



DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

Statement by the Head of the Kazakhstan Delegation – National Ombudsman Bolat Baikadamov at the Opening Session of the Annual OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (Warsaw, October 2, 2006)

**Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me join to all previous speakers and on behalf of the Delegation of Kazakhstan to express our gratitude to the Government of Poland and Warsaw Municipal Administration for their traditionally warm hospitality.

I would also like to greet ODIHR Director H.E. Mr. Strohal with whom we actively and fruitfully cooperate.

Today we have gathered on the Annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting to once again exchange our opinions on humanitarian security issues, analyze implementation of the obligations in humanitarian sphere by the OSCE member-states, make contribution to the ODIHR Report for the upcoming Ministerial Council in Brussels as well as to elaborate new recommendations to the activity of the Office on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

I would also like to express our gratitude to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office – Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium Mr. Karel De Gucht for the great work that Chairmanship has been doing throughout this year on implementation of Part II of the Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decision No.17/05. We hope that discussions held during a number of unofficial consultations between the ODIHR and Delegations to the OSCE, forthcoming discussions at the current HDIM as well as ODIHR Report will serve basis for substantive decisions of the OSCE Ministerial in Brussels in December this year.

Participation of the non-governmental organizations and associations in the Annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting along with National delegations, large number of side-events not simply gives an acuteness to our discussions but also gives an opportunity to share views on existing concerns in the open and honest atmosphere and listen to the trustworthy answers, and often gives an impetus for further constructive decisions.

Mr. Chairman,

Equality of obligations is a key principle of interaction between OSCE member states. In our Organization no one can consider to be free from implementing commonly accepted and politically binding obligations as well as the implementation of the high OSCE standards. This thesis equally applies to the new states in transition as well as to the states of so-called “traditional democracy”. I am confident that being a part of the second category should not in any way stipulate a lesser control of collective bodies and institutions of the Organization on them and justify an a priori demand of any “acceptable in compliance” with the obligations enshrined in Copenhagen Document only for their being a “long democratic traditions”.

We have carefully studied recent letter of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Chairman Mr. Oliver to the OSCE General Secretary and ODIHR Director and we share most of the mentioned arguments. We call on all parties concerned to give utmost efforts for a fruitful joint work and express a hope that a Briefing on Election Observation Issues being planned by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vienna will become an important additional contribution to the current discussions in the OSCE on the eve of the Brussels Ministerial Council.

During the last one and half year there has been a number of discussions at the OSCE on so-called “follow-up” mechanism of the ODIHR recommendations’ implementation by the member-states after election observation. Kazakhstan has welcomed idea of creation of such a format. We have repeatedly stated about that at the OSCE Permanent Council as well as during talks with the ODIHR Director.

As an example of practical implementation by my state of the recommendations of the ODIHR I would like to inform that on September 29th this year at the Joint Session of Chambers of Parliament of Kazakhstan members of Parliament approved at the first reading the draft Law on introduction of amendments to the Constitutional Law on Elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan. This Amendment expels a provision of the Law that prohibits meetings from the end of election until the publication of the official results. Second reading of the draft Law will be held at the Joint Session of Chambers on November 24, 2006.

Mr. Chairman,

The Agenda of the HDIM covers most of the issues of OSCE human dimension. Intolerance, hate crimes, terrorism and religious extremism are increasing the atmosphere of fear and distrust in the society, leading to the escalation of violence and number of innocent victims. That is why OSCE should pay a priority attention to the counteraction and extirpation of these threats to the humanitarian security, life and dignity of the member-states' citizens.

Unfortunately, I have to state that during of so-called "cartoon scandal", that led to the death of dozens of people, the OSCE, positioning itself as a largest humanitarian organization uniting 56 member-states and 11 partners for co-operation from three continents could not give a joint clear position on this issues. The voice of the OSCE was not heard in the world at that time. It seems to be alarming signal that we all should think about.

We stand for the discussions taking place within the framework of the development of the "Copenhagen Plus" Concept would obligatorily incorporate to the agenda of political obligations and to the legislation of the member states' common standards and norms that ODIHR so far notes as "specific obligations": tolerance and non-discrimination; torture prevention; inhuman and degrading treatment; moratorium on the capital punishment and complete abolition; international and inter-religious dialogue; mutual understanding and respect; counteraction to neo-fascism and xenophobia.

Understanding the importance of tolerance and non-discrimination issues for promotion of comprehensive humanitarian security, Kazakhstan has already determined this issue as its high priority if elected the OSCE Chairman in 2009.

Here in Warsaw, on behalf of my country I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Poland and to personally President Mr.Kaczyński for sending in September this year a letter to the President of Kazakhstan officially supporting by Poland our bid for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2009. I assure that we will make all efforts to meet high confidence of our partners.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me wish all success to our Meeting.

Thank you for attention.