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ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫҢ ЕҚЫҰ ЖАНЫНДАҒЫ ТҰРАҚТЫ ӨКІЛДІГІ
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE

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**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Kazakhstan to the OSCE, Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov
at the 687th Permanent Council meeting in response to the
Address of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities,
Ambassador Knut Vollebaek**

8 November 2007

We warmly welcome Ambassador Knut Vollebaek and Ambassador Moran at today's Permanent Council Meeting in their new capacities and thank him for his informative report outlining the latest activities of the High Commissioner.

I would like to use this opportunity to express our sincere congratulations on the occasion of his appointment as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

Considering the OSCE Office of the High Commissioner as a very important institution within the Organization my country attaches great significance to further strengthening of the mutual cooperation with the Office and fully supports its activities in assisting participating States to improve relevant legislation and develop the institutional and political framework as a means of promoting inter-ethnic relations in the whole OSCE area.

We welcome the intention of the High Commissioner to devote considerable attention to the region of Central Asia and to maintain dialogue and cooperation with our governments.

In this regard we welcome the recent visit of the High Commissioner to Almaty and Astana to meet the officials and national minority leaders of Kazakhstan.

We commend constructive interaction between our experts in order to increase the role of the national minority representatives in the Kazakh Parliament.

We appreciate comments and suggestions of the High Commissioner considering mechanism of election of the members of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan to the Majilis of the Parliament

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate our consistent commitment to develop constructive dialog with the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities and to wish distinguished Ambassador Vollebaek and his team every success in their noble activity.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.