



DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
TO THE OSCE

Statement by

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the International Organizations in Vienna-
Chairperson of the Economic and environmental committee
at the 1177th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
in response to the report by OSCE Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, Ambassador Vuk Zugic
(1 March 2018)

Thank you, Mr.Chairperson,

I would like to thank Ambassador Vuk Zugic for his report to the Permanent Council in a new format and underline that we highly appreciate the efforts of you and your team, including introduction of the OCEEA work plan and its presentation at the first Economic and environmental committee meeting early this year.

The documents adopted in Hamburg and Vienna ministerials have created an excellent blueprint for our future activities and paved the way for an enhanced co-operation in the Economic and Environmental Dimension. I strongly believe that we should build upon this momentum to further progress towards the vision of the 2010 Astana Declaration of a security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

We welcome detailed description of the OCEEA's activities in the field of preventing and combating corruption. I highly welcome the design of an online training platform based on the OSCE

Handbook on Combating Corruption. Furthermore, I would like to inform you that during the next Economic and Environmental Committee, on 14 March, Germany and Kazakhstan will share experiences and best practices on national policies on combating corruption. I would like to use this opportunity to invite other Delegations to join this important discussion.

We also welcome your plans on gender mainstreaming into programmatic activities. Last year Kazakhstan together with Austrian Chairmanship have organized special EEC meeting on the occasion of the International women's day. This year we plan to host an event at Ambassadorial level in our Embassy on 6 March dedicated to this important day. All the Permanent Council members are invited to it. We will have several keynote speakers from academia and European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), who will reflect on different challenges and opportunities for rural women and how digitalisation offers options for increased women's economic participation.

I greatly value the Office's activities in strengthening partnerships with other regional and international organizations, such as the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE Secretariat and the EBRD last December as well as expanding the co-operation with academia on economic diplomacy, connectivity and economic digitalization. These efforts

prove that the OCCEA is a key bridge for us in addressing economic and environmental security-related challenges towards strategic stakeholders, while creating beneficial synergies and fruitful co-operation. My delegation will ask for same approach to other regional organizations like Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Eurasian Economic Union and CICA.

Let me briefly touch upon the 2018 OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum topic on *“Promoting economic progress and security in the OSCE area through innovation, human capital development, and good public and corporate governance”*, which will provide the opportunity to mobilize the political will to address main economic challenges to security in the field of digitalization, the digital economy, human capital development, and innovation. I am confident that, throughout the year, concrete proposals can be put forward in the EEF process, which will build a solid basis and provide a good guidance for our further deliberations later this year in Milan.

With regard to OCEEA work plan for 2018, we highly value Office’s work in enhancing connectivity, combating corruption, anti-money laundering/combating financing of terrorism and good migration governance.

We also commend the topics selected in the environmental field, continuation of the work of Office on long-term environmental policy processes comprising issues like Promoting good water governance and transboundary water co-operation in the South Caucasus, Eastern Europe and Central Asia and others are significant for our country.

We express our support to extra-budgetary projects on Fostering a participatory approach towards preventing corruption in Central Asia, on Promoting Economic Connectivity in the OSCE, a regional workshop in Kazakhstan in co-operation with International Organization for Migration and International Labor Organization: “Towards a regional co-operation framework to enhance labour mobility in Central Asia” and your office’s support to the Kazakh-Kyrgyz Chu-Talas Commission. Last but not least, we welcome your office’s support to my country on energy related issues.

Given the importance of second dimension issues in promoting security and stability in the OSCE area, we welcome initiative of Secretary General Thomas Greminger on new generation of OSCE Field operations and we offer the EXPO grounds in Astana to serve as a platform for establishment of an

OSCE thematic center on green economy and connectivity. We hope for OCEEA's active engagement on this issue.

We emphasize the importance of the Office's plans to support the Academy of Law Enforcement Agencies under the Prosecutor's General Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan in regard with Regional Hub for Countering Global Threats in Astana.

Mr.Chairperson,

Successful economic cooperation and healthy environment are good basement for development without conflicts and in this context OCEEA plays a crucial role. In this regard, almost for a decade we have seconded our qualified diplomats to your office. We call upon to increase budget of the Second Dimension in the OSCE.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the great importance, which Kazakhstan is dedicating to the Second Dimension and I conclude with my personal wish for an interesting, fruitful and successful year in the Economic and Environmental Dimension. I would like to reiterate our full support for the work carried out by Ambassador Zugic and his able team.

I thank you.

