

**1205th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1205, Agenda item 6****DECISION No. 1310
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN ASTANA**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana until 31 December 2019.

PC.DEC/1310
29 November 2018
Attachment

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Kazakhstan:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In connection with the adoption of the decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, the delegation of Kazakhstan would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

We emphasize the importance of both the work of the field mission within its mandate and close co-operation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

We would like to stress the importance of organizing a meeting with the designated government agency twice a year in order to identify project activities and evaluate the work of the OSCE Programme Office.

Taking into account positive political developments in Central Asia, we wish to note that the government authorities of Kazakhstan are interested in the OSCE working with a focus on regional and subregional projects.

Programmatic activities of the Programme Office in all three dimensions should be well balanced; we call for a focus on projects promoting connectivity and the transition to the green economy.

Last but not least, we would like to bring up Article 41 of the Charter for European Security, which states: ‘The host country of an OSCE field operation should, when appropriate, be assisted in building its own capacity and expertise within the area of responsibility. This would facilitate an efficient transfer of the tasks of the operation to the host country, and consequently the closure of the field operation.’ Therefore, an ‘exit strategy’ should be an integral part of any field operation of the OSCE.

We propose to create a new-generation OSCE presence in Astana as the next evolutionary step following the success story of the existing field operation. We believe that this new entity should focus on pursuing sustainable connectivity and the transition to a green economy by means of exchange of best practices and through research and analytical work.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of the day.

I thank you.”