



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

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**Statement by the delegation of Kazakhstan to the OSCE
in response to the statement of H.E. Dr. E.Ihsanoğlu,
Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation,
at the 933rd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

29 November 2012

Excellencies,

We would like to join other speakers in welcoming Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and thank him for his statement.

I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Ihsanoglu for the warm words and evaluating Kazakhstan's OSCE chairmanship as successful.

It was honour and at the same time huge responsibility for Kazakhstan to Chair of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC from June 2011 till November 2012.

Our primary goal during the Chairmanship of the OIC was the strengthening of the Muslim Ummah's global competitiveness. In his statement at the 38th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Astana in June 2011 President Nursultan Nazarbayev declared modernization and reforms as the major priorities for 21st century development of the Islamic world. Our country proposed a substantive and topical Chairmanship agenda emphasizing a more active political role for the OIC in the international arena, reform of the Organization, including promotion of social and economic programs, as well as modernization of the Muslim world.

During Kazakh Chairmanship OIC name was officially rebranded from the Organization of the Islamic Conference to *the Organization of Islamic Cooperation*, reflecting the move of our Ummah from Conferences to Cooperation.

Kazakhstan has held 38 Islamic and international events which significantly enriched the agenda and practice of the OIC. Major impetus was given to the activities of the OIC bodies at the ministerial level: the Member States held five meetings of the Executive Committee, two sessions of the Annual Coordination Meeting at the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, and a series of conferences on specific issues related to the environment, health and science. Among these events were the 7th World Islamic Economic Forum (June 2012, Astana) and the Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Health (September 2011, Astana).

Particular attention during our Chairmanship was given to the issues of promoting inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue. We underlined the need to continue efforts to combat hatred, intolerance, and Islamophobia, and to condemn all acts of terrorism.

Religious dialogue platforms are essential instruments to promote peace and security within the OIC area. The recent Fourth Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions held in Astana clearly demonstrated that peace between religious communities is a strategic asset.

Another sign of constructive cooperation was the launch of the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission. This is a major step forward, and can be considered a part of a legacy of our biggest achievements in recent years.

Adapting to new realities requires deeper interaction between the OIC and other international organizations. In this regard, during its Chairmanship period Kazakhstan promoted more active cooperation between the OIC and the European Union, the OSCE, the CICA, and encouraged further contacts with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. We fully support Dr. Ihsanoglu's intention to cooperate with the OSCE Conflict Prevention Center.

Dear Dr. Ihsanoglu, I would like to thank you and your able OIC Secretariat in Jeddah for your close cooperation with Kazakhstan throughout our OIC Chairmanship, and to wish you every success in future endeavours. Your personal efforts to raise the profile and effectiveness of the OIC are exemplary. Let me assure you that the delegation of Kazakhstan stands ready to continue actively engaging in dialogue with the OIC.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.