



DELEGATION OF  
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**Statement by Delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the International Organizations in Vienna at the 1188<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in response to the statements by the Head of the OSCE Programme office in Bishkek Ambassador Pierre von Arx and Director of the OSCE Academy Dr. Alexander Wolters  
(7 June, 2018)**

**Thank you Mr.Chairperson,**

Delegation of Kazakhstan warmly welcomes Ambassador Pierre von Arx and Dr.Alexander Wolters to the Permanent Council and thanks them for comprehensive reports on activities of the OSCE Programme office in Bishkek and OSCE Academy.

We were glad to hear about positive dynamics in the OSCE Programme Office's relationship with the host country, across all three dimensions of security, after entry into force of its new mandate. Your assessment of the new mandate and experience on the ground once again demonstrates positive impact of updating mandates according to the development on the ground and the needs of host country.

We welcome the work of the field mission on priority areas where the OSCE can have an added value. The efforts of the Programme Office in Bishkek aimed at assisting the host country in the process of implementing reforms in key areas deserve our appreciation.

In politico-military dimension we welcome the assistance of the field mission on Security Sector Governance and Reform in Kyrgyzstan via means of organizing international conferences, events and field trips.

The Programme Office's support to promote capacity building in countering terrorism, Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT) and other transnational threats as well as effective management of Small Arms, Light Weapons and Conventional Ammunition, improvement of police performance is of paramount importance. In this regard, we welcome the field mission's support of the Central Asian Youth Network (CAYN) regional meetings, trainings and workshops on VERLT.

In economic and environmental dimension we would like to congratulate the Programme Office on completing three year assistance to the host country on reforming the legal framework which regulates business activity. Recommendations made on 1 068 legal normative acts and 604 administrative procedures are impressive.

We support the economic and environmental activities of the Program office aiming to assist the host country on such issues as supporting small and medium sized enterprise development in the regions, strengthening good governance and combating corruption, facilitating cross border trade, strengthening national disaster risk reduction, etc.

I believe we will have opportunity to hear more in detail about programmatic activities of the Programme Office in the second dimension during the Economic and environmental committee meeting on "Activities undertaken by the OSCE Field Operations", which will be held on 29 August 2018.

In human dimension, we appreciate the efforts of Program Office on assisting the host country upon its request on electoral reform, revising Criminal code, Criminal procedural code and Criminal execution code and Law on probation, which underpin judicial and criminal justice reform. We welcome activities aimed at promoting economic, social and cultural rights and combating trafficking in human beings and gender mainstreaming across all dimensions of security.

In the same vein, support to President's Office and the State Committee of Religious Affairs by Programme Office is important in terms of promoting inter faith-dialogue and fundamental freedoms.

**Mr.Chairperson,**

I would like to note that OSCE Academy is a unique center for education, professional training, research and the development of dialogue at the regional and inter-state levels in Central Asia. For instance, every ten of alumni of the Academy are citizens of Kazakhstan, including 4 kazakh students who completed their studies in Academy last year. In this regard, we welcome the launch of PhD programme after 2020.

We would like to thank donors and Government of Kyrgyzstan for their continuous support to the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. Availing this opportunity, we would like to suggest to consider possibility of funding the Academy through Unified Budget.

**Mr.Chairperson,**

We would like to underline the close relations and strategic partnership that exist between Kazakhstan and fraternal Kyrgyzstan. These relations are based on good-neighborhood, common history and commonality of interests of our people and aimed at equitable and mutually beneficial cooperation in various areas.

The President of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbay Jeenbekov (*Сооронбай Шарипович Жээнбеков*) paid one of the first official visits to Kazakhstan on 25 December 2017. High level meetings with President and Prime-Minister of Kazakhstan demonstrated constructive and confidential dialogue in all spheres.

Kazakhstan is one of the leading trade and investment partners of Kyrgyzstan, being firmly in the top five major investors of the country. Bilateral trade last year increased by 19% and in 2018 it is expected to reach a benchmark of 1 billion US dollars.

All these dynamism with fraternal Kyrgyzstan demonstrates unique character of bilateral relations between two countries.

On 15 March 2018 leaders of the five Central Asian states met in Astana, where joint statement of the Heads of States was adopted. I would like to inform that such meetings will be held on a regular basis at the level of presidents, secretaries of security councils and ministers of foreign affairs. The next meeting of the Presidents will be held in Tashkent in March 2019.

Having said this, I would like to pay attention of the OSCE field missions in the region that all these positive developments and dynamics in Central Asia should be accordingly reflected in the work, projects and future activities of the OSCE missions. In this respect, we see merit in broadening the avenues for joint cooperation of the field missions, which might benefit the region overall.

In conclusion, I would like to thank both Ambassador Pierre von Arx and Dr.Alexander Wolters for their dedicated work and wish them all the success in their future activities.

I thank you.