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Abstract of the national paper of Kazakhstan

1. The space complex of Kazakhstan currently consists of a number of constituent elements engaged in work relating to the exploration and use of space, the wider introduction of space technology and the provision of space services. The main authorities responsible for national policy in this field include the National Aerospace Agency and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. The country's space complex comprises the Baikonur launch site, facilities at the Sary Shagan 3-D test range and a number of industrial enterprises and scientific research centres and organizations directly or indirectly concerned with space activities.

2. The Baikonur launch site, established in 1955, was the main site in the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the testing and utilization of the full range of rocket and space technology products and space facilities designated for scientific, economic and defence purposes. Kazakhstan's space activity commenced on 4 October 1957 with the launch of the world's first artificial Earth satellite. In 1994, the Baikonur launch site was leased to the Russian Federation. All Russian manned programmes and launches of spacecraft into geostationary and circumterrestrial orbit, as well as interplanetary missions, take place from that launch site.

3. Relations between Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation with respect to the Baikonur launch site are governed by the agreement on the main principles and conditions for the use of space facilities of the Baikonur complex and also by a special intergovernmental committee.

4. With regard to the move towards intensive marketing of space activity, each year sees an increased number of commercial launches from the Baikonur launch site, which has now, in effect, become a centre of business cooperation among the leading space powers.

5. Kazakhstan is engaged jointly with the Russian Federation and Ukraine in the design and implementation of a project for establishing, on the basis of elements of the Energiya-Buran space system, an environmentally friendly heavyweight rocket carrier (Sodruzhestvo project) and in the implementation of the Dnepr programme involving the SS-18 converted intercontinental ballistic missile.

6. National scientific research institutes and physics technology centres are carrying out assignments in the field of pure and applied scientific research and with a view to the introduction of modern space technologies and know-how.

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7. Kazakhstan's activities in the realm of fundamental space sciences are conducted principally through research carried out at the institutes of astrophysics, of ionospheric studies and of space research.

8. Space flights by Kazakh cosmonauts have laid the foundations for the establishment of national experimental space research programmes on board the Mir orbital station. The Polet-M2 programme for 1999 comprised five main segments: applied physics research, space biotechnology and biomedicine, geophysical research, natural-resource monitoring and information coverage.

9. Studies relating to the reception and processing of data on the remote sensing of Earth and digital mapping are being carried out at the institutes of space research, of nutrition, of soil sciences and of geological sciences, at the National Centre of Radioelectronics and Communications, and by the Committee on Land Resources Management of the Ministry of Agriculture.

10. Two approaches to the use of space technology resources have already been established in Kazakhstan and are being further developed. Space technology is seen, firstly, as a means of providing national economic solutions, as in the case of natural-resource monitoring and land mapping for the evaluation of land resources, the operational monitoring and evaluation of soil-vegetation resources, mineral prospecting, geophysical monitoring, space data reception and processing, and the like. The second approach is focused on the advancement of space technology and development projects, as well as participation in international cooperation in fields such as space materials science, the development of new space technology resources and experimental facilities, space data reception and processing, and so forth.

11. Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the training of scientific research and engineering personnel. On the basis of the existing network of higher educational establishments, it has been possible, with minimal expenditure, to restructure academic programmes with a view to creating a pool of specialists required for the national space complex. In this area, particular success has been achieved in promoting cooperation with a number of higher educational establishments in the Russian Federation and with the International Space University and the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific.

12. In accordance with the Master Plan for the Development of the Space Complex of the Republic of Kazakhstan, elaborated in 1988, the strategic goal of the complex is to make it possible to exploit more fully the unique possibilities offered by space technology in the interests of enhancing national security and providing solutions to socio-economic and scientific problems, while also ensuring the application of the international agreements concluded by Kazakhstan in connection with its space activities.

13. The attainment of this strategic goal must be based on the following:

(a) Specifically targeted financing of the space complex through the national science and technology programme;

(b) Integration of the scientific-technical, prototype-design and industrial testing infrastructure supporting space technology applications in the area of space communications, telecommunications, satellite navigation and air traffic control, remote sensing of Earth, exploration of outer space and space materials science;

(c) International cooperation; and

(d) Attraction of foreign investment.

14. At the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, Kazakhstan was accepted as a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. That was followed by the country's accession to international agreements and treaties in the area of space activity.

15. Kazakhstan is committed to cooperation with the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in the exploration and conquest of outer space in the light of the shared geopolitical interests and traditionally close ties of those countries in the area of science and technology. Such cooperation proceeds on the basis of bilateral and multilateral agreements.

16. With a view to gaining experience in the organization of space activity and establishment of its own aerospace sector in line with international standards, Kazakhstan is seeking to establish close relations with leading space agencies such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America and the European Space Agency (ESA). Cooperation is also being built up gradually with countries in Asia and the Pacific.