

STATEMENT

**by H.E. Mr. Usen Suleimen, Ambassador-at-large
of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
at the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on the:
“DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS AND ELECTION OBSERVATION”**

**Working Session I
12-13 July 2012
HOFBURG, VIENNA**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are thankful to the Irish Chairmanship and ODIHR for carrying out consultations with the pS on the review of the OSCE activity in the Human Dimension. The Republic of Kazakhstan stands for the improvement and upgrading of work in this dimension. One of the priorities for my country in this regard is to facilitate the activity on the issues of election observation.

As is known, election observation is an impartial activity aimed at providing assistance to the OSCE participating States in improving their electoral processes at their request, within a framework agreed with them and in accordance with their national legislation. Nothing is ideal in this world. Same refers to ODIHR. In this regard, the delegation of Kazakhstan puts forward the following proposals aimed at improvement of the work of ODIHR on the electoral track.

ODIHR observation of the national elections should be conducted in all OSCE participating States without division into different categories, proceeding from the principle of equality of all participating States and their equal treatment enshrined in the documents of the OSCE and from the understanding of the need to strengthen and develop democracy as a common goal for all the States making up the OSCE.

The ODIHR's election observation activities are financed from the OSCE Unified Budget. In view of the ongoing financial crisis in the world and limited OSCE budgetary resources, election monitoring missions should be compact and include no more than 50 persons. Within this limit, their numerical strength will vary depending on the size of the national electorate.

All election observation missions should have the same mandate and structure, to be determined by the relevant Permanent Council decisions.

Election observation missions be formed on the basis of a broad and balanced representation of all OSCE participating States. The number of

citizens of one participating State should not exceed 10 per cent of the total number of mission members.

The head of the monitoring mission be appointed by the Permanent Council in agreement with the host State from a list of candidates put forward by the OSCE participating States and approved annually by the Permanent Council. Candidates from the list approved by the Permanent Council may not head election observation missions more than once every two years.

Moreover, members of the core-team and long-term observers being dispatched to observe elections to a certain country cannot be sent there again within the limited period of time (for example from 3 to 5 years). It will help to avoid making biased conclusions about the results of elections in that or another country as the basic and important part of any report on the results is drafted by the core-team and the long-term observers.

Election observation missions in their work should be obliged to strictly abide by the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs and political and electoral processes of the host OSCE participating State.

The procedure for preparing and publishing ODIHR's reports on the election observation should be determined by a separate Permanent Council decision. Comments of the host participating State should be incorporated in or annexed to the final election observation report.

In conclusion let me admit that the level of participation of the delegation of Kazakhstan in HDIM and all other Human Dimension events will very much depend on the progress of the reform in the third basket of the OSCE, including in the field of election observation and reporting.

Thank you for attention.