

Statement by
H.E. Mr. Erlan Idrissov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of Kazakhstan at the 19th OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting
(Dublin, 6 December 2012)

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to join others in thanking the Irish OSCE Chairmanship for organizing this Ministerial Council Meeting here in Dublin in an excellent manner.

This year has paved the way towards the **Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community** that was agreed on at the Astana Summit two years ago.

The building blocks approach adopted by the Irish Chairmanship proved to be efficient. One of those blocks is indeed the **accession of Mongolia to the OSCE**. This step strengthens the OSCE, expands its Eurasian vision and visibility, and raises the Organization's profile globally. My country has supported Mongolia's aspiration to join the OSCE from the very beginning at the Astana Summit. We are confident that Mongolia will contribute to the regional security, and to the addressing of common threats and challenges. We wholeheartedly welcome Mongolia to the OSCE family.

There is no doubt that the launching of the **Helsinki+40 process** would be a key outcome of this Ministerial Council Meeting.

During Kazakhstan's Chairmanship, the participating States set new dynamic in the Organization. We see the Helsinki+40 process as a way of building on this dynamic and identifying a strategic course for the future. It should give us a clear and shared set of objectives for realizing the vision of the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community. It would also give us an opportune moment to take stock of our achievements and failures. We should give clear guidance to our next three Chairmanships: *Ukraine, Switzerland and Serbia*, as well as to the FSC, on the desired course of action and outcomes that we expect until the end of 2015.

At this point, I may identify the most relevant item of unfinished business, the task that our Heads of State or Government assigned to us at the Astana Summit, namely, to develop and adopt the **Framework for Action**. Specific issues, among others, that should be addressed in the next three years are an update of the OSCE principles on non-proliferation, and economic and environmental cooperation; reform of the OSCE including its legal status; and implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Astana Declaration set the task of revitalizing, updating and modernizing the OSCE's **confidence- and security-building regime**, which continues to be a major instrument for ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency. The **Vienna Document 2011** was a step forward, which should be built upon.

As a country that unilaterally renounced nuclear weapons and testing, and has co-sponsored the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, Kazakhstan is a strong supporter of **UNSCR 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation**. The growing interest in the OSCE in enhancing implementation of that resolution at the regional level was clearly indicated by the Ministerial Council decision on the subject adopted last year. We should continue to contribute effectively to further facilitation of that resolution.

Kazakhstan supported the establishment of the **OSCE Department on Transnational Threats**. We hope that a chapeau Ministerial Council decision on TNTs will be among the outcomes of this Ministerial Council meeting. The finalized package of decisions will enable the Department to fulfil its mandate efficiently. We are particularly interested in working further in the areas of combating organised crime, drugs- and arms-trafficking, border security, democratic policing and mass-management by the police.

The adoption of confidence-building measures (CBMs) to reduce the risks of **conflict stemming from the misuse of information and communication technologies** would contribute greatly to the safety of the OSCE area.

Mr. Chairperson,

At the 2010 OSCE Summit in Astana, our Heads of State or Government recognized that "the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of adjacent areas, notably in the Mediterranean and in Asia", and called on participating States to "enhance the level of our interaction with our **Partners for Co-operation**".

It goes without saying that the fight against transnational threats and threats emanating from the territory of **Afghanistan** are among our high priorities. Kazakhstan continues to contribute to international efforts to stabilize the situation in Afghanistan. In April next year, we are also going to host the Ministerial Meeting within the **Istanbul Process**.

In view of the 2014 factor, all stakeholders should redouble their efforts directed towards preventing a deterioration of security in the OSCE area, and especially in Central Asia. Although the OSCE has no mandate to act beyond the geographical area of its responsibility, we should support and promote plans for a comprehensive economic rehabilitation of Afghanistan, which is the prerequisite for overall stabilization of the situation in the country.

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the **economic and environmental** dimension, which is the least politicized one in our Organization. The challenges

identified in the 2003 Maastricht Strategy are as relevant today as they were a decade ago. However, the situation in the OSCE area has changed dramatically. The tenth anniversary of that Strategy in 2013 would afford a good opportunity to work on a **“Maastricht plus” document**.

Our endeavours should be directed towards CBMs that would help to bolster **regional cooperation and integration, and transfer of state-of-the-art technologies, managerial know-how and innovation**. Thematic focuses should be transport and transit, trade, water management, transparency and energy security issues.

I would like to draw your attention to my President’s initiatives to elaborate on a global **strategy in the area of energy and environment** (*energy sustainability and ecological security*) and the **Green Bridge** Partnership Programme (*multilateral platform for transfer of technologies, know-how and investments; green and alternative energies*). Both of them were listed in the Rio+20 Declaration. The OSCE may serve as a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian platform enabling the participating States to cooperate on these issues.

Another promising area for mutually beneficial cooperation is energy of the future. This will be the topic of Kazakhstan’s recent successful bid to host **EXPO-2017** in our capital.

Issues in the **human dimension** have always been at the top of our agenda, including during our Chairmanships of the OSCE and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. This year, Kazakhstan was elected to the **UN Human Rights Council**, which is a clear recognition of our achievements and encouragement for further steps.

As a multi-ethnic and multi-confessional society, we pay special attention to promoting **tolerance and non-discrimination**. We are concerned with a growing number of instances of hate speech and crimes, including in the Internet, and violent and xenophobic attacks. We need to adopt an OSCE document embodying effective policy measures.

ODIHR election observation continues to elicit extensive debate in our Organization. In order to put an end to a number of disagreements, we propose to study carefully the recommendations contained in the Final Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons of June 2005. Special attention should be paid to election monitoring standards, and to the development of criteria and of a methodology that ensure the objectivity, transparency and professionalism of observation missions. This is why Kazakhstan co-sponsored a proposal for a related draft decision. We view it as an invitation to build trust and develop CBMs in this important area.

The absence of a **legal status** for the OSCE continues to create fundamental and operational problems, not least for ensuring the rights, privileges and immunities of international staff in field missions. We commend the efforts of the Irish Chairmanship to pursue the dialogue on how to transform the OSCE into a fully fledged international organization. As the Chair of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), we distributed to the OSCE a joint position paper on the member-states’ representations to the OSCE on the draft **constituent document**.

We urge that the dialogue on legal status should be continued, including within the Helsinki+40 process. Granting the OSCE its own legal status will demonstrate our consolidated and sustained commitment to the Organization. We call upon the participating States to demonstrate the political will to bring this about.

Last but not least, I would like to recall my President's initiative to create a **Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security platform**. No single State or organization can counter the existing and new challenges to security. Initiatives such as IDEAS and Security Days by the Secretary General identified that our commitment to build a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community should be shared with other international and regional organizations. At the same time, there are instances of duplication of efforts, miscommunication or even competition among organizations. That is why we suggest creating a platform where relevant security organizations such as the *UN, OSCE, CICA, EU, CIS, NATO, CSTO* and *SCO* can come together to ensure better coordination in achieving common goals.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairperson, I would like to thank you for warm hospitality and commend your tireless efforts to achieve tangible results throughout the year.

I would also like to express my full support to the future Chairmanships of Ukraine, Switzerland and Serbia in their endeavours to build a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community.

Thank you for your attention.