



DELEGATION OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN  
TO THE OSCE

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**Statement of the  
Delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan to OSCE  
at the 1060th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
18 June 2015.**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to inform the Permanent Council, that the V Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions was held in Astana on 10-11 June. 80 delegations from 42 countries, including representatives of Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and other faiths participated in the Congress.

The attendance of the 5th Congress was the most wide in the history of such forums. Along with religious leaders high-ranking politicians including President of Finland Sauli Niinistö, King Abdullah II of Jordan, President of Ethiopia Mulatu Teshome, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon attended this Forum by the invitation of the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev. Taking this opportunity I would like to thank OSCE Secretary General Mr. Lamberto Zannier for his participation and valuable contribution to the discussions of the Congress.

The dialogue of religious leaders and politicians was aimed at uniting the efforts in solving the most pressing problems of today's world - such as poverty, hunger, military conflicts and man-made disasters.

President Nazarbayev stressed the importance of such an inclusive dialogue for developing a new paradigm of security and development. He said: "Dialogue should be based on the principles of equality, mutual respect and recognition of each other's interests, cooperation, tolerance and mutual understanding. In the 21st century, there is no alternative to dialogue in all fields – political, economic, cultural, spiritual. Today, humanity has great material, scientific, technical and intellectual capabilities, but no progress will be achieved if people do not learn to live in peace and spiritual harmony with each other."

Kazakhstan offered its own experience as an example. In a country with a diverse ethnic and religious representation government and civil society managed to save political integrity and social accord through the definition of a new national identity, characterized by the building of a secular, moderate and inclusive State in religious and ethnic matters.

During the plenary sessions and the panels, religious representatives discussed, along with various political leaders and officials of the main international organizations, about the role of religion in contemporary society, the value of the dialogue and the role of religious leaders in preventing wars and in promoting social harmony.

As a result of discussions the participants adopted a declaration which includes calls for political leaders of world powers "to stop the growing abyss of distrust in the world today, to end mutual sanctions and to use the mechanisms of the United Nations and other international organizations to overcome the divisions and restore peace and security in accordance with international law."

The leaders also agreed "to ensure equal respect for world and traditional religions, for what they consider sacred and for the religious sentiments of believers while acknowledging inalienable human rights to freedom of conscience, opinion, speech and choice."

Summing up the results of the Congress, Nursultan Nazarbayev noted that "We have made a significant step towards each other and towards better understanding of the importance of peace and concord between the religions, nations and countries. We have continued our frank dialogue about the cooperation among religions and its role in the global development. We have demonstrated our deep common interest in cooperation in the name of stability and security in the world."

The Head of State stressed that the 5th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions has reaffirmed its relevance and an increased demand for the global dialogue.

In conclusion I would like to ask our Chairmanship as well as OSCE Secretariat to disseminate information on the Congress including the contents of its declaration through available means.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.