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**Statement by  
Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Chairperson of the Permanent Council  
at the 884<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council on  
the agenda item 1 “OSCE Summit 2010 - conclusions and follow-up”  
16 December 2010**

*The Road from Astana: The Way Ahead*

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**2010 has been an important and successful year for our Organization, culminating in the first meeting of OSCE heads of state and government in more than a decade.** Together, we have built upon the solid foundation laid by the Finnish and Greek Chairmanships, re-energized our political dialogue, re-engaged our leaders at the highest level, reaffirmed our agreed norms, principles and commitments, and identified a common vision – a “comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security community throughout our shared OSCE area.”

The Astana Summit was portrayed as an important landmark for the OSCE to test its credibility and relevance in the new XXI century realities, including vis-à-vis other security organizations, which operate in the same area and whose roles have changed significantly over the last decade.

It was a chance for renewal, and an opportunity to “reset” relations after a decade of tensions, even war within the OSCE area. It was also an attempt to overcome the challenges on their common agenda “a triumph” of a common sense.

In many ways, the very fact that there was a summit (for the first time since 1999), and that the heads of state or government of the majority of the OSCE’s participating States took part, represented a main success. It indicated that, after a decade of disengagement, our political leaders recognized the importance of an inclusive, comprehensive security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok. By coming to Astana, they took an important and robust first step in moving the ambitions of Helsinki, Paris and Istanbul closer to reality.

Bringing our leaders together for the first time in Central Asia, we underscored the inclusiveness of our Organization. The Summit’s venue sent a clear signal that our security community cannot end at the eastern border of the EU, or at the Urals. Heads of State or Government introduced their proposals on how to strengthen security in the region and how to make our Organization more effective in tackling challenges of the 21 century. We strongly believe that the messages of our leaders should not fall into oblivion, but are worth serious consideration with a view to their possible further implementation.

The outcome of the OSCE summit and our ability to agree on principle issues of classical European security, adapting them to Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian realities of the XXI century, were also closely watched by the Asian and Muslim worlds. As you know, in 2009-2011 Kazakhstan is chairing several organizations (CICA, OIC, etc.), and we attach great importance to the possibility of promoting “model” experiences and practices within these organizations (comprehensive approach, dimensions development, co-operation and mutually acceptable “division of labour”, etc.). This is all important in view of a strategic overarching goal to build transcontinental security, using the potential and comparative advantages of different regional and sub-regional organizations.

In Astana, we came very close to agreement on a detailed Framework for Action designed to guide the OSCE’s work over the coming years. Like many delegations, Kazakhstan as OSCE

Chairmanship regrets that consensus on this Framework proved elusive and continuing disagreements over protracted conflicts prevented us from agreeing on the Framework to structure and guide the work of the OSCE over the coming years.

Indeed unresolved conflicts remain unfinished business. Efforts to address these conflicts have featured high on the agenda of the Kazakhstan OSCE Chairmanship throughout the year, and we have spared no effort in supporting the Minsk Group process, and pressing for progress in the Geneva International Discussions and the 5+2 talks. Like others, we had hoped to register greater progress in Astana. However, the Astana Summit has encouraged parties involved to continue efforts to find common language on conflicts.

Taking a step back, however, it is clear that this disappointment is largely a measure of the high expectations we had for the Astana Summit. It must not be permitted to obscure a clear understanding of **historical significance** of our common success – the adoption of “the Astana Commemorative Declaration. Towards a Security Community”.

Thus the Summit’s concrete results include the following:

1. Adoption of the Astana Declaration, which contains crucial points on:
  - a) a common vision of “*a free, democratic, common and indivisible **Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community** stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals*”, and an honest recognition of the obstacles on the way towards full realization of the vision;
  - b) an unambiguous **reaffirmation of all OSCE norms, principles and commitments**, and of participating States’ accountability to their citizens and responsibility to each other for their full implementation. This fact shows that it is possible to overcome old stereotypes of the ‘cold war’ and to launch a new phase of collaboration between the OSCE participating States in the 21<sup>st</sup> century;
  - c) a strong affirmation of **OSCE human dimension commitments**, some of which were expressed in Astana for the first time at the level of heads of state or government; this includes explicit reaffirmation of key provisions of the 1991 Moscow Document, and acknowledgement of the important role played by civil society and free media. The Moscow language was for the first time mentioned on the level of head of state and government;
  - d) a commitment to increase efforts to **resolve existing conflicts** in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiating manner, within agreed formats, fully respecting the norms and principles of international law enshrined in the UN Charter, as well as the Helsinki Final Act.
  - e) forward-looking language on **arms control and confidence- and security-building measures**, including the concrete expectation of progress in 2011 on conventional arms control negotiations and the updating of the Vienna Document 1999;
  - f) recognition of the need for greater unity of purpose and action in facing emerging **transnational threats** – the first time the inter-relationships between challenges such as terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, proliferation of WMD, cyber threats and the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, drugs and human beings and the need for a more coherent approach were explicitly acknowledged in an OSCE Summit document;
  - g) a commitment to enhance **cooperation with Partners for Cooperation**, and to contribute to international efforts to promote a stable, prosperous, democratic **Afghanistan**; and
  - h) a commitment to work towards **strengthening the OSCE’s effectiveness and efficiency**.
2. The Summit was enriched by the vibrant dialogue among civil society in preparation for, and on the margins of the Summit. The final declaration reaffirmed unambiguously the most important OSCE commitments in the areas of human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law – many of these for the first time at the level of heads of state and government.
3. Astana also saw important steps forward in the area of conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures. Heads of state and government looked forward

to the launch of negotiations in 2011 aimed at ending the current impasse over the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), and to the updating of the Vienna Document. They also expressed their determination to intensify their efforts to address emerging transnational threats.

