



DELEGATION OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN  
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**Statement by Delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan to  
the International Organizations in Vienna at the 1191<sup>st</sup> meeting  
of the OSCE Permanent Council in response to the  
Secretary General of the OSCE on Annual Evaluation Report  
on the Implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the  
Promotion of Gender Equality  
(5 July, 2018)**

**Thank you Mr.Chairperson,**

Delegation of Kazakhstan joins other delegations in welcoming and thanking the Secretary General Ambassador Thomas Greminger for the excellent presentation of the Annual Evaluation Report on the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

We commend the efforts of the Secretary General and the Secretariat for providing detailed and overarching insights, as well as highlighting both the achievements and the gaps and recommendations for improving gender parity in the OSCE region.

We welcome the encouraging progress in gender promotion achieved by the OSCE executive structures and field operations in 2017 and new initiatives aimed at further promoting gender balance within the OSCE.

At the same time, fluctuating percentage of women in senior positions of executive structures, as well as in SMM, points that much more has to be done in this thrust. The Secretariat may fully count on my delegation's support in its efforts to overcome the existing challenges and achieve better results.

We also appreciate activities of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana in promoting gender issues, which are trainings for women entrepreneurs from rural areas and promoting gender mainstreaming in local government policies, as well as TNTD trainings for women on preventing and countering violent extremism, terrorism and radicalization, that have been carried out this year.

**Mr.Chairperson,**

Last year, we informed the Permanent Council about the gender mainstreaming policy of Kazakhstan. My Government has been focusing on the role of women in peace and security through envisioning in the Concept for the Family and Gender Policy 2030 an increase of the number of female military staff within the national contingent serving for the UN peacekeeping operations.

Similarly, we support the partnership between the OSCE and the Global Career for Women Online Platform aiming to attract more women to politico-military dimension.

Kazakhstan will host the international conference "Women Empowerment in Afghanistan" in the autumn of 2018 in Astana. The main topic of this gathering will be women's role in peaceful development.

Acknowledging that sustainable development can hardly be achieved without gender equality, we support the promotion of equal opportunities for women in economic and environmental dimension by developing projects to assist women in fulfilling their potential.

Therefore, NGOs of Kazakhstan, supported by the National Commission for Women's affairs, Family and Demographic Policy under the President, created the international organization "EXPO & Women", which aims at involving more women around the world in environment protection, climate change mitigation and innovation. Last August, on the margins of Astana EXPO-2017, "EXPO & Women" and the OSCE Program Office in Astana co-organized the second International Women's Forum "Future Energy: Women, Business and the Global Economy".

In March this year, Astana hosted the Conference "Mechanisms of supporting women's entrepreneurship in the rural areas", which created an interactive platform for discussion and adoption of recommendations in resolving the existing issues, as well as popularizing the achievements of rural women in creating "green" business projects.

Private sector demonstrates responsibility for empowering women as well. Three local companies, which are still the only three in Central Asia, adopted the UN Women's Empowerment Principles, seven principles for businesses offering guidance on how to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community.

Kazakhstan's delegation has actively participated in the OSCE/ODIHR Conference on Promoting the Political Participation of Women with Disabilities in April this year.

Considering that gender equality can only be achieved through the active and equal engagement of men and boys, and as one of the initiators of the OSCE-Wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, Kazakhstan fully supports the OSCE MenEngage Network. We co-sponsored the MenEngage expert Meeting in November last year and support the efforts of its Chair, Slovenian Ambassador Benedejcic.

In conclusion, let me stress that Kazakhstan's gender policy is designed in accordance with the relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Women's report titled "Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." Activities planned under the Concept of Family and Gender Policy are also in full compliance with the OSCE commitments.

Kazakhstan will remain committed to further improving national legislation and law-enforcement practices on women's rights and preventing discrimination.

**Mr. Secretary General,**

We support your recommendations put forward in the report, and wish you all success in their implementation together with us, participating States, in the spirit of ownership and responsibility.

I thank you.