



**DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE**

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**Statement by the delegation of Kazakhstan to the OSCE
at the 930th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
in response to three Personal Representatives of the CIO on tolerance issues
15 November 2012**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The delegation of Kazakhstan joins the others in welcoming Rabbi Andrew Baker, Senator Adil Akhmetov and Justice Catherine McGuinness and thanks them for their comprehensive and detailed reports. As we can see from the reports it was another quite busy year for 3 Personal Representatives on tolerance issues as they participated in the various high-level forums on tolerance issues, inter-religious and inter-cultural conferences, OSCE human dimension events and conducted joint country visits.

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the issues of promoting tolerance and non-discrimination. This issue was one of the main priorities during the Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship as well as during the last year's Lithuanian Chairmanship. I hope that our Ukrainian friends would also keep this issue high in the agenda of their next year's Chairmanship. We deem it necessary to continue focused attention on this issues and react immediately, including by OSCE institutions, on the cases that may sow the seeds of conflict and violence on a wider scale.

Unfortunately, as the reports has shown, we observe growing number of hate speech and hate crime incidents, including in the Internet, as well as new dangers of intolerance, discrimination, extremism and hatred on ethnic, racial and religious grounds around the world.

OSCE documents clearly underline that manifestation of discrimination and intolerance threaten security of individuals and may give rise to a wider scale conflict and violence that undermine international stability and security.

Therefore, we call on the participating States to elaborate an OSCE Document entitled, for instance, as "Towards Tolerance in a New Decade", that would contain effective policy measures aimed at preventing and responding to manifestations of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, discrimination and intolerance against Muslims,

Christians and members of other religions, Roma and Sinti, other ethnic and racial groups as well as promoting inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue.

Availing of this opportunity, I would like to thank three Representatives for participation at the Fourth Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in May 2012 in Astana and commend them for their contribution to a dialogue among religions and cultures aimed at enhancing mutual respect, understanding and co-operation among believers of different religions, peoples and states.

In conclusion we would like to express our gratitude to the 3 Personal Representatives for their tireless efforts in the field of combating intolerance and discrimination and to wish them every success in their future endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.