

**Statement by the official delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan
at working sessions 8-9 “Democratic Elections and Electoral Observation”
of the OSCE 2011 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
September 30, 2011**

**Dear participants of the Meeting!
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

The Republic of Kazakhstan with respect and responsibility considers the issues of implementation of commitments in the field of democratic elections. In this regard this year was very busy. There were two election campaigns in the country: early election of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 3 April 2011 and regular election of deputies of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 19 August 2011.

We are grateful to the OSCE/ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for monitoring of presidential election as well as for close cooperation with electoral bodies and government agencies on the whole aspects of election process. This time possibly for the first time in the history of election observation in the Republic of Kazakhstan the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission took into consideration the opinions of the Kazakh side that had effect on the content of two interim reports and Final report, which was published on 16 June 2011.

(Assessments provided in) the Final Report of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission at presidential election indicate that election process in Kazakhstan is improving with each new election. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission positively assessed efforts by the authorities to improve the election-related legislation and incorporate some OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, mentioned good organization of election, high professionalism and transparency in the activities of election commissions at all levels, equal coverage of candidates by media in the news programs, calm atmosphere at election, high turnout, etc.

However, the Kazakh side disagrees with a number of critical observations, which apparently were not based on the facts directly recorded by observers, but on the information received by OSCE/ODIHR experts from other sources. In this case the objectivity of this information is highly questionable. We hope that in future the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Missions would be more responsible in verification of obtained information as well as would continue taking into consideration the opinions of the Kazakh side.

The Final Report contains 21 recommendations to improve the election process in Kazakhstan.

Many of them have already been implemented in Kazakhstan's election legislation or are at the stage of implementation. For example, this applies to ensuring adequate representation of all political parties in election commissions, prohibiting interference of local authorities in the work of the election administration and calling them to account in case of the undue involvement and abuse of authority, impartial and thorough investigation and adjudication of election complaints and publication of all decisions on complaints etc.

A number of recommendations are supported by Kazakh experts, other require further study.

There are also recommendations that cannot be accepted since they do not comply with international commitments of Kazakhstan, worsen the electoral process or contradict with the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Nevertheless, we express our gratitude to the OSCE/ODIHR for assistance in the improvement and development of the electoral system of the Republic of Kazakhstan in compliance with the commitments accepted by our country in the field of democratic elections.

A round table conference, organized by the OSCE Center in Astana and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan on 9 September 2011 in Astana, was an important stage of this work.

We hope that our cooperation will be as mutually beneficial and fruitful in the future.

Thank you!