



United Nations Volunteers working alongside local communities in Kazakhstan

18.5.2017 – Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan: Mr. Toily Kurbanov, Deputy Executive Coordinator, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme will visit Astana on 23 and 24 May. Mr. Kurbanov will meet the Government of Kazakhstan to discuss global partnership priorities between Kazakhstan and UNV, and find ways to further promote volunteerism in the country. Mr. Kurbanov will also meet with UN Volunteers who are currently serving with United Nations projects in Kazakhstan. In addition, UNV will explore avenues for cooperation with Nazarbayev University and with volunteer involving organizations.

Mr. Norimasa Shimomura, UN Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Kazakhstan: “Our UN Volunteers play a crucial role in Kazakhstan, reaching out to communities at the grass-root level, bringing innovations and empowering people. They are the real “experts for change”, a combination of outstanding inspiration and commitment.”

“UNV applauds Kazakhstan’s Law on Volunteering Activity – there is huge potential for coordinating volunteerism for international development cooperation,” Mr. Kurbanov underlines.

UNV and UN Volunteers have supported United Nations partners in Kazakhstan since 1993 through volunteer engagement and development programming. By working with local communities in Kazakhstan and around the world, UN Volunteers address international law, security, economic development, social progress, and human rights. In the last decade, 77 Kazakh UN Volunteers contributed significantly to the work of the United Nations. Presently 22 Kazakh UN Volunteers serve in Malawi, Mozambique, Ukraine, and in their home country. To advance development cooperation globally, UNV hopes to mobilize more Kazakh UN Volunteers in UN projects and expand Kazakhstan’s contribution to sustainable development.

Editor’s Notes: In 2016, UNV had over 6,500 UN Volunteers in 126 countries, supporting sustainable development as part of the workforce of our United Nations partners. In addition, 13,000 UN Online Volunteers from around the world gave their time to engage in sustainable development virtually. With 84 per cent of UN Volunteers coming from countries of the global South, UNV acts as a change agent for South-South cooperation within the United Nations system.

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