

Brief characteristic of Kazakhstan-Afghanistan diplomatic relations

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan were established in February 1992.

The history of the development of bilateral relations can be divided into the following stages.

The first stage (1992-2003) is characterized by inertness and absence of any significant events in bilateral relations.

Important event during this period are:

- establishment of diplomatic relations (February 12, 1992);
- visit of Abdul Rahim Hatef, Vice-president of Afghanistan (1992);
- opening of Embassy of Afghanistan in Kazakhstan (1993);
- opening of Diplomatic mission of Kazakhstan in Kabul (2002, in 2003 was transformed into Embassy);
- humanitarian aid to Afghanistan: 3 thousand tons of wheat (2002); 192 tons of foodstuffs (2003); transfer of surplus clothing to Afghan National Army (2003).

The second stage (2003-2005) is distinguished by minor expansion of the format of relations and Kazakhstan's assistance to Afghanistan.

Important event during this period are:

- the first official visit of the President H.Karzay to Kazakhstan (April 15-16, 2004). The following documents were signed:
 - Treaty on the Bases of Relationship and Cooperation Between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan;
 - Intergovernmental Agreement on trade and economic cooperation.

The third stage (2005-2011) is defined by such facts as: Afghanistan is a separate vector of Kazakhstan's foreign policy, Kazakhstan's assistance to Afghanistan.

Important event during this period are:

- organizing of direct flights between Kabul and Almaty (2006);
- establishing of intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation (2007);
- \$2 million 380 thousand to the construction of school in Samangan province - \$160 thousand, hospital in Bamiyan province - \$570 thousand, reconstruction of Kunduz-Tulukhan asphalt road - \$1 million 650 thousand (2007);
- opening of representative office of the construction company Kazkhimmontazh Holdings, working on construction and reconstruction of industrial facilities, in Kabul (2007);
- intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in educational sphere (2009);
- in the frames of the Program on assistance to Afghanistan was funded \$1,5 million (2009 - 2011).

The fourth stage (2011 – present times) is the further development of cooperation.

Important event during this period are:

- Memorandum between Kazakhstan's and Afghanistan's Ministries of Foreign Affairs (June 13, 2012);
- Intergovernmental agreement about cooperation in the field of prevention emergencies and liquidation of their consequences (June 13, 2012);

- Intergovernmental Agreement on Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments (June 13, 2012);
- Memorandum on bilateral consultations and mutual understanding between diplomacy institutes (June 13, 2012).