STATEMENT

by

Mr. Akan Rakhmetullin,
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations
at the United Nations General Assembly Third Committee
on the agenda item 27 “Social Development”
(7 October 2013, New York)
Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I take this opportunity to congratulate the new chair, H.E. Mr. Stephan Tafrov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as, the members of the Bureau, on their election to the Third Committee and thank them for leading us through substantial and critical issues on the agenda.

Mr. President,

As we approach the 2015 deadline of reaching the Millennium Development Goals targets, we find ourselves at a critical juncture challenged by a new international development paradigm which needs an appropriate response.

Recalling the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development of 1995, we still witness that its profound social challenges, such as poverty, unemployment and social exclusion still persist today and their negative consequences have intensified. Moreover, the recent economic crisis has further aggravated the situation.

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, emphasized a holistic approach based on the three pillars of sustainable development, strengthening the social pillar as a complement to economic and environmental development. Despite the great efforts made, a review demonstrates an uneven and unequal progress, which has however failed to reach certain vulnerable social groups.

Nevertheless, we welcome the significant outcomes of the last fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, which indicated the proper priority social areas that should be integrated in the 2015 development agenda, such as equality, social inclusion, empowerment and participation, full and productive employment, decent work, accessible education, health care and social protection.

Kazakhstan endorses the recommendations of the Report of the Secretary-General, aimed at accelerating progress in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on Social Development, which should go beyond group-specific approaches to comprehensive people-centred development. For this purpose we need transparent
institutions and mechanisms to foster participation and civic engagement, reflecting people's needs and concerns. The goal is to address the root causes of poverty, inequality and social exclusion rather than the social consequences of economic or political processes.

At the national level, Kazakhstan has adopted a new strategy last year for a phased eight-priority national development strategy until 2050, prioritizing the social dimension as a key area for policy and action. The following principles were adopted to ensure social stability and harmony:

First of all, the strategy aims at expanded and high-quality standards and guarantees in education, healthcare, nutrition and healthy life style, especially for the unemployed and those with disabilities. It also encompasses meeting intellectual and information needs directly linked to the economy and budget growth.

Secondly, targeted social support should render protection to people in need, especially retirees, person with disabilities, sick children and others, at the same time, consistently improve social security and retirement for protection of mothers and children. Moreover, it embraces new retraining schemes for the unemployed and the physically challenged to meet the labor market demands.

Thirdly, the national programme addresses social imbalances in the regions through better coordination between the relevant governmental agencies, including the single-industry town development measures, and enhancing the qualifications and operational capacities of local authorities.

Finally, our labor policy emphasizes the need to modernize employment and salary policy, with budget allocations for regions with high unemployment and low-income. This is achieved through a new law, model of labor relations and entrepreneurial support for the wellbeing of employees.

Mr. President,

Today's complex situation has led a number of Member States to cut social spending. Kazakhstan, instead, recognizing the vital importance of social support and protection, is annually increasing the financial allocation for healthcare. A new National Unified Healthcare System, which aims to develop preventive medicine and
improve the quality of primary medical care, is operating optimally. It also contains a package of national health surveillance programmes for vulnerable groups, especially, children, adolescents, women of reproductive age and the rural population. As a result of these proactive measures, the life expectancy of the people of Kazakhstan is expected to increase to 70 years by 2015.

Mr. President,

Kazakhstan is fully committed to implement, enhance and widen its social obligations to ensure stable employment and improving the system of targeted assistance, leading to capacity-building. My country is committed to promoting greater coherence in fulfilling the objectives of the United Nations system and its entities, by converging global initiatives with national policies and programmes, the private sector, academia and civil society. Kazakhstan also strives for a long-term equity-oriented approach, taking into consideration the needs of the most vulnerable.

To conclude, we believe that it is only through the concerted political will of all Member States that we can attain our goals and approach the 2015 mark well prepared for its opportunities and challenges.

Thank you for attention.