



DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
TO THE OSCE

PC.DEL/649/18
21 May 2018
OSCE+
ENGLISH only

**Statement by Delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the
International Organizations in Vienna at the 1186th meeting of the
OSCE Permanent Council in response to the statement by
The Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe,
Ambassador Tuula Yrjola
(17 May, 2018)**

Thank you Mr.Chairperson,

Delegation of Kazakhstan warmly welcomes Ambassador Tuula Yrjola to the Permanent Council and thanks her for the report on activities of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe.

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.

We commend that Office has developed an internal "Strategic Framework" that aims to enhance local ownership and build a genuine and mutually beneficial partnership between the host country and the Office.

In political-military dimension we welcome efforts of Office to build the capacity of civil society and relevant law enforcement agencies to prevent violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT). Activities comprising support for the implementation of the National Action Plan on the Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism facilitating discussions between civil society, Government agencies and the international community, preventive activities in schools, as well the prevention of the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes in line with OSCE commitments are important steps forward.

We welcome the recent conference on "Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism" organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in cooperation with OSCE, United Nations, and European Union in Dushanbe on 3-4 May 2018.

We also support the activities of Office on border management and mine activities. In this respect, we commend its efforts to promote OSCE confidence and security-building measures among Central Asian states by organizing various regional training courses and workshops.

Last year during your report to Permanent Council we noted 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 reiterate our call to Office's close cooperation with this unique Centre.

In economic and environmental dimension, on 14 March 2018 during your presentation at the Economic and environmental committee meeting we got acquainted with the work of the Office more in detail. We support the Office's activities on economic development via means of supporting the operations of Business Resource Centres and organizing various forums and workshops.

In addition to that we would like to highlight importance of recently finalized extra-budgetary project on "Energy Security in the Rasht valley", connecting one village to the national electricity grid and upgrading one Micro Hydro Power Plant.

We believe that Office will contribute to the International High-Level Conference on International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development,' 2018-2028, which will be organized on 20-22 June 2018.

In human dimension, we welcome the Office's support to the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, torture prevention and the rights of detained persons. In this regard, support of Government in its implementation of the 2013-2020 State Programme on Human Rights Education is essential.

We also welcome activities of the Office aimed at combatting trafