**Factsheet on the second meeting of the National Kurultai (National Congress)**

**Overview**

The second meeting of the National Kurultai (National Congress) was held under the theme “Just Kazakhstan – Responsible Citizen” on June 17, 2023, in the city of Turkestan.

President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, delivered a speech at the meeting, which covered Kazakhstan’s social development, the current tasks facing the country, and priorities for the future. He proposed a number of initiatives and proposals for the further development of the country.

**Key points from President Tokayev’s address**

On the education of the younger generation

* It is important to strengthen measures aimed at **improving educational work**.
* The **problem of domestic violence is on the agenda**. People who have committed such offenses must be held accountable in accordance with the law.
* It is necessary that the schools should serve not only as a place of knowledge and enlightenment, but also as an educational institution. Along with knowledge, **the teacher's task is to instill in the student humanistic values**.
* In every child it is necessary to engrain the **sense of patriotism**. It is critical to revitalize the work of children's and youth organizations.
* Patriotism is defined as a person who constantly **takes care of his neighbourhood**.
* It is critical to instill in children a strong **ecological culture** and to set a good example of **environmental stewardship**.
* It is necessary to create conditions for schoolchildren to **visit theaters, museums, and historical sites** in order for them to grow spiritually.
* Students should be given lectures on **comprehensive personal development**.
* It is necessary to **nip in the bud the production and distribution of drugs**.
* It is necessary to take urgent and systemic measures to **combat vaping and various types of e-cigarettes**, which has become a dangerous phenomenon.

On promotion of Kazakhstan’s cultural heritage

* To modernize the country, it is necessary to effectively use the capabilities of soft power, including through the **Kazakhstan Agency for International Development “KazAID”** under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
* the Burabay and Markakol natural reserves, as well as the Orteke musical and puppet art, have been included on the **UNESCO list**, which will make a significant contribution to the worldwide promotion of the natural and cultural heritage of Kazakhstan.
* President Tokayev supports the proposal to give the **mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yassawi in Turkestan** the status of a national historical and cultural monument.
* The fifth **World Nomad Games** will take place in Kazakhstan next year, which will contribute to the development of national sports.

On the state language

* Favorable conditions have been created for **representatives of various ethnic groups to use their mother tongues**. This approach will remain.
* In addition to being a regular means of communication, the **Kazakh language** should be transformed into **a language of science and education**.
* **The Kazakh language will progressively develop**, acting as a main factor in the consolidation of all of the people of Kazakhstan.

On political and socio-economic reforms

* Constitutional reform has strengthened the foundation of the state and set a far-reaching **democratic vector for the development of the country**.
* The strategic stability and effectiveness of the political system has increased, made it more **fair, open and competitive**.
* Kazakhstan has become the only country in our wider region that has carried out such **substantial changes in the political system** in such a short time.

On social values

* Kazakhstan must harmoniously **combine its traditional values with modern cultural norms**.
* New social ethics should be based on the values of **unity and stability, justice and solidarity, law and order, trust and responsibility**.
* Values should become the embodiment of **patriotism, humanity, the cult of knowledge, professionalism, thrift and diligence**.
* A Just Kazakhstan can only be built by **responsible citizens**.
* **Just Kazakhstan and Responsible Citizen** are two interrelated concepts, which should always be considered as the unshakable pillars of the country.

On strengthening the historical self-consciousness of the nation

* The **multi-volume research publication on the history of Kazakhstan** plays a key role in the formation of a canonical image of their past. The multi-volume book on the history of Kazakhstan should be completed by the middle of next year.
* It is necessary to identify a **single list of outstanding figures in the nation's history**. They will become one of the key markers of the country’s national identity at home and abroad.
* It is necessary to **stop the practice of assigning to various objects the names of figures of the Soviet period**, whose biographies are purposefully mythologized in favor of someone's personal interests and preferences.

On the work of the state apparatus

* The goal is to **strengthen local self-governance** and give more autonomy to civil servants.
* Ministers, akims (mayors/governors) and other civil servants must combine two main qualities - **professionalism and patriotism**.
* **The president is not a sacred figure** who stands above the people.

On improving the efficiency of information policy and develop the creative industry

* It is crucial to **publish as many books as possible**, reflecting Kazakhstan’s specific features and corresponding to the country’s national interests.
* It is necessary to start implementing a **new program “Children’s Library.”** A special list of books covering various periods and genres of Kazakh literature should be compiled. Works from this list must be available for all children.
* The **development of domestic cinema** needs a new outlook and a new impetus. For example, a digital system for determining the number of cinema visitors should be created.
* The film industry should be treated as a separate sector of the economy. It is necessary to **reform the cinema sector in a comprehensive way** in close cooperation with experts.

On expert and analytical support for state policy

* Effective public administration depends on the **quality of analytical support**.
* The state urgently requires **comprehensive research and recommendations to address social problems** and ensure the country's comprehensive progress.
* Expert organizations must **analyze all areas of the country's development** since independence and identify the causes and consequences of mistakes that were made.

On the development of the border regions

* **Not one inch of the country’s land will be given to foreigners**.
* President Tokayev reinstated the **Katon-Karagai, Markakol and Makanchi districts**, which is very important in terms of national security.

On improving state symbols

* The **coats of arms of the country’s regions** **and cities** must be brought to a common denominator.
* It is necessary to **streamline the system of development and approval of regional symbols**, making it uniform for all regions.

On state awards

* It is necessary to give a number of state orders the **names of outstanding figures of Kazakhstan’s people**.
* Next year, on Republic Day, Kazakhstan will celebrate the merits of distinguished citizens with **orders named after historical figures**.

**Background information on the National Kurultai**

On June 14, 2022, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev signed a decree establishing the National Kurultai, a civic institution and a key presidential consultative and advisory body, which replaced the previous National Council of Public Trust with more relevant and broader functions. The first meeting of the national kurultai was held in the Ulytau Region on 16 June 2022.

While the National Council of Public Trust discussed current social and economic problems and issues of political reform, the National Kurultai considers long-term issues related to the development of social consolidation on the basis of national values.

The National Kurultai consists of government representatives, civil society groups, experts, as well as members of regional public councils. The Council aims to generate new ideas and suggestions to ensure social consolidation, unity, and development of Kazakhstan. Its meetings with the participation of President Tokayev are held annually.

The Kurultai also aims to expand public involvement in decision-making. All citizens can send their proposals to the Kurultai through an online platform.