



ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫҢ
ЕҚЫҰ ЖАНЫНДАҒЫ ТҰРАҚТЫ ӨКІЛДІГІ

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE

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**Statement by the Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Permanent
Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the OSCE
at the 768th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
9 July 2009**

**Information on the Seminar on Tolerance and Non-discrimination held on 30th of
June 2009 in Astana**

Dear Madam Ambassador, Dear Colleagues,

On 30th of June 2009 a Seminar on Tolerance and Non-discrimination, which was organized by Kazakhstan as the Chair of the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, took place in Astana. This event preceded an important event – the Third Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions initiated by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The distinguished representatives of the OSCE Troika, Lithuania as the incoming Chair of the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group, the OSCE's Mediterranean Partners, Palestine, heads of the OSCE institutions, the Personal Representatives of the OSCE Chairperson on tolerance and non-discrimination, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson for the Mediterranean partners as well as the representatives of official and public circles and Media of Kazakhstan attended the Seminar.

The seminar has pursued the aim and objective of promoting the values that nourish tolerance and non-discrimination in the OSCE space as well as in the region of esteemed Mediterranean partners.

At the Seminar the discussions were arranged in the three panels 1) Culture of mutual understanding and respect, 2) The role of Media in promoting tolerance, and 3) Protecting the rights and freedoms of the migrant communities.

The participants of the event had detailed discussions on the said issues, they also tried to make a comprehensive assessment of the situation in the Middle East, the issues related to anti-Semitism and discrimination of Muslims as well as other forms of discrimination. Despite visible diversity of views and approaches, the exchange of views has been very frank and amicable. Discussions and informal bilateral talks on the sidelines have facilitated strengthening of mutual confidence and understanding among the guests of the event.

The theme of tolerance and non-discrimination is likely to remain one of the priority issues in the agenda of our Organization. Therefore Kazakhstan, as the incoming Chair, has taken note of the ideas and suggestions that had been articulated by the participants of the above seminar and is determined to take efforts to further promote the culture of mutual respect and understanding that is in line with the OSCE's comprehensive approach to making the peace and security sustainable.

Thank you.