



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.DEC/1398
17 December 2020

Original: ENGLISH

1296th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1296, Agenda item 15

**DECISION No. 1398
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN NUR-SULTAN**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan until 31 December 2021.

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Attachment

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**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Kazakhstan:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In relation to the adoption of the decision on extension of the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan until 31 December 2021, the delegation of Kazakhstan would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

We underline the importance of the work within the mandate of the Programme Office and its close co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. A proper evaluation of the work of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan is essential in order to streamline priority areas of co-operation in all three dimensions.

Yesterday, Kazakhstan has marked its 29th anniversary of independence. For the past years, Kazakhstan made significant progress in social-economic development. In 2019, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev launched large-scale political and economic reforms, which opened a new stage in the consistent liberalization of social and political life. They affect the further advancement of the basic institutions of democracy, including peaceful assembly, pluralism of opinions, democratic elections and development of political parties.

In this context, we would like to remind once again of Article 41 of the Charter for European Security, which states: ‘The host country of an OSCE field operation should, when appropriate, be assisted in building its own capacity and expertise within the area of responsibility. This would facilitate an efficient transfer of the tasks of the operation to the host country, and consequently the closure of the field operation.’

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and journal of the day.

I thank you.”