

## CSAG INFORMATION PAPER:

### ***“Why Is Kazakhstan Joining the Abraham Accords?”***

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*The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of a number of international officers within the Combined Strategic Analysis Group (CSAG) and do not necessarily reflect the views of United States Central Command, nor of the nations represented within the CSAG or any other governmental agency.*

1. **Subject:** “Why Is Kazakhstan Joining the Abraham Accords?”
2. **Purpose:** This paper presents CSAG’s analysis regarding the perceptions and consequences of Kazakhstan’s accession to the Abraham Accords.
3. **Introduction:** On November 7, 2025, the Republic of Kazakhstan officially declared it was joining the Abraham Accords, becoming the first post-Soviet state and the first Central Asian country to participate in this U.S.-brokered regional peace framework originally established to normalize diplomatic ties between Israel and several Arab countries.
4. **Facts:**
  - a) **Official Position**
    - 1) In November 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan issued the following statements on its accession to the Abraham Accords:
      - i. “This important decision was made solely in the interests of Kazakhstan and is fully consistent with the nature of republic’s balanced, constructive, and peaceful foreign policy. Joining the Abraham Accords will contribute to strengthening our country’s cooperation with all interested states and, therefore, is fully in line with Kazakhstan’s strategic goals. Kazakhstan will continue to firmly advocate for a just, comprehensive, and sustainable settlement of the Middle East conflict based on international law, relevant UN resolutions, and the principle of “two states for two peoples”.”<sup>1</sup>
      - ii. “Within the framework of the Abraham Accords, Kazakhstan stands ready to engage constructively with all partners, including key mediators in the process, and to further contribute to international efforts aimed at stabilizing the situation, increasing humanitarian support for the population, and creating conditions for a sustainable political process.”<sup>2</sup>
    - 2) The United States and Kazakhstan intend to hold a signing ceremony to officially mark this significant decision.<sup>3</sup> President Trump confirmed this on Truth Social, adding that a signing ceremony would take place “soon” to formalize the agreement.<sup>4</sup>
    - 3) In accordance with domestic procedures, Kazakhstan's accession to the Abraham Accords requires the following steps: first, approval by state authorities; second, approval by the Constitutional Council; and third, ratification after official signing.
  - b) **Geopolitical and Regional Context**
    - 1) Kazakhstan has maintained diplomatic relations with Israel since 1992 and joining the accords provides a forum for greater pragmatic bilateral cooperation on technology, agriculture, and

innovation matters.<sup>5</sup> According to data from 2023, Kazakhstan has emerged as the fourth largest supplier of crude petroleum to Israel, with a total trade value of \$340 million.<sup>6</sup>

- 2) For Astana, the move reinforces its “multi-vector” foreign policy by strengthening ties with Washington, while maintaining its delicate balance between Moscow, Beijing, and regional partners.<sup>7</sup>
  - 3) Kazakhstan's decision to join the U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords is a step to diversify its international policy and attempt to promote regional peace, stability, and economic opportunity.<sup>8</sup> According to analysts Daniel B. Shapiro and Nic Adams of the Scowcroft Middle East Security Initiative at the Atlantic Council's Middle East Programs, Astana's political move is meant to gain Washington's favor and deepen U.S. engagement.<sup>9</sup>
  - 4) During a recent C5+1 Summit in Washington, D.C., President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, finalized 29 new agreements with the U.S., totaling nearly \$17 billion, covering key sectors such as industry, energy, digitalization, education, and innovation.<sup>10</sup>
  - 5) Other regional countries (including Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan), are also reportedly in talks to join the Abraham Accords, potentially broadening the coalition.<sup>11</sup>
  - 6) Overall, Kazakhstan's accession to the Abraham Accords represents a potential shift in regional dynamics, promising stronger diplomatic, economic, and security partnerships, -and challenges established power balances in Central Asia.
- c) Significance of Kazakhstan's Accession
- 1) For the U.S. and Israel, Kazakhstan's inclusion expands the Abraham Accords' geographic and conceptual reach, transforming this agreement from a Middle Eastern normalization initiative into a platform with global aspirations.<sup>12</sup>
  - 2) Astana's step is viewed as a diplomatic win for the U.S., as it seeks to revitalize the Abraham Accords and motivate other Muslim-majority states to consider participation.<sup>13</sup>
  - 3) This move strengthens Kazakhstan's ties to Washington, expands possibilities for strategic cooperation in critical mineral supply chains, and provides alternative trade route along the "Middle Corridor," bypassing both Russia and Iran.<sup>14</sup>

## 5. Assessment:

- a) Having the largest and wealthiest country in Central Asia join the Abraham Accords transforms the U.S.-led diplomatic agreement from the Middle East and North Africa to Central Asia.
- b) For Kazakhstan, joining the Abraham Accords is seen as an opportunity to partner with the U.S., and a pragmatic step to generate tangible gains across multiple sectors.
- c) Kazakhstan has strategically bolstered its relationship with the U.S. to mitigate potential risks associated with a reliance on Beijing and Moscow. The recent C5+1 summit highlights Central Asia's new role in U.S. foreign policy. Washington has expressed interest in promoting the region's sovereignty and preventing economic dependence on China. This can be achieved by increasing investment in the economies of Central Asian countries and opening new economic opportunities.
- d) The accession of a key regional player such as Kazakhstan can provide the U.S. the opportunity to offset the strategic advantage in the region traditionally enjoyed by Russia, Iran, and China. It may also lead to other states such as Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan, that are rich in natural resources and are geostrategically significant, following suit.

## References

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