**Factsheet on President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev’s Speech at the Session of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan**

**Overview**

President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, participated in the 32nd session of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan, a unique civil society organisation that brings together representatives of over 100 ethnic groups in Kazakhstan. The theme of this year’s session was “**Fair Kazakhstan: unity, stability, development**”.

In his speech, President Tokayev focused on the fundamental importance of interethnic harmony and unity for building a nation, as well as on the key role of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan.

The main message of the speech is the formation and development of **a national identity** in a natural-historical way on the basis of socio-political, economic and spiritual community.

Below are key points from President Tokayev’s speech.

**On the national identity of Kazakhstan**

* Over the years of independence, a **new national identity** has been formed in Kazakhstan.
* Kazakhstan’s society is a **union of free and responsible citizens** united by **common ideals and values**.
* All citizens of Kazakhstan consider themselves members of **one big and united Kazakh family**.
* None of the strategic tasks of the state can be fulfilled without **strengthening civil unity, national identity**, and ethno-social integrity of the country.
* ‘**Unity in diversity’** and ‘**we are different, but united’** are the essence of the country’s daily life.
* The turquoise passport of Kazakhstan embodies the **progressive values** on which the country’s unity and harmony are based.
* The sky-blue flag embodies Kazakhstan’s **sacred independence and centuries-old statehood**.

**On the role of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan and its priorities**

* The Assembly has played an important role in the **political modernisation** of the country and the **strengthening of national unity**.
* It contributed to the **involvement of all ethnic groups in state's development**.
* The Assembly efficiently implements the principles of **coexistence between different cultures**, which has become an urgent challenge facing the modern world.
* A key task for the Assembly is to **prevent any provocations** aimed at undermining unity and harmony, and to take effective measures to **eliminate the causes of ethno-social tension**.
* Systematic steps are required to **develop a multicultural environment** and promote the state language.
* It is proposed to establish **two awards of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan** toencourage citizens who contribute to strengthening harmony in Kazakhstan (first award for the best project in the field of literature and journalism, the second for the best project in the field of culture and art).

**On Kazakhstan’s transformation and reforms**

* Fundamental changes have taken place in Kazakhstan, particularly the **transformation of the political system**.
* A new, **more democratic model of government** has been created in Kazakhstan.
* Political reforms have created a new foundation for **integrating all ethnic groups into a single nation**.
* At the root of recent elections in the country were general civic motivations for voting, reflecting **genuine political competition and diverse views** and ideas.

**On the Kazakh language**

* **Knowledge of the Kazakh language** remains a crucial component of the country’s policy.
* The Kazakh language should become a **means of communicating the best achievements** of scientific progress and education.
* At the same time, citizens who do not speak the Kazakh language **should not be infringed**.