



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY
TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE
REPORT FROM THE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UZBEKISTAN

Delivered by Ambassador Steffen Kongstad at the Permanent Council
Vienna, 14 May 2020

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Norway thanks the Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, Ambassador MacGregor for his report to the Permanent Council.

We appreciate the close cooperation the Project Co-ordinator has with the host country. The field mission continues to be well placed for assisting the host country in capacity building. The good cooperation seems to deliver results.

We commend the attention being paid by the Project Co-ordinator to the Gender Action Plan and to the focus on national ownership in the projects implemented. This contributes to the projects' impact as well as their sustainability.

It is positive that the Project Co-ordinator could assist the cooperation between Uzbek authorities, ODIHR and the Venice Commission in the preparations for the parliamentary elections held in December 2019. According to ODIHR's preliminary report, the elections took place under improved legislation, though there are still shortcomings. The ongoing reforms need to continue and be accompanied by more opportunities for grass root civic initiatives. Hopefully this can be an arena for further cooperation.

The field missions are an effective way of assisting the OSCE's participating States and our comprehensive approach to security is a prerequisite to make it work. We are therefore pleased to see that there is a good balance between the three dimensions of security and that the work is done in accordance with OSCE principles as well as Uzbek national priorities.

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