

ENGLISH only



ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫҢ  
ЕҚЫҰ ЖАНЫНДАҒЫ ТҰРАҚТЫ ӨКІЛДІГІ

PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE

1010 Vienna, Wipplinger Strasse 35,  
e-mail: [osce.kazakhstan@gmail.com](mailto:osce.kazakhstan@gmail.com)

*Check against delivery*

**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan,  
Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov  
at the 851<sup>th</sup> Permanent Council meeting  
17 February 2011**

Dear Mr. Chairperson, dear colleagues,

We would like to join others in welcoming Ms. Farah Pandith, U.S. Special Representative to Muslim Communities and Ms. Hannah Rosenthal, U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism at the Permanent Council.

As you are well aware, tolerance and non-discrimination was one of Kazakhstan's major priorities during its OSCE Chairmanship last year.

In the Astana Commemorative Declaration adopted at the Astana Summit last December it has been underlined (para 7) that, I quote "*Greater efforts must be made to promote freedom of religion or belief and to combat intolerance and discrimination*", end of quote.

In his statement at the OSCE Summit in Astana President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev asserted that (quote) "*There is a need today for a frank and open inter-confessional dialogue. The OSCE could organize this using the Congress of World and Traditional Religions established at the initiative of Kazakhstan as a platform. We believe that Christianity and Islam, Judaism and Buddhism were sent down to create peace and not hostility. I should also like to propose the elaboration together of a document on tolerance in the new decade*" (end of quote).

As a country with over 4,000 religious communities belonging to more than 40 denominations including non-traditional for our part of the world faiths, Kazakhstan has been actively promoting interethnic and interfaith concord. And it was logic to convene in 2003 the First Congress of World and Traditional Religions, which since then has been convened every three years get together prominent leaders, public figures and academics from around the world to identify

ways to strengthen peace and security through interethnic accord and interreligious harmony.

The High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination mentioned today by our distinguished guests has become one of the important events during the OSCE Kazakh Chairmanship in 2010. More than 400 participants from the OSCE participating States, international and regional organizations and civil society representatives had an excellent opportunity to review implementation of OSCE commitments in the sphere of tolerance and non-discrimination, and discussed the best practices of combating racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, Christians and members of other religions.

Kazakhstan will assume the Chairmanship of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in June 2011. During its tenure in the OIC, Kazakhstan will try its best in promoting inter-religious dialogue and understanding among people and countries pertaining to both Organization.

Ms. Pandith,  
Ms. Rosenthal,

We thank you warmly for sharing the information regarding the launch of campaign *2011 Hours against Hate*. We believe that such a campaign which will target the young citizens will bring positive results in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination in the OSCE community and we are ready to provide necessary support in this regard.

Thank you.