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**FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS IN THE
REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

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Based on global trends and principles of agglomerations formation, there is a need to develop the territory adjacent to major economic centers in Kazakhstan, and its relevance is sharply increasing in the current crisis. This is due to the need to increase competitiveness, enter a new stage of development of the country's economy in accordance with the requirements of the external macro system, as well as the question of solving the issue of maintaining a large territory by its small inhabitants by creating geopolitical centers.

In modern conditions, the consideration of space and location as a factor of the second level of state policy is postponed. This has become an important manifestation of the country's socio-

economic development. In the past two decades, the growth and agglomerations of cities, which in developed countries were considered the driving force of civilization, such factors as increased mobility of the population, the development of trade and services, have become today the leading force among developing countries. Including Kazakhstan. Today, the state is aimed at the active development of the agglomerations. Kazakhstan supports the development of agglomerations through the development of cities in the financial, human, innovative, natural, environmental, and cultural spheres, which will be the main focus of efforts.

The first task is to harmonize the urban planning policy of these agglomerations. The agglomeration has its own nodes, for example, Almaty is the core of the agglomerations and a zone of special urban planning regulation is defined next to it. The formation of agglomerations have become the main form of territorial organization of Kazakhstan, which is rarely located among the population. This, in turn, should ensure high-quality demographic and territorial growth. Dynamic development of the capital, demographic capacity, growth of population density in the region, migration flow, resource base, i.e. water and land resources create prerequisites for the development of agglomerations.

Agglomeration is the circumference of a single city in nearby localities. They constantly link industrial, cultural, and other interests. In addition, they do not allow binding with each other in the territorial plan. The territory of the Nur-Sultan agglomerations include the city of Nur-Sultan as its core. Three territories of Akmola region include Arshaly, Tsilinograd, Shortandy, and four districts of Akkol district. In total, the agglomeration includes 124 localities. Today, the population of the agglomeration is 1,200,000 people. In 2030, it is projected that the number of people here will reach 33%, i.e. 1,600,000, but this figure may be changed.

Today, there are 87 cities and 6.5 thousand villages in Kazakhstan. In the last 20-25 years, there has been an intensive internal migration of rural residents (especially young people) to major cities. There are also committed and repatriates. As a result, a third of the country's population lives in four agglomerations with centers in the cities of Nur-Sultan, Almaty, Shymkent and Aktobe. However, despite the growth of the urban population, the indicators of urbanization (urban growth due to the movement of people from rural areas in search of better jobs and better living conditions) in Kazakhstan do not change.

In the country, agglomerations can be divided into 2 types. The first is the Republican agglomerations, which has four agglomerations with centers-Nur-Sultan, Almaty, Shymkent and Aktobe. The second is the agglomerations of the region, which includes regional centers.

There are several problems for the development of urban agglomerations, such as:

- *High cost of living in major cities and almost complete lack of rental housing outside the capital;*

In Almaty and Nur-Sultan, the cost of living is much more expensive than the national average, and housing costs are higher. Therefore, rural families cannot move to large cities.

- *Poor urbanisation;*

The country has many small/medium-sized cities (27 mono-and 41 small cities), and the largest (Nur-Sultan, Almaty and Shymkent) account for only 21% of the total population. This is lower than in most OECD countries.

- *Insufficient internal mobility of the population;*

Despite the relocation of population from villages to the city, in the big cities do not have enough well – qualified specialists and drivers of development.

- *Poor integration of villagers into the urban environment;*

In another way, this is called "false urbanization", when the growth of the urban population and the expansion of territories do not involve citizens in the cultural and economic environment. Therefore, urban centers of rural lifestyle with the marginalization of residents and an increase in the share of self-employed people are emerging.

- *Development of private houses on the outskirts of the city;*

There are sparsely populated residential areas that are not provided with public infrastructure, primarily sewage.

– *In the regions are outdated approaches to urban development;*

Cities are still divided into: the center, suburbs, residential and industrial areas. Shopping areas and recreation areas are not accessible to Kazakhstanis without the use of transport

Ways to solve the problems of urban agglomerations

✓ *The agglomerations centers will be developed together with mono- and small towns and settlements located on the outskirts.* In the zone of influence of Nur-Sultan is the small city of Akkol; Almaty - Esik, Kapshagay, Kaskelen, Talgar; Shymkent - Lenger, Aktobe - the city of Alga, Khromtau.

✓ *According to the «Nurly Zhol» program, it is planned to improve transport links between agglomerations centers and satellite cities. Under the «Nurly Zher» program, to develop the rental housing market without foreclosure by attracting private investment and build engineering infrastructure.*

✓ *In the centers of agglomerations plan to open branches of the world's known universities.* Universities will open specialties "urban studies" and "urban planning", which will be allocated grants. Students of these specialties are planned to be sent for training and internships in foreign universities.

✓ *In large cities, the state program «Digital Kazakhstan» has started work on the implementation of the concept of «Smart city».* It involves the integration of information and communication technologies (hereinafter-ICTs) and the Internet of things (IoT) for the management of urban property to improve the quality of life and improve the efficiency of public services. ICTs allow city akimats to interact directly with communities and urban infrastructure, and monitor what is happening in the city.

«Smart city» project consists mainly of the following components:

- solutions in the field of energy supply and energy saving;
- water resources management: modernization of water systems, monitoring of consumption, environmental safety systems;
- buildings where all engineering and information systems are integrated into a single management system;
- use of information technologies in the provision of public services.

In this regard, the international concept of isochron was introduced. This approach allows to define the boundaries of an urban agglomerations closer to reality, taking into account not only cities, but also rural localities. Thus, Nur-Sultan and Almaty will have 1.5 hours access. This means that the knowledge of the geoclimatic conditions, stay in a certain region. In other words, they can arrive in the city within an hour and a half. When developing the agglomerations, special attention is paid to the modern type of high-speed transport between the core of the agglomerations and the surrounding localities. This is important for the development of the integrity of work. Here we are talking about the development of high-speed transport. As light-rail transport, high-speed bus, the mainstay of agglomerations development in the city, attention is paid to improving public transport within the core of the city. This is easy for Almaty, where there is a metro and a program for its development. A program for the development of passenger transport is being developed.

In conclusion, today, urban agglomerations act as attractive natural centers for both the population and economic entities. The development of urban agglomerations and the formation of agglomerations in Kazakhstan will form a world-class agglomerations in relation to the new principles. In the future, it will become a center for the transition to a «green economy», the development of research, innovation and entrepreneurship. In addition, it will ensure the development and effective use of human capital through educational, information and high-quality transport services, increasing competitiveness, and creating attractive conditions for foreign investors.

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