4. Even in the areas where consensus ultimately proved elusive, we finished the Summit in better shape than we began. On the protracted conflicts, Astana saw agreement among the Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan on the need to redouble their efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.
5. There was broad consensus on the need to work together to combat transnational threats and to support Afghanistan.

Despite the ultimate lack of agreement on the Astana Framework for Action as a whole, the intense consultations that preceded the Summit, including within the Corfu Process, revealed an encouragingly high degree of consensus on concrete goals in a number of specific areas of work.

In order to make the most of the work done thus far, the Kazakhstan Chairmanship would encourage participating States, under the guidance of the incoming Lithuanian Chairmanship, to draw on those parts of the most recent draft Framework (CIO.GAL/179/10/Rev.5 of 30 November 2010) that seemed to enjoy broad support, working through relevant existing OSCE bodies and transfer them into concrete decisions, with a view to making progress in these areas prior to the December 2011 Vilnius Ministerial Council. In our view, such areas might include:

- Enhancing OSCE capabilities to act effectively across the entire conflict cycle, including through reviewing the existing toolbox and considering its possible updating (paragraph 6);
- Enhancing dialogue and co-operation among OSCE participating States to address economic and environmental challenges and threats to security, including through consultations, the exchange of best practices and information (paragraph 7);
- Ensuring respect for the inherent dignity of the individual, by strengthening promotion and protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law (paragraph 8);
- Strengthening common efforts, improving our capacities and utilizing our expertise more effectively to counter existing and emerging transnational threats and challenges (paragraph 9);
- Bolstering our contribution to the stability of Afghanistan, acting within the OSCE's mandate and area of responsibility across all dimensions (paragraph 10);
- Further developing the OSCE's role as a coordinating framework to foster non-hierarchical co-operation among organizations dealing with security, on the basis of shared values and shared interests, in order to strengthen common stability and security (paragraph 11); and
- Strengthening the institutional and operational capacities of the OSCE to adapt to the evolving conditions of the 21st century and to improve the Organization's ability to fulfill its mandates (paragraph 12).

The Kazakhstan Chairmanship is also encouraged by the progress made on politico-military aspects of security in the framework of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) on the margins of the Summit. Heads of State or Government "look forward to the updating of the Vienna Document 1999," and the completion of this task in 2011 should be a concrete goal. This work could then be welcomed by the Vilnius Ministerial Council. In addition, we would encourage the incoming FSC Chairmanships (with Kazakhstan among them) to continue work on updating the CSBMs that fall under the aegis of the Forum and on seeking agreement on a Programme for Further Actions in the field of Arms Control and Confidence-and Security- Building Measures.

It is not a secret that the lack of consensus over how best to address unresolved conflicts in the OSCE area proved a significant obstacle to overall agreement on the Astana Framework for Action. Like others, we had hoped to register greater progress in Astana. Yet here too, we can point

to the agreement in Astana by our Heads of State or Government that “increased efforts should be made to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats, fully respecting the norms and principles of international law enshrined in the United Nations Charter, as well as the Helsinki Final Act.” As 2010 draws to a close, we believe that all participating States should support the incoming Lithuanian Chairmanship in giving substance to this commitment, building upon the discussions that took place throughout the year, including on the margins of the Astana Summit.

In particular:

- The Joint Statement of 1 December 2010 by the Heads of Delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries and the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia, agreeing “that the time has come for more decisive efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.”
- A common understanding of the need for full implementation of the 12 August 2008 cease-fire agreement and subsequent arrangements, and also of the need for the OSCE to contribute to the Geneva International Discussions. The OSCE can make a positive contribution on the ground, including but not limited to questions related to the Geneva discussions, and encourage the incoming Lithuanian Chairmanship to pursue these possibilities further.
- General support for the immediate and unconditional resumption of formal 5+2 negotiations aimed at a lasting political settlement on the basis of respect for the Republic of Moldova’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as confidence- and security-building measures to promote transparency and stability, consistent with OSCE goals and commitments.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that the very process of reaching consensus - albeit on a shorter text - demonstrated that countries still feel that the OSCE has a future and needs to be supported. There is also a solid draft Framework for Action, as reflected in the latest text mentioned above, which can be used as a basis for moving forward under the next Chairmanships.

Allow me to reiterate that the Astana Summit and its final declaration are **our common success and achievement that should lead to the revitalization of the Organization**. The Astana Summit demonstrated that far fewer issues divide OSCE participating States than unite them. These efforts should not end in Astana but continue. We should not lose the momentum. Success is not a static achievement but rather a never-ending process, which requires constant re-ignition and reaffirmation. The first step was made in Astana, and Kazakhstan is committed to working closely with the incoming Lithuanian Chairmanship, in the remaining days of 2010 and throughout 2011, in order to ensure that the progress we have made on these issues, and more broadly in crafting the draft Frameworks for Actions, can serve as a solid foundation for further efforts to move the OSCE’s agenda forward.

In this regard, the very first action to be taken is the adoption of the Organization’s Unified Budget for the next year. Having the budget adopted by the end of 2010 would help set the scene for the incoming Lithuanian Chairmanship, permitting it to concentrate on initiating the follow up process in pursuit of our shared vision of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Security Community.

The spirit of Astana will carry over into the future activities of this noble Organization, which Kazakhstan has been proud to chair in 2010. The work of realizing our common Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community is a team effort. And just as Kazakhstan was able to build upon the accomplishments of Finland and Greece in reanimating the security dialogue, particularly through the Corfu Process, so Kazakhstan stands ready to support Lithuania, Ireland and Ukraine in carrying this work forward.

**Thank you.**