

**Statement by
Ambassador-at-Large of the MFA of the RK M. Jarbussynova
at the Opening of the HDIM in Warsaw on September 26, 2011**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

Let me welcome you at the regular annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, and also thank the Polish side for the hospitality extended and the OSCE for organizing this event.

Last year was full of events in the human dimension, triumphed by the OSCE Summit, whose participants by adopting the Astana Declaration “Towards a Security Community” reconfirmed their determination to implement all the norms, principles and commitments in all three OSCE dimensions unconditionally and in the spirit of goodwill.

Since January 2011, Kazakhstan has been continuing its work within the OSCE Troika, and our main goal is further promotion of capacity building and authority of the OSCE as one of the key mechanisms of security and cooperation in the vast Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area ‘from Vancouver to Vladivostok’.

This year Kazakhstan marks twenty years of its independence. In this historically short period Kazakhstan has become a country which strong economic development provided a secure and stable life to every citizen. Besides during those years the country has accomplished a lot on a way to democracy, rule of law and protection of rights and freedoms of everyone. Significant steps have been taken to promote the system of human rights protection, development and strengthening of civil society institutions.

The vector of Kazakhstan’s development determined in the first days of independence remains unchanged, and the process of changes is progressive and irreversible. The work on improving the legal environment through the strengthening the national human rights mechanisms is coordinated by the programme documents such as **the National Action Plan on Human Rights for 2009-2012 and the Concept of Legal Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2010-2020**. The documents were approved by decrees of President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev.

These programme documents have being successfully implemented contributing to more effective, coherent and coordinated policy in the human dimension with involvement of government agencies, NGOs and international organizations.

In accordance with the National Action Plan on Human Rights and the Concept of Legal Policy for 2010-2011 such laws as on the Judicial System and Status of Judges of the RK, on Mediation, on Law Enforcement Service, on the Further Humanization of Criminal Legislation and Strengthening Guarantees of Legality in the Criminal Process, on the Public Service and on Fighting Corruption, have been adopted.

Besides, the **draft Law on Television and Radio Broadcasting in the RK** is under development now, which in compliance with our agreements with the OSCE was sent to the Office of OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatovic for appropriate assessment. In accordance with the received recommendations, some changes and amendments will be made in the draft law. It is important that the international experts and representatives of the non-governmental sector are involved in the discussion.

As you know, Kazakhstan has one of the most liberal in the CIS legislation on **freedom of belief**. The first law in this area was adopted almost a month after obtaining independence (15 January 1992). Since then changes were made 7 times. However, they did not bear a fundamental nature, but were referred to specific issues. Quite reasonable that now there is a need for a comprehensive improvement of the legislation in light of contemporary religious situation. In this regard, in early September this year the Parliament received for consideration the **draft Law on Religious Activities and Religious Associations** and the accompanying draft Law on Introducing Amendments and Addenda to Some Legislative Acts, which aims are to better regulate the relations of the state and its agencies with religious associations, as well as to exempt any contradictions, gaps and collisions between the legal rules of various legislative acts. It should be emphasized that the draft law under discussion is in no way intended to limit the right to freedom of belief, which is one of the fundamental rights guaranteed by our Constitution.

In April 2011, Kazakhstan held the **early presidential elections**, which were observed by numerous international observers, including the OSCE/ODIHR and the OSCE PA representatives. Following the monitoring conducted by the OSCE/ODIHR, a Final Report on the results of the presidential elections in Kazakhstan has been prepared, according to which the observers have noted some **positive trend** in addition to the identified remarks.

We are grateful to the OSCE for the support and assistance in organizing the election campaigns, and we have always constructively accepted criticism by the

OSCE/ODIHR with regard the election legislation and the procedures of election campaign.

At the same time, we should acknowledge that this is an ongoing process. The election process technologies are being improved, the civil society is being developed, and the political awareness has a constant growth. These and other circumstances raise questions on procedural aspects of election campaign organization, including formation of supervisory committees, activity of observers, etc.

Given development of the national human rights protection system in Kazakhstan, we attach a great importance to strengthening of civil society institutions, their active involvement in solution of various topical issues within civil, political and social spheres, and elaboration of legislation and state programmes.

In general, all authorized state bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan take steps to improve the effectiveness of protection of human rights and freedoms.

At the same time, we clearly understand that the main difficulty lays in good law enforcement practice. Therefore, I would like to emphasize the firm intention of the Government of Kazakhstan to continue its efforts for ensuring compliance of the national legislation and the law enforcement practice with the international standards, and effective domestic protection of human rights.

As you are aware, Kazakhstan fulfills its obligations with great responsibility. Our government will continue to liberalize the national legislation in accordance with the needs of the developing society of Kazakhstan. The OSCE/ODIHR plays a positive role in this context, as well as other international partners, to whom we are grateful for providing recommendations on the draft laws in the area of law reforms. Some recommendations are taken into account immediately, and some of them require more time to be reviewed and checked for applicability and finally implemented.

We will place higher emphasis on the implementation of concrete obligations in the reports of our representatives at each session of the Meeting, where you can ask questions of interest on each block.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me wish all the participating countries an active work during the Meeting.

Thank you for attention!