Speech
by Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan O. Bektenov
at the COP31 Conference

Antalya

Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to **His Excellency President *Recep Tayyip Erdoğan*** and the Government of the Republic of Türkiye for the outstanding organization of the **COP31** in Antalya**.**

It is encouraging to see close cooperation with Australia in advancing the conference agenda.

Справочно: *Турция является страной организатором COP31. Австралия является председателем переговоров COP31.*

Under the leadership of His Excellency, President of Kazakhstan ***Kassym-Jomart Tokayev***, ecological responsibility has become a **strategic national priority**.

The **new Constitution**, which entered into force in July, reinforces the duty of both the State and citizens to protect the environment. Over the last 5 years in Kazakhstan about **1.7 billion trees** have been planted on a land area of more than **1 million hectares**.

Another notable example is President **Tokayev's Taza Kazakhstan** initiative, which seeks to instil **environmental awareness** and a **sense of shared responsibility** for keeping our country clean. Since its launch in 2024, almost **4 million tonnes** of **waste** have been collected across the country.

Kazakhstan remains firmly committed to the **Paris Agreement** and to achieving **carbon neutrality by 2060**

Dear colleagues,

Central Asia is particularly exposed to rising **temperatures**, shrinking **glaciers**, **desertification** and **water scarcity**. These challenges call for closer regional cooperation.

This April, Astana hosted the **first Regional Ecological Summit**. Its **Declaration on Environmental Solidarity of Central Asia** provided a common basis for action.

At the heart of this shared commitment lies one of our most pressing priorities: **water security**.

In this regard, the Head of our State has put forward an initiative to establish an **International Water Organization** under UN auspices.

We invite all interested partners to engage in this process and achieve better delivery of UN mandates.

It is also gratifying that the United Nations has designated 22 *(twenty second)* April as the **International Day of Greening the Planet**, following Kazakhstan's initiative. This is a reminder that sustained conservation efforts bring tangible benefits.

Distinguished participants,

A successful climate agenda goes hand in hand with a sustainable energy future. Let me highlight Kazakhstan's progress towards a balanced **energy transition**.

Over the past six years, the share of **renewables** in our power generation has grown **fourfold**, reaching **8%**. The next target is to raise its share to **15%** by **2030**.

Following a nationwide referendum, construction of the **first nuclear power plant** has begun with global technology partners.

New opportunities are also emerging in wind and solar energy, green hydrogen and critical minerals.

Together with Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan is developing a **Green Corridor** to deliver clean electricity to international markets.

These efforts demonstrate that energy security and environmental goals can reinforce each other.

Another priority is **climate-resilient cities**. Our flagship initiative, **Alatau City** is being designed as a modern low-carbon and digitally connected urban centre.

Beyond urban development, technology also plays a vital role in **disaster prevention**. Kazakhstan is deploying AI and satellite monitoring for early warning, forest-fire detection and natural-hazard forecasting.

We stand ready to share this experience. The proposed **Regional Digital Ecosystem for Central Asia** can extend data-driven solutions across borders.

Dear friends,

Kazakhstan remains committed to open dialogue and practical cooperation in addressing global climate challenges.

The priority is to turn promising ideas into viable projects. Let us work together to deliver tangible results for present and future generations.

In conclusion, I would like once again to express my sincere gratitude **to the fraternal Republic of Türkiye** for hosting the **COP31 Conference** at such a high level and for its warm hospitality. **Thank you!**