



## Green Economy: from theory to practice\*



UNITED NATIONS

The **"Green Bridge"** Programme for Europe, Asia and the Pacific, an initiative of the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, supported by the decisions of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific and welcomed in the Ministerial Declaration of the Astana "Environment for Europe" Conference, will be presented at the forthcoming 7<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in Astana. The "Green Bridge" Programme for Europe, Asia and the Pacific, plans to encompass 95 countries, nearly two thirds of the world population and more than 90% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

### Why is there a need for a "Green Bridge" Programme?

- Protecting the ecosystems of the Asia and Pacific and Pan-European regions, which is of great importance for the world's stability, requires integrated approaches
- Common actions are necessary for reforms in the economy beyond the capacity of individual countries
- There is a need for a stable and long-term basis for sustainable investments
- There is a need for an effective mechanism for the transfer of new technologies and innovations from developed countries to the developing world to renew the sectors of the economy and create new and long-term green jobs
- The Programme will not replace, but can significantly improve the effectiveness of ongoing programmes and previously developed tools and mechanisms by maximising synergies
- Existing national, subregional and regional institutions can also find new roles and interests in the Programme.

#### Overall goal

Integrate the efforts of Europe, Asia and the Pacific countries, international organizations, public and business sectors in the transition to a green economy.

#### Partnership Programme substance

The «Green Bridge» is a practical mechanism for greening the economy

#### Programme tasks

The development of new fields of green businesses, assistance in management reforms and in creating the conditions for the transition from the existing brown economy to a green economy.

#### The Programme includes specific measures on cross-sectoral areas...

- Strengthening national and international governance through the transfer of best practices
- Creation of informational infrastructure to support partnerships, education and awareness
- Promotion of green business and green technologies
- Financial and economic instruments, including greening procurement and taxes



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**ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE**  
7<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
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\* Fact sheet prepared by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

**... as well as the most urgent and effective measures for specific economic sectors:**

- Protection of water, mountain and other ecosystems
- Sustainable energy, its availability and efficiency
- Food security and sustainable agriculture
- Sustainable urban infrastructure and transport
- Adaptation to climate change and natural disasters

**Mechanism of Programme management:**

- Governing bodies: International Steering Committee and International Secretariat
- Financial mechanism (will be defined at the next stages of the process)
- Integration with other regional processes
- Monitoring and accountability

**The Programme also includes the following sectors:**

- Detailed actions for the first year of work – Road Map
- Expected results
- The Statement on Partnership for Green economy in Europe and Asia and the Pacific

The statement is not legally binding, but includes the principles and actions at country level and international level for the transition to a green economy.

**The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan is organizing  
a Special Side-Event on the Programme  
on 21 September 2011, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**A Side-Event on the projects of  
the "Green Bridge" Programme  
proposed by partners will take place  
on 22 September 2011, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

The full version of the Programme is available at:

<http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2011/ece/ece.astana.conf.2011.6.e.pdf>

<http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2011/ece/ece.astana.conf.2011.6.r.pdf>

**Workshop for journalists - 20 September 2011**