



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
OSCE Center in Almaty

**Welcome speech by Ambassador Anton Rupnik, Head of the OSCE Center in Almaty**

Dear roundtable participants!

May I extend a warm welcome to you at today's roundtable session to be held within the framework of the Project "Monitoring of Formation and Use of Revenues Derived from Operations in Raw Materials Sectors in Kazakhstan," the organization of which is supported by the OSCE Center in Almaty, Open Society Institute, New York – OSI/LGI, Soros Foundation – Kazakhstan, and Government of the United Kingdom.

In general, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is engaged in matters of security in the region. The OSCE approach to security is comprehensive and is based on political, military, human, economic, social and environmental elements. As a rule, any political or social tension involves economic ill-being, constitutes a real threat to stability, and, moreover, is a potential source of crisis for such important direction as human rights. In this sense, economic security is of special importance for the OSCE.

In his recent speech in connection with the twelfth anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbaev, noted that the economy of the Republic must be open and competitive. This may be achieved, provided that the appropriate economic instruments have been chosen, and that the existing and newly created institutes pursue the principle of openness and transparency. This also applies to the National Fund of the Republic of Kazakhstan, whose primary task is to ensure stability and security of the social and economic development of the country.

The matters of accumulation of financial resources for future generations, lowering the impact of adverse external factors upon the economy, and also lowering the dependence of both the national and local budgets on world prices' trends, and, in general, of formation and use of revenues derived from operations in raw materials sectors in Kazakhstan are certainly of interest for the population, public, and experts. Therefore, it should be noted in this connection that openness and transparency of the use of revenues derived from operations involving production, sale, and transportation of Kazakhstani natural resources are extremely important from the point of view of human rights protection, formation of civil society, and democratic development of the State.

Both resolution of the above matters and democratic developments in the society in general should, in our opinion, actively involve the civil society. The role of the State in ensuring the



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participation of the civil society and its involvement in the decision-making process should be significant.

I would also like to refer to the OSCE Strategy document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted by the Ministerial Council. The Meeting was held in Maastricht in early December 2003, and the following was emphasized at the Meeting:

- *“Transparency increases the predictability of, and confidence in an economy that is functioning on the basis of adequate legislation and with full respect for the rule of law;”*
- *“Transparency is also important for the exposure and prosecution of all forms of corruption, which undermines our economies and our societies;”*
- *to achieve economic progress, it is necessary, among other things, to provide “timely information, including reliable statistics, about issues of public interest in the economic and environmental fields to the media, the business community, civil society and citizens, with a view to promoting a well-informed and responsive dialogue.”*

Since all OSCE documents are adopted based on consensus, the above commitments apply to all of the participating States.

The advantage of today’s roundtable is that it is attended by representatives of the state sector, international and public organizations, mass media, and oil companies. I presume that you will hold competent discussion as to all questions to be raised, and suggest practicable recommendations as to cooperation between producing companies, governmental and non-governmental organizations with respect to the organizing monitoring of the activity of the National Fund of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

We hope that this roundtable will help its participants to elaborate a common point of view in the spirit of dialogue on the sources of the problems and to determine possible ways of their elimination.

I wish you successful, effective and creative work.

Thank you for your attention.