

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/952/24
25 July 2024

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1484th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

25 July 2024

**In response to the report by the
Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana**

Madam Chairperson,

We thank the distinguished Mr. Volker Frobarth, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, for his comprehensive report.

We note that this field operation continues to maintain a high level of co-ordination with the authorities of Kazakhstan in order to take the host country's needs into account and pursue project activities in all three dimensions of the OSCE's work. This is of fundamental importance, not least in view of the large-scale reforms being implemented by the leadership of Kazakhstan.

We can see how the Programme Office is effectively co-operating with the representative offices of international and regional organizations and educational institutions in Kazakhstan. In that regard, we call for more active use to be made of the expertise and practical capabilities of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

We note the Programme Office's projects aimed at assisting the host authorities in border security, police reform, combating the terrorist threat and the spread of extremist ideology, cutting off financial and other support for terrorists and their accomplices, and also in the field of information security. At the same time, we believe that more attention should be paid to the problem of illicit drug trafficking, which continues to pose a serious threat to the entire region.

We have noticed that a broadened interpretation of the women, peace and security agenda is applied in the report. We recall that this agenda comprises not only the well-known United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 but also the nine subsequent relevant resolutions. The thematic scope of these documents hardly overlaps with the existing OSCE commitments approved by all the participating States.

We support the Programme Office's very active endeavours in the economic and environmental dimension, notably its assistance to the host country in combating corruption and money laundering, in trade

facilitation and transport security, in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, in water resources management and environmental protection, and in strengthening resilience with regard to disaster risks.

We note, in particular, this field operation's assistance with Kazakhstan's efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing in line with Financial Action Task Force standards, and also how the results achieved were successfully presented to the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism.

In the human dimension, we may single out the extensive work – also carried out in Kazakhstan's regions – on combating trafficking in human beings and promoting women's rights, but also the assistance provided to the host country authorities in expanding opportunities for people with disabilities.

Given the traditions of friendship and good-neighbourliness that bind it to the Republic of Kazakhstan, along with the deep cultural and humanitarian ties between our peoples, the Russian Federation always follows with interest developments in that friendly country. We share Kazakhstan's approach to the pursuit of a foreign policy aimed at protecting national interests. We view Kazakhstan as a reliable partner on the Vienna platform and also at other inter-State associations, specifically the Eurasian Economic Union, the CIS, the CSTO, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia.

In that regard, we are keen for the OSCE's activities in Kazakhstan to be aimed at strengthening the country's capacities and securing prosperity for its citizens. We trust that the Programme Office will continue to work in such a direction, adhering strictly to its mandate, and that it will also continue to pursue its activities with due regard for the host country's interests and the traditional way of life there.

In closing, we should like to wish Mr. Frobarth and his team good health and continued success in their work.

Thank you for your attention.