



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Ministerial Council  
Tirana 2020**

MC.DEC/3/20  
4 December 2020

Original: ENGLISH

---

**Second day of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting**  
MC(27) Journal, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 3/20  
APPOINTMENT OF THE OSCE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON  
NATIONAL MINORITIES**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decision of the CSCE Helsinki Summit 1992 to establish a High Commissioner on National Minorities,

Reaffirming the necessity that the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities carries out his functions in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as with the mandate of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities,

Decides to appoint Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities for a period of three years with effect from 4 December 2020.

MC.DEC/3/20  
4 December 2020  
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“In connection with the adoption of the decision on the appointment of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States welcomes the appointment of Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov. We fully respect the autonomy and support the work of the HCNM.

Unfortunately, in recent years, there has been pressure from some participating States to weaken the OSCE’s autonomous institutions and cut resources for them. Nothing in this decision should be interpreted to diminish the autonomy of or restrict the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities in the exercise of his or her mandate.

Finally, the United States underscores that it is the OSCE participating States which have adopted the OSCE’s principles, commitments and decisions and it is first and foremost the responsibility of participating States to implement them.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and that it be included in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

MC.DEC/3/20  
4 December 2020  
Attachment 2

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

“Having joined the consensus on the decision of the OSCE Foreign Ministers to appoint Kairat Kudaybergenovich Abdrakhmanov as the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, we should like to state the following.

We are pleased that, for the first time in the history of the Organization, the participating States have adopted decisions that lead to a more balanced geographical representation in the leadership of the OSCE executive structures. This is fully in line with the fundamental principles of our Organization’s work and its procedural norms establishing the equality of all participating States and their equal opportunity to be involved in the leadership of the Secretariat, its departments and the institutions. We see this as a first step towards achieving a fair geographical balance in the staffing structure of the Organization.

We look forward to the effective and constructive work of the new High Commissioner in strict compliance with the established mandate and with equal consideration of the views of all OSCE participating States. We hope that the work of the High Commissioner and his office will continue to focus on protecting the linguistic, educational and other rights of national minorities, eliminating mass statelessness, combating racism, xenophobia, aggressive nationalism and neo-Nazism, ethnic and religious intolerance, and preserving historical truth.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and included in the journal of the day of the Ministerial Council meeting.”