



Message from His Excellency Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

am delighted to welcome Prime Minister David Cameron to Kazakhstan. This is the first official visit by a British Prime Minister in the history of relations between Kazakhstan and the United Kingdom.

The mutually advantageous cooperation between our countries is developing dynamically in an atmosphere of friendship, mutual respect and understanding.

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the strengthening of relations with the United Kingdom, which is a leading player in global politics and economy. We have shown ourselves to be a responsible and authoritative member of the international community and are ready to actively engage with the United Kingdom on critical issues such as global development and international security.

This visit reflects the mutual desire to develop bilateral relations at the level of strategic partnership. Astana and London have demonstrated their interest in enhancing cooperation in priority areas such as economy, trade, investment, energy, science, technology, innovation, education and culture.

These strong ties between Kazakhstan and the United Kingdom are of great benefit to both countries. Today in Kazakhstan, there are more than 600 Kazakh-British joint venture companies in operation. They are seeking to use the potential that exists to achieve substantial growth of their businesses. Currently, Kazakhstan is a host to representatives of major British companies like BG, Shell, AMEC, Invensys, BAE Systems, Rio Tinto, Rolls Royce, HSBC, RBS, Ernst & Young, PwC, Deloitte, KPMG, SNR Denton, GlaxoSmithKline, AstraZeneca, Hambledon Mining. These companies are actively operating in Kazakhstan in the field of energy, exploration,

mining, metallurgy, healthcare and the banking sector.

At the same time, the level of bilateral trade that is worth around £1.3 billionn (US\$2bn) is not in line with the potential of our economies. It is vital that we give new and powerful impetus to the development of our relations in this area.

Kazakhstan is interested in diversifying British investments and increasing their flow into the non-raw materials sector of the economy, including biotechnology, agriculture, transport infrastructure, renewable energy, and energy saving technology, health and tourism. We have created favourable conditions in the country for this to take place.

I believe that the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Cameron will give new impetus to bilateral cooperation and contribute to closer ties between our countries and peoples.

H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev President of the Republic of Kazakhstan