

In the Name of God
the Compassionate, the Merciful
Statement by H.E. Dr. Kharrazi
President of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations
At the International Conference of
“30 Years of Independence:
Leadership, Sustainable Development & Progress”
Kazakhstan, December 10, 2021

Mr. Chairman

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the independence of the brotherly country of Kazakhstan, I would like to express my congratulations to Elbassi, President Tokayev, the government, and the great nation of Kazakhstan. My participation in this conference conveys the message of the friendship of the Iranian nation.

Excellencies

Since the independence of the of Kazakhstan, we have been witnessing the admirable efforts of the government and nation of Kazakhstan to develop the country under the wise leadership of H.E. Mr. Nazarbayev and H.E. President Tokayev, which should be congratulated.

Enforcement of some important strategies within the past three decades represent the wisdom, and responsibility of the government and honorable nation of Kazakhstan. These efforts have resulted in sustainable development, stability, economic progress, and good relations with others, based on mutual respect.

Mr. Chairman

Iran was among the first countries that recognized the independence of the Kazakhstan. The opening of Iran's Embassy in Almaty on January 29, 1992, shortly after the independence, the state visit of H.E. Mr. Nazarbayev to Iran in the same year, and also the state visit of Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani, the late President of Iran to Kazakhstan in 1993, and conclusion of several cooperation documents in various fields, indicate the high efforts of our authorities to strengthen our bilateral relations and to utilize the potential capacities of our two nations.

Undoubtedly, with the common will of our authorities and immense capacity for cooperation, we can pin our hope to further strengthen our relations and solidify the links between our two countries. However, some impediments particularly illegal primary sanctions of the United States against Iran and extraterritorial secondary sanctions of the U.S. against Iran's trade partners have prevented us to exploit all existing capacities. Therefore, it is necessary to continue meetings between the authorities of our two governments to find appropriate ways and means to remove the obstacles.

**Mr. Chairman
Excellencies**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our region is witnessing various crises. The most critical one is the issue of Palestine which during the past seven decades has been exacerbating with occupation, and sufferings of the Palestinian nation. In my view, the only possible solution to this crisis, is holding a referendum with the participation of all original inhabitants of Palestine, including Muslims, Jews and Christians, and their refugees to determine their destiny.

Syrian crisis for which the Republic of Kazakhstan contributed in harboring the Astana Format, can witness a promising perspective of stability, security, and peace only if foreign forces who are illegally in Syria would withdraw, and the Government of Syria would exercise its full sovereignty over the country.

The Yemeni crisis which has imposed a costly war upon the Yemeni people during the past six and a half years has now reached a critical stage. Now is the time for the international community to stop the Yemeni siege, enforce a ceasefire, and expedite the delivery of food and medicine to put an end to sufferings of the Yemeni people. Undoubtedly, it is only through Yemeni-Yemeni talks that a representative government may be established in Yemen, and the Islamic Republic of Iran will spare no effort in supporting the Yemeni people in this respect.

In Afghanistan, with the defeat of the U.S. forces and its allies after 18 years of occupation, and their sudden withdrawal, difficult situation has been developed which has paved the way for rising terrorism that can expose the whole region to danger. The only solution to the crisis is the establishment of an inclusive government in Afghanistan with the collaboration of other countries especially the neighboring ones, in order to provide security and welfare for the Afghan people. In this respect, regional consultations would be necessary, and the meeting of foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighbors such as the one recently held in would be instrumental.

Another issue of utmost importance is the fight against terrorism. We believe that fighting against terrorism requires a common will and cooperation of all regional countries. The Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its full readiness and welcomes the cooperation of the regional countries in this respect.

Mr. Chairman

To conclude, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for the warm hospitality of the Government of Kazakhstan and wish the best for the noble people of Kazakhstan.

Thank you.