

**Opening Speech by Ambassador-at-Large M. Jarbussynova
at the First Session of the Review Conference on Freedom of the Media
(November 26, 2010, Astana)**

Dear colleagues!
Ladies and gentlemen!

On behalf of the Chairperson-in-Office, allow me to welcome all the participants of the final part of the Review Conference on Human Dimension in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan. Thank you for the increased interest in this meeting exemplified by the number of registered participants of about 1000 people, including representatives of the participating States and Partners for Co-operation as well as nongovernmental organizations of the OSCE area.

This meeting is a continuation of the Warsaw segment of the Review Conference which took place on September 30 – October 8 of this year and precedes the OSCE Summit.

As you know, the agenda of the Review Conference on Human Dimension has covered such socially significant issues as democratization, protection and provision of fundamental human rights and freedoms, education, rule of law, tolerance and non-discrimination, elections, gender equality, etc.

The final part of the Review Conference will continue the three special topics initiated in Warsaw segment, which are freedom of media, intolerance against migrants and human trafficking with a special focus on child trafficking, which is one of the priorities of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship.

At the same time, I would like to note that unlike the Warsaw part, the participants will address other specific aspects of these topics.

In particular, the first session on freedom of the media will focus on development of electronic media and its implications to media's freedom and pluralism, including the transition to digital broadcasting and free flow of information on the Internet.

The second session on intolerance against migrants will mainly focus on prospective approaches to education, which is aimed at preparation of the youth to life in conditions of growing pluralism within a society, especially in terms of support of mutual respect, mutual understanding and counteracting intolerance towards migrants.

During the last session on the issue of child trafficking, participating States will be able to discuss the policies, mechanisms and problems relating to protection of children and their social security.

Relevance of these issues and the fact that they are being discussed at the Review Conference unfortunately indicate that human rights are still violated in

the OSCE region. Discussion of various aspects of these challenging issues will help us assess the situation and develop concrete operating mechanisms.

In this respect, Kazakhstan, as the OSCE Chair, especially welcomes the work of the civil society, which is an indicator of democratic development, and therefore provides assistance in promotion of human rights and freedoms.

As it was declared in the Warsaw segment of the Review Conference, Civil Society Forum has taken place today in the morning, during which nongovernmental organizations reviewed the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments in the human dimension and discussed prospects and recommendations for further action in the addressed areas.

We are glad that the relevance of these topics has generated active interest among the presented participants.

Chairmanship hopes that the upcoming discussions will help to identify existing problems and develop concrete suggestions for complete implementation of the OSCE commitments in future.

Moving on to continuation of the discussion of the first session, allow me to note that freedom of the media is an important component of democratic development of each state. There is no doubt that people's rights to free media need to be supported and secured. At that, media's own accountability is also an important factor. That is why today the need for self-regulation through development of specific operating mechanisms is becoming particularly pressing. I hope that participants will be able to discuss and share the experience on the aforementioned issues during the upcoming session.

Besides, allow me to note that the Office of the OSCE Representative on Media Freedom, represented by Ms. Dunja Mijatovic, provides significant support in development of independent and pluralistic media. Ms. Mijatovic is the introducer for this session and will present us with her Office's view of this issue.

The floor is yours.