

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **"Energy of the future": the power of a green economy.**

The Eurasian Media Forum opened its doors to international participants and Kazakh delegates in the framework of the most significant events of the exhibition "Astana Expo-2017". The Forum participants discussed the concept of the "green economy" as the basis for sustainable development of states. The energy of the future through priorities, efficiency and potential that was the main thesis of discussions.

Experts noted that the issue of changing the prejudiced attitude towards green energy as an industry requires large investments, which entails difficult-to-forecast risks and the issue of attracting investments in renewable energy sources (RES). The moderator of the session was the reporter, the presenter of the RBC channel (Russia) **Andrey Levchenko**.

During the discussion, **Arman Kashkinbayev, Secretary General of the Association of Renewable Energy of Kazakhstan**, expressed the opinion that green energy is an inevitable future. "We hope that after the Expo, new amendments will be adopted in the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, creating favorable conditions for the country's transition to alternative energy. Now its share in the domestic economy is about 1%, which is at the start-up level. But we have the goals of the "Strategy for the transition to a green economy," and the government takes all necessary measures to ensure that this strategy is consistently implemented." The speaker expressed the hope that over time the State Program for the Development of Green Energy will appear in Kazakhstan. Regarding the timing of transition to renewable energy sources, **Kashkinbayev** noted that a compromise is required with technology companies in the metallurgical and oil industry to enable them to increase capacity and maintain the pace of innovation development. In addition, the speaker noted, as the experience of Spain and China shows, a sharp transition to alternative sources can also cause interruptions in the traditional energy supply.

**Bill Richardson, the former US ambassador to the United Nations**, on the issue of the prospects for the transition of the world's countries to alternative energy sources, answered that it was still a question of the future. The speaker also called for the use of oil companies for the development of the industry and attracting investments.

**The head of the UNEP office (UNEP) - Central Asia Natalia Alekseeva** called the green economy as the only possible future for the planet Earth. She noted that only an inclusive green economy has a perspective and meaning when all countries of the world can be evenly and equally provided by it. Concerning investments in the industry, the speaker cited the example of such companies as Creon and Lukoil, which are now already developing projects in the field of alternative sources of energy supply, thereby diversifying their activities and laying a great foundation for the future.

**Rajendra Pachauri, Nobel Peace Prize winner**, have also taken part in the discussion. He devoted his speech to the argumentation of the importance of compliance with the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. To date, traditional energy is comparable to the cost of alternative energy, according to Pachauri. "This is a matter of long-term priorities. It is better to build solar panels than the wall between Mexico and America," - the speaker said. The level of the world ocean over the past 100 years has grown by more than 19 cm, and if the pace is reduced, then by 2100 this figure will reach 1.3 meters. According to the scientist's forecasts, an increase in global temperature of at least 1 degree will lead to catastrophic consequences, in the form of large-scale climate change on the planet and melting of glaciers. Meanwhile, while maintaining the current volume of carbon dioxide emissions, the temperature of the planet will increase by 2 degrees by 2050. In order to avoid a catastrophe, by 2050 the amount of emissions

should be reduced by 40-70 percent compared to 2010. "Human influence on climate change is obvious. The more we influence the climate, the more severe and irreversible these changes will be. We have tools to reduce the impact on the climate, and we need to use them to build a sustainable future," - Pachauri said.

During the discussion, the speakers expressed a common opinion on the need to review the current practice of excessive consumption in favor of more economic and sustainable consumption, which carries minimal risks to humanity and the environment.

A summary of speeches was given by **David Applefield, special representative of The Financial Times** at the Forum. He offered the McDonald's case as an example of how the transition to sustainable energy supply could bring image benefits and benefits to the company and encouraged present journalists to cover such examples extensively in order to reverse the current prejudice against the development and introduction of alternative energy sources, both in business and in society as a whole.

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