



ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫҢ
ЕҚЫҰ ЖАНЫНДАҒЫ ТҰРАҚТЫ ӨКІЛДІГІ

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE

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**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan,
Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov
in response to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities,
Mr. Knut Vollebaek
at the 765th Permanent Council meeting
18 June 2009**

Madame Chair,

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, I would like to welcome Mr. Knut Vollebaek, the distinguished OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, in our Permanent Council.

We thank Mr. Vollebaek for his detailed report outlining the results of his visits to a number of participating States. We believe that this practice of studying the situation of national minorities “on the ground” is productive and should be continued.

We note active position taken by the High Commissioner in strengthening the standards for the protection of the national minorities rights.

We are grateful to Mr. Vollebaek for including in his report a number of conceptual questions on which the OSCE must continue to focus its attention. We share the point, that education is one of the main instruments in promoting integration and as such can prevent conflicts and contribute to sustainable societies in the long term.

In this regard, we thank You for commending Kazakhstan’s authorities on our integration of ideas in the fields of education and broadcasting.

The comments on the impact of the global financial crisis on the situation of national minorities are of high importance. We believe that proper attention needs to be paid to this new challenge.

Ambassador Vollebaek, Kazakhstan strongly supports Your ongoing efforts to call attention to the rights and needs of members of ethnic minorities in the region.

Constructive relations that have been established between Kazakhstan and the High Commissioner will be a solid base for our mutual cooperation in the next year, during Kazakh Chairmanship in the Organization.

In conclusion, allow me wish You and the staff of your Office every success in your work.

Thank you, Madame Chair.