active mode.

On the external track: To date, a Memorandum has been signed between the MOE and ESCAP on cooperation within the framework of the GBPP. Several events (side-events) were held on the GBPP at the Asia-Pacific inter-ministerial platforms and at the Committee⁴ for Environment and Development.

Development perspectives for discussions with the United Nations

9. To follow up to the thematic government commitments to AGBI and GBPP 2017, Kazakhstan is hosting the International Specialized Exhibition “EXPO-2017” with the theme “Future Energy”, which is attracting the best world technologies in the field of energy saving, new developments and technologies for using alternative energy sources. Astana city is functioning as a platform for demonstrating the best world developments and trends in the usage of solar, wind, biogas, marine and thermal waters resources. The best “know-how”, “breakthrough” and perspective projects in the sphere of production and consumption of traditional and alternative energy will be presented here.

10. As the legacy of EXPO, the President in 2015 at the UN General Assembly put forward an initiative to establish an **International Center for Green Technologies** under the auspices of the United Nations. The mission of the International Center is to contribute to global sustainable development through the support of green technologies. The creation of the Center will be based on a long-term strategy for building the capacity of Kazakhstan and the Central Asian region, using an innovative approach and the best world practices in the transition to a green economy. The anticipated main tasks of the center will be:

- Transformation of the energy sector;
- Sustainable urban development;
- Transition to the “green” business;
- Transfer and adaptation of green technologies and best practices;
- Development of green finance;
- Development of renewable energy;
- Increasing of green growth potential.

⁴ Available at: <http://www.unescap.org/events/side-event-progress-astana-%E2%80%9Cgreen-bridge%E2%80%9D-initiative-agbi-and-green-bridge-partnership>

ICGT together with advisory services, training and demonstration of technology, including expert examination, advising on green financing will accelerate the implementation of green economy projects.

11. Along with the establishment of the International Center, the Ministry of Energy faces the task of opening the Green Bridge Institute in the framework of the Green Bridge Partnership Program initiative. The goals and activities of the Institute and the International Center are intersected in many ways. In this regard, Kazakhstan sees in the future the Institute as an integral part of the International Center, through which such tasks as:

- Transfer and adaptation of green technologies;
- Examination and monitoring of projects;
- Building green growth potential;
- Expert and advisory support.

Thus, in summary, the first phase of implementation of the Action Plan to further promote the Green Bridge Partnership Programme, will be strengthened through the opening of the International Center for Green Technologies under the auspices of the United Nations, utilizing the post-Expo infrastructure of EXPO-2017.

12. In this connection, the Center will be a continuation of the idea to support technology transfer, mobilize finance and knowledge sharing raised by the Global Energy and Environment Strategy.

13. In this regard, the Government of Kazakhstan would like to renew the discussions with ESCAP and member states on the second phase of AGBI and GBPP implementation in alignment with SDGs and 2030 Agenda.