



**DELEGATION OF KAZAKHSTAN**

**OPENING STATEMENT**

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**of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

**at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

**Warsaw, 28 September 2009**

**Dear Mr. Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Allow me at the outset to express my delegation's appreciation and gratitude to the Polish Government for its hospitality, ODIHR and Greek Chairmanship for the organization of this event.

I am confident that this meeting will provide an opportunity for all the participants to share information on implementation of commitments in human dimension and to assess achievements since the last annual meeting. To reach the goals I call for a constructive dialogue, not letting emotions lead us away.

As you are aware Kazakhstan is 2010 OSCE Chairman-in-Office. And it is quite reasonable that our internal and external activities on our way to the chairmanship attract special attention. For us - the upcoming Chairmanship has both a historic and symbolic meaning; we realize the responsibility and the necessity to meet the challenges. I would not dwell upon this any longer, I just

mention that the upcoming chairmanship was defined by President Nazarbayev as a 'national strategic project'.

The significance of this demanding mission is also manifested by the fact that preparatory work is headed by the State Commission on the OSCE Chairmanship created at the level of heads of central state authorities. There have been established five working groups under this State Commission, including a special one on human dimension issues.

Today I would like to brief this esteemed audience on reforms, which have taken place in Kazakhstan since the last Warsaw meeting.

First of all I would like to draw your attention to the amendments, which were introduced to the national legislation. Specifically, amendments and additions, accounting for certain OSCE recommendations, were introduced to the laws on elections, political parties, local self government and also to some legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on issues of mass media and information-communication networks. We are confident that all recent legislative initiatives, given their broad and open discussions, demonstrate that a firm, irreversible democratic vector has been asserted in the system of political development in Kazakhstan.

Our intentions and commitments are also manifested by the **National Human Rights Action Plan for 2009-2012**, which was approved by the Head of State, and has been already recognized as one of the fundamental documents in the sphere of legislative reforms in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Plan is the result of fruitful co-operation of state authorities, NGOs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, national and international experts as well as the OSCE Center in Astana. The United Nations Development Program in Kazakhstan, as well as the British Embassy to Kazakhstan and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Kazakhstan provided invaluable input by translating and publishing the National Action Plan in three languages.

**Ladies and gentlemen, this plan will be presented to you on September 30.** It reflects such fundamental human rights as the right to life, privacy and protection of personal information, assembly and peaceful association, freedom of belief, conscience, religion and others. I would like to underline that the Plan is aimed at strengthening the national system of protection of human rights through special measures with a focus on improving legislative and law enforcement

practices. Implementation of this Plan would also allow state authorities and civil society to proceed to the new level of co-operation.

The Action Plan fully corresponds to the provisions of the **Concept of a Legal Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan from 2010 to 2020** which has been recently approved in order to further define main directions of legal policy. I would like to note that representatives of civil society took active part in development of the Concept. In essence the Concept acts as a foundation for development of appropriate programmes in state's legal policy sphere, prospective and annual plans for legislative works of the government as well as drafts of normative legislative acts.

The analysis of the new Concept gives full confidence that it will bring Kazakhstan's rule-making closer to the international standards. Thus a focus towards humanization of punishment is evident in the criminal law. The Concept also clearly states broadening of the sphere of execution of alternative punishment.

In general, this Concept envisages further development of all legislative spheres, including constitutional, administrative, taxation, customs, civil, financial, criminal, as well as reforms in spheres of law enforcement, judiciary and protection of human rights.

It should be also noted that Kazakhstan has entered a new stage in implementation of human rights protection mechanisms. The work to join all fundamental international conventions and agreements in the sphere of human rights has been practically completed. It is worth mentioning that during 2008-2009 Kazakhstan ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the International Convention to Protect all Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Slavery Convention, the Protocol on Changes and Amendments to the Slavery Convention, the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition. Kazakhstan also signed the Convention on Rights of Disabled and its Optional Protocol.

Although we recognize the importance of ratification of international instruments in the sphere of human rights, nevertheless we acknowledge that the main challenge and difficulty is in their appropriate implementation. That is why I would like to underline firm commitment of the Government of Kazakhstan to

continue efforts in ensuring conformity of the national legislation and law enforcement practices to the international standards and assuring effective domestic measures of human rights protection. The National Action Plan, which will be presented on September 30, will definitely serve as the basis for definition of strategic directions and coordination of state bodies' work in this sphere.

As you could have noticed, Kazakhstan attaches special importance to implementation of its commitments. Our state demonstrates strong intentions to further carry out liberalization of the national legislation in compliance with the growing demands of developing Kazakhstan's society. OSCE ODIHR and other international partners play positive role in this and we are grateful for their recommendations on legislative works in the sphere of reforms. Some recommendations have been taken into account at once, while others require additional time for analysis of their applicability with the aim of further implementation.

More detailed information on implementation of commitments will be delivered by delegation during the Meeting. Speakers will focus on the rule of law, judicial independence, freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, freedom of assembly and association, freedom of movement, role of civil society, abolition of death penalty, prevention of torture, human trafficking, tolerance and non-discrimination. We also hope that other countries will share their best practices in these spheres.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me wish all the participating States active and efficient work during the Meeting.

Thank you for your kind attention!