

**Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2019  
(Warsaw, Poland, 16 September 2019)**

**Statement by the Head of Kazakhstan delegation,  
Ambassador-at-large, H.E. Mr. Usen Suleimen**

**Madame Chair,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Since the election of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in June 2019, the Government has been introducing concrete steps in the direction of socio-political and economic development in Kazakhstan. The initiatives are aimed at both enhancing the living standards of the population, as well as at modernising the political system in the country. During his recent Address to the Nation, President Tokayev stated that the government will carry out political reforms, adding that “*successful economic reforms are no longer possible without the modernisation of the country’s socio-political life*”.

**Political developments**

- **Right to protest** – President Tokayev stated that citizens will have greater rights to hold peaceful rallies in key locations, not just on the outskirts of cities. He said that protests should be embraced as long as they are peaceful and lawful. This has already been implemented. Protestors were free to demonstrate during recent marches in several regions of Kazakhstan and in the city of Almaty. Nobody was detained, despite the fact that some protests were unauthorised. Local officials engaged with the demonstrators and discussed with them their grievances.
- **Dialogue** – In his Address to the Nation, the President spoke about the need to ensure a “state that listens”, which quickly and efficiently responds to all constructive citizen requests. A department has been created in the Presidential Administration that will monitor how state bodies review citizens' requests. In addition, people will be more involved in the law making processes. For example, a National Council of Public Trust has been established that will make policy recommendations based on the input from the public, political parties and civil society. This body has already had its inaugural sitting in August 2019.
- **Justice reforms** – President Tokayev stated that judicial and law enforcement reforms must be implemented and a thorough analysis of court decisions should be carried out. Steps have already been taken in this direction. For example, measures are being taken to punish those who used torture in the prison in the town of Zarechnoe. Furthermore, trade union leader Erlan Baltabay, who was initially given a 7-year sentence, was released in August. Meanwhile, political activist Serikzhan Bilash, who faced seven years imprisonment, was also freed in August.

- **Law and order and the protection of rights** – The President stated that all contradictions and ambiguities of the legislation should be interpreted in favour of citizens. Furthermore, he announced that urgent action will be taken to tighten the penalties for those who commit serious crimes, including sexual violence, drug trafficking, human trafficking, domestic violence against women and serious crimes against individuals, especially children. In addition, urgent measures, including tightening legislation, are being taken to tackle poaching.

### **Economic developments**

- **Support for the private sector** – The President announced that from January 2020, there will be a three-year ban on inspections of micro and small businesses, as the government wants to promote the integrity and law-abiding nature of Kazakh businesses. Furthermore, the government is developing a legal framework to exempt micro and small businesses from paying taxes on their main activities for three years.
- **Elimination of corruption** – President Tokayev has made this one of the top 10 priorities for the Government. Following his election, President Tokayev transformed the Anti-Corruption Agency into a law enforcement agency engaged in the detection, suppression, disclosure and investigation of corrupt criminal offenses. The Agency is accountable to the President.
- **Improving living standards** – Enhancing living standards, including through increasing population's income, creating new jobs and providing affordable housing, is a key priority for the President and the government. The President instructed the Government to simplify the system of targeted social assistance, provide social housing and introduce a guaranteed social package for children from low-income families.

### **Social developments**

- **Unity and ethnic harmony** – President Tokayev has taken a firm course towards further uniting the nation. During his inauguration speech on 10 June, he stated: *“There is only one Homeland for us! Our destiny is common.”* The President intends to continue to promote the development of the language and culture of ethnic groups in Kazakhstan. Furthermore, the values of the Ruhani Zhangyru programme (Modernisation of Kazakhstan's Identity) will also contribute to the unity of the nation.
- **Human development** – Another key priority for the government, announced by President Tokayev, is the sustainable development of human capital. Steps are being taken to provide quality medical services and education to the population. For example, over the next four years, teachers' salaries will double, and next year their salaries will increase by 25%. In addition, on 1 January 2020, Kazakhstan will launch a system of compulsory social health insurance and \$6 billion will be allocated for the development of the health system.

### **National Action Plan to implement the Address to the Nation**

On September 10, the Head of State approved the National Action Plan to implement the Address to the Nation.

The document provides for a set of specific measures aimed at civil society development, tightening penalties for serious crimes against a person, introducing administrative justice, supporting small and medium businesses, improving the quality of education etc.

The Plan also stipulates measures to ensure funding of the initiatives announced in the Address, including for the reform process of the Ministry of Interior, the increase in the salaries of teachers and persons working in culture and arts sector, infrastructure development etc.

To ensure the legal basis for the implementation of Address to the Nation, several legislative acts will be adopted. Among them the new Administrative Procedural Code, 17 laws, 7 Presidential Decrees and 16 Governmental Decrees.

Thank you, Madame Chair!