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Message from Rt Hon David Cameron MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The priority for this Government is to ensure that Britain succeeds in the global race and to build a country that is stronger and more prosperous. That means linking business up to emerging markets and the Republic of Kazakhstan stands out as a country ripe with commercial opportunities. The World Bank predicts that Kazakhstan will become a high income country by the end of the decade, by which time it may have joined the ranks of the world's top 10 oil producers. That is quite an achievement for a country that has been in existence for only 21 years.

Kazakhstan is more than just its natural resources though. It is also the home to the Baikonur space station, made famous by Yuri Gagarin's historic space flight in 1961 but now the only route to the International Space Station. This makes Kazakhstan an exciting partner in a range of fields, from science and technology to education and research for the new technologies that will shape our future.

This is why, at the invitation of President Nazarbayev, I am making my first visit to Kazakhstan. My aim is to develop a stronger bilateral relationship stretching from political affairs to commercial ties, from defence and security to scientific and cultural co-operation. I want to hear President Nazarbayev's views

on a range of international issues, particularly those that have a direct bearing on the region. And I will also be highlighting the many ways in which the UK can support Kazakhstan's ambitions to play a greater role on the world stage, not least through the provision of high quality education and training.

I will be accompanied on my visit by leading representatives from British business. Their companies span the range of UK interests and opportunities - from oil and gas giants like Shell, BG Group and Petrofac to financial and professional services, engineering, mining, communications and space sectors. There will also be representatives of SMEs who are engaging in the oil and gas supply chain and niche elements of the wider Kazakhstan market such as aircraft de-icing. I want them to reinforce Britain's commitment to partnering new and dynamic markets like Kazakhstan, but I also want them to speak for the world-leading expertise and added value that the UK can bring. In evidence of this, the skyline of Astana is already testament to cutting-edge British design with numerous buildings designed by Sir Norman Foster.

With Kazakhstan due to host EXPO 2017 and the Winter World Student Games in the same year, Britain can share its expertise in delivering world-class events such as

the 2012 Olympics, creating eye-catching infrastructure and providing all the related services that create a memorable experience for all, and leave a legacy that will serve the city and its population for years to come. Of course, I also want the business delegation to excite Kazakh industry and investors about the UK, so that trade flows in both directions. Simplifying the bilateral business environment will also be a crucial step to boosting our trade and investment figures.

As it develops, Kazakhstan is becoming an increasingly significant regional actor. It has aspirations to serve on the UN Security Council, deepen its relationship with the EU, and join the WTO. And its ultimate goal is to become one of the thirty most developed countries in the world by 2050. So there are lots of areas where we can help with expertise, advice and support, sharing our experience so that Kazakhstan can grow quickly into a flourishing democracy with a strong institutional framework and an international outlook.

I am keen to use this visit to see for myself what Kazakhstan has to offer and to open doors to British business. And I believe that Britain and Kazakhstan can, by working together on new and more ambitious joint projects in the future, help each other to succeed in the global race. E

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