## **Resolution of the Strategic Partners Forum**

#### TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION:

#### DEVELOPMENT OF A GLOBAL HUB IN THE REGION

# October 17, 2024, Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

The Strategic Partners Forum of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan took place in Astana, with the participation of more than 300 representatives of higher education institutions, international organizations and government bodies from 22 countries.

The Strategic Partners Forum has become an important platform for discussing and broadcasting Kazakhstan's experience and organizing a global discussion on current and future challenges for higher education and science with the participation of international experts.

One of the main tasks of the Forum was to develop key approaches to transform Kazakhstan into a macro-regional educational hub.

### *The participants of the Forum discussed the following issues:*

- 1. Transnational education as a modern global trend that is becoming an increasingly important element of globalization. Within the framework of transnational education, programs of strategic partnership between universities from different countries, dual degree programs and academic mobility are being implemented, along with the establishment of branches of foreign universities.
- 2. The development and adoption of competitive strategies for higher education, which is one of the priorities for the governments of many countries, including Kazakhstan. In a rapidly changing world, flexibility and innovation of educational strategies have become the most important aspects. The role of the government in creating conditions that will allow universities to develop programs that meet the needs of today's labor market and adapt to new challenges, such as digitalization and environmental sustainability was emphasized.
- 3. Model of strategic partnership in Kazakhstan: key models/approaches and further development. Kazakhstan is actively developing a model of strategic partnership in the field of higher education. The main objectives of the strategic partnership are focused on the development of long-term cooperation and interaction between Kazakhstani and foreign universities in the educational and research sphere; developing dual degree programs; the implementation of joint scientific programs/projects; the development of

academic mobility and exchange programs for scientific and pedagogical personnel.

As a result of the discussion, the following recommendations were developed:

- 1. Developing mechanisms to improve the quality of education and professional development of teachers. The forum participants emphasized the need to create a flexible system for evaluating educational programs, including an independent audit and collecting feedback from students and employers. It was recommended to develop professional retraining programs for teachers aimed at teaching new technologies, such as artificial intelligence and big data, as well as to introduce innovative educational technologies, including adaptive learning and virtual reality.
- 2. Improving legal regulation to support educational and research initiatives. Within the framework of the council, attention will be paid to the issues of legal regulation in the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) in order to create conditions for attracting educational and research projects. It is planned to analyze existing norms and adapt them in accordance with international standards, as well as develop mechanisms to support the creation of joint programs and projects that meet the requirements of the AIFC.
- 3. Creation of a permanent platform in the format of the International Council as a platform for the development of recommendations and the introduction of advanced technologies in the educational process. It was proposed to create an International Council, which will become a permanent platform for discussion and implementation of recommendations in the field of higher education and science. The Council will formulate recommendations for incorporating international standards into educational programs, improving teaching methodologies, and integrating new technologies into the learning process.

All participants of the Forum unanimously supported the proposed recommendations, reached mutual understanding on key issues and made agreed decisions. The adopted recommendations are aimed at further strengthening strategic partnership and developing transnational education in Kazakhstan and the region, taking into account modern challenges and global trends. The participants expressed their readiness to work actively on the implementation of the proposed initiatives to achieve common goals.