



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 at the 1175th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council meeting in response to the statements by Ambassador Martin Sajdik, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, and Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan, Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine
(8 February 2018)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Delegation of Kazakhstan warmly welcomes Ambassador Martin Sajdik and Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan to the Permanent Council and thanks both distinguished Ambassadors for their comprehensive reports. We reiterate our strong support to the activities of SMM where Kazakhstan representatives contribute to the work of Mission.

We commend the visit of OSCE Chairperson in office - Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Angelino Alfano to Ukraine at the end of January 2018 and welcome CiO's recent meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Sergey Lavrov. We believe that with this approach the OSCE can contribute more to the resolution of the situation in and around Ukraine.

Kazakhstan fully endorses the activity the Trilateral Contact Group and its working groups on implementing confidence-building measures in four areas that they are covering. We welcome the results of the TCG meetings in Minsk in January 2018. We believe that exchange of the detainees carried out after a 15-month break, which took place on 27 December 2017 will positively affect the entire negotiation process. In this regard, we wish all the success to Humanitarian Issues, Security, Economic and Political Working Groups in 2018.

We are seriously concerned about situation in east of Ukraine, latest reports from SMM indicate the continuous casualties and cease fire violations. According to reports only between 8 and 21 January 2018, the OSCE SMM recorded around 13 000 ceasefire violations – a 55 per cent increase compared with the previous two-week reporting period. However, on 31 January SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations in

both Donetsk and Luhansk regions compared with the previous reporting period. We are also deeply concerned with recent two incidents, when small-arms fire threatened lives of SMM patrol members in Yasynuvata on 2 February 2018 and particularly recent injuring of children.

SMM has recently reported on restrictions of the freedom of movement of monitors and other impediments to the fulfillment of its mandate. We call for full, safe and unhindered access for the SMM monitors throughout Ukraine and full transparency in the conflict zone, which is an essential requirement for confidence building.

In addition to that, we would like to highlight our readiness to promote measures and tools that might be conducive to confidence and security building with regard to the situation in and around Ukraine through the second dimension according to the priorities of the Italian Chairmanship. We believe that second dimension documents adopted in Vienna Ministerial Council Meeting will open new avenues of cooperation. In this regard, we need fully tap constructive potential of the economic and environmental dimension.

Keeping in mind that a strong political will remains a key precondition in the process of settlement of the crisis in and around Ukraine, we underscore the importance of the Minsk agreements, and constantly call for compliance with these agreements as the only currently available mechanism for the peaceful settlement.

Kazakhstan is ready to make all possible inputs in a sake of peace, including in the framework of its non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

In conclusion, Ambassador Sajdik and Ambassador Apakan, we greatly appreciate your outstanding work and excellent cooperation as you jointly contribute to settling the situation in and around Ukraine. I wish you a success in carrying out your important missions.

I thank you.