



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Centre in Almaty**

**Speech of the Head of the OSCE Centre in Almaty, Ambassador Ivar Vikki, at the
workshop in the framework of the project
«Promotion of the implementation of the new Land Code of RK»**

8 July 2004, Kazygurt village, South-Kazakhstani region

Dear Mr. Akim [head of local administration],
Dear co-organizers,
Dear participants,

On behalf of the OSCE Centre in Almaty I am glad to welcome you all at today's seminar that is conducted in the framework of realization of the third phase of the project "Promotion of the implementation of the new Land Code of RK", the main purpose of which is conducting of an information campaign in several regions of Kazakhstan through seminars in regional centres and workshops in remote districts of the country.

As you can see, several organizations have contributed to the preparation and carrying out of this project. It is explained by the importance of the issues raised. The land reform has currently entered a completely new phase – establishment of private property of agricultural lands. And further development of the agricultural sector in the country will depend on how successful this initial stage is.

I would like to say a few words about our Organization. The work of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is aimed at ensuring stability in its 55 member states, one of them being Kazakhstan. The three main directions are: (1) human dimension, (2) military-political, and (3) economic-ecological. The project is being realized in the framework of the latter one.

The OSCE Centre has been closely watching the discussions on the draft Land Code that was adopted last year. During consultations with Kazakhstani state structures, suggestions were made by both majilismen and the Agency on management of land resources to elaborate issues of efficient realization of Article 170 of the Land Code.

That is why it was decided to conduct this project on development of recommendations and their dissemination in the form of a brochure in Kazakh and Russian in the country. Discussion of these recommendations at a workshop conducted in Almaty in the end of April with participation of farmers, business associations and state bodies was an important component of the project. This, as we believe, has allowed to prepare the brochure with taking into account opinions of all stakeholders.

Within the framework of its mandate in the economic and ecological dimension, the OSCE Centre in Almaty will assist in dissemination of information that will allow people living in rural areas to learn more about their rights, and as a result, to acquire agricultural land plots and receive the right of their ownership. It is not only a good economy, but also a basis for stability.

We hope that the project conducted in the regions will be useful for everybody, in particular, for farmers, and will contribute in successful realization of Article 170 of the Land Code in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

I wish a fruitful work to all participants.

Thank you for your attention!