

# Kazakhstan intends to be the voice of Central Asia in UN Security Council

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New York, United Nations - Kazakhstan pledged on Thursday to push the issues that particularly affect Central Asia in the Security Council of the United Nations, with the grand idea to make the region a zone of peace, cooperation and security.

Kazakhstan was elected as a non-permanent member of the Security Council on June 28 with a term of two years, starting in January. It will be the first time that a country from Central Asia occupies a seat in the Council.

"The two-year term on the Security Council is a responsibility that we take with the utmost seriousness and pride", Kazakhstan's foreign minister Erlan Idrissov, said Thursday during the UN General Assembly.

The representative of the Government of Astana said that his country is committed to encouraging actions towards maintenance of peace and security, conflict prevention and other goals such as taking steps to end wars, during its term on the Council.

"Central Asia will be represented in the Council for the first time in history, and our presence is an opportunity to draw attention to its members on regional issues. Our grand idea is to make the region a zone of peace, cooperation and security", he added.

Idrissov said the UN needs changes that adapt to the "new realities" in order to improve their effectiveness in solving international problems and avoiding threats towards world peace.

But he also added that these reforms have to be carried out in accordance with principles adopted by consensus and defending the interests of the United Nations Charter.

Idrissov noted that Kazakhstan plays a leading role in support of a nuclear-free world and, as a country that 25 years ago signed a decree on closing the nuclear testing sites of Russia on its territory, has the moral right and responsibility to promote the disarmament process.

Among other measures as part of these policies, the Government of Astana is determined to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world by 2045.