

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW CONFERENCE

INTER-STATE DIALOGUE ON SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND NATIONAL MINORITY EDUCATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Samarkand

3 April 2009

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan took part in the international review conference within the framework of the Inter-State Dialogue on Social Integration and National Minority Education in Tashkent on 3 April 2009, and agreed on the following:

- (1) The Ministries confirmed the importance and value of regional co-operation and exchange of experience on national minority education. In this regard, they expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the 2007-2008 meetings of the four Working Groups which were established in Tashkent in November 2006.
- (2) The Ministries will designate a national co-ordinator within their structure in order to continue to follow up on the recommendations put forward by the Working Groups.
- (3) With a view to assisting the implementation of the [Working Group] recommendations, the Ministries are considering the possibility of setting up a Project Resource Centre of the Inter-State Dialogue under the auspices of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM).
- (4) The Ministries will continue to hold annual consultations on the issues of curriculum and textbooks, language learning, teacher training and in-service training and distance learning and information technology.
- (5) The Ministries voiced support for further improvement of language teaching methods in schools. In this regard, they recommended a wider pilot rollout of the bilingual and multilingual education, i.e. teaching through the medium of two or more languages. They underscored the importance of this type of education for greater proficiency in the State and national minority languages.
- (6) The Ministries will continue, both individually and collectively, to enhance the methodology of teaching the State language as a second language in national minority schools. Particular attention will be devoted to interactive teaching methods and the development of communicative skills amongst students. These commitments will also include the adequate supply of textbooks to national

minority schools for the study of the State languages and human resources as well as the provision of methodological support to the teaching of the State language.

- (7) The Ministries reconfirmed their commitments within the OSCE framework to respect the right of persons belonging to national minorities to maintain their national identity through mother-tongue teaching at the primary and secondary school level in places of compact settlement.
- (8) The Ministries will strive to adopt a unified evaluation system of language proficiency taking account of international best practice.
- (9) The Ministries will devote particular attention to the training of minority-language teachers of subjects for national minority schools.
- (10) The Ministries will continue to facilitate staff and student exchanges between pedagogical universities and colleges and support the sharing of experiences in the modern techniques of teaching.
- (11) The Ministries will facilitate, on the basis of mutual agreement, regular staff exchanges between personnel of teacher training and in-service training centres in order to foster the dissemination of modern teaching methodologies, including the teaching of the State and minority languages.
- (12) The Ministries stressed the importance of foreign language teaching in their education systems as a launch pad for successful interaction with the outside world.