



DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
TO THE OSCE

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**Statement by Delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the
International Organizations in Vienna at the 1189th meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council in response to the statement by
The Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat
Ambassador Natalya Drozd
(14 June, 2018)**

Thank you Mr.Chairperson,

Delegation of Kazakhstan thanks Ambassador Natalya Ivanovna Drozd (*Наталья Ивановна Дрозд*), for her comprehensive report to the Permanent Council on activities of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat.

We welcome that despite the relatively small budget, as well as adhering to the policy of zero-nominal growth, the OSCE Centre managed to expand thematically in a balanced way across all three dimensions during the reporting period, due to efficient use of its limited resources. We would like to commend positive and constructive dialogue with the host country.

In the same vein, we appreciate the efforts of the Centre aimed to combine its work with different stakeholders wherever possible, including other OSCE field operations in the region, to avoid duplication of activities and to reduce costs. This aspect of the work of Centre is exemplary to other field missions.

During your presentation at the Economic and environmental committee on 14 March 2018 we acquainted with the work of the Centre in the second dimension.

In this regard, we welcome active role of Turkmenistan in reinvigorating the second dimension, by organizing a regional workshop on waste management in 2017 and high-level conference on Good governance and economic connectivity: Best practices within the OSCE region, which took place recently on 30-31 May 2018 in Ashgabat, where delegation from Kazakhstan was present.

We also welcome Center's support of the new Centre of Excellence on sustainable development and security at the International University of Humanities and Development, which focuses on good governance in natural resource management.

In politico-military dimension we welcome the assistance of the field mission in strengthening the capacity of its border guard service, as well as in implementing host country's OSCE commitments, including the Vienna Document 2011, OSCE Communications Network and enhancement of knowledge of the host authorities in the field of small arms and light weapons, and active support to the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in Turkmenistan.

We commend the Centre's joint work with the State's Border Guard Service on conducting trainings that will strengthen the capacities of Turkmenistan to combat transnational threats such as drug-trafficking, trafficking of human beings and

combating Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT), which resulted in significant increase of trained border guards in 2017.

In this regard, we note importance of cooperation with Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors in Almaty (CARICC) in the area of fight against illicit drugs trafficking. We would like to call to Center's close cooperation with CARICC.

In human dimension, we welcome Centre's continued efforts to support the host authorities to adhere to international human rights standards. In this regard, assistance in implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2016-2020 and National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2015-2020, and assistance to the Ombudsperson in the field of media development and the reform of the penitentiary system is very important.

In the same vein, we support organization of various workshops, seminars and field trips with the aim to enhance cooperation in the field of independence of judiciary, promoting freedom of religion and human rights, and media development.

Mr. Chairperson,

Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan historically have close bilateral relations built on trust and friendship.

The state visit of President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov to Kazakhstan on 18 April 2017 is evidence to it. I would like to underline that Agreement on strategic partnership was signed between Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, which will give an impetus for further development of bilateral cooperation.

On 10 November 2017, agreement between Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan about the point of junction of the state borders of the three states was signed. The document finalizes the legal registration of state borders of the three states.

On 22-23 February 2018, a High-level delegation from Kazakhstan met with President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdymukammedov. Bilateral talks emphasized importance of cooperation on transit and transport, energy, agriculture, industry and highlighted the new areas of bilateral cooperation in the military-technical and aerospace industries.

At the regional Kazakh-Turkmen Business Forum in Avaza (Turkmenistan) on 17 April 2018, issues of further expansion of trade-economic, scientific-technical and cultural-humanitarian cooperation between the Balkan velayat of Turkmenistan and the Mangistau region of Kazakhstan were discussed.

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

I believe at the recent Regional Meeting of the Heads of field operations in Bishkek on 18-20 April, the OSCE field missions in Central Asia took note of all positive developments and dynamics in region with the aim to reflect it in their future work. In addition to that, summary document of Regional Meeting of the Heads of field operations demonstrated existing potential for enhanced cooperation among field operations in Central Asia in all three dimensions.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Ambassador Drozd for her work and wish her and her team all the success in future activities.

I thank you.