



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 742nd Permanent Council meeting in response to the Address of the
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities,
Ambassador Knut Vollebaek**

"27" November 2008

Thank you.
Mr. Chairman,

Let me join others in warmly welcoming Ambassador Vollebaek back to the Permanent Council. We very much appreciate his observations and recommendations raised today.

I would particularly like to address the part of his report regarding Kazakhstan. We highly welcome your recent visit to my country and productive dialogue, which has been established with the Kazakh authorities. I'd like to note that high level of Kazakh counter-parts proves our big interest in successfully solving any outstanding issues that might be relevant to your mandate.

Regarding the language issue in Kazakh diverse multi-ethnic society we would like to note that large-scale progress has been achieved largely due to the profound cooperation between your office and the local authorities together with NGOs. We take note of positive deliberations on the growing role of Kazakh language and this non-zero-sum game was very skilfully played very much due to your support and concrete proposals.

We also very much appreciate contribution from the minority-related legislation part of your mandate. As it was announced earlier at the PC meeting on November 13th Kazakhstan has undertaken a broad-scale reformation of its legislation process with the view to streamlining and reinforcing it as well as providing fair allocation of "says" therein. In this respect, we very much praise our close contacts with your office and ODIHR on the way of aligning Kazakhstan with its commitments. We are also looking forward to continuing our cooperation with your office on all relevant issues.

In conclusion let me wish you, Ambassador, all the best in your future undertakings.

Thank you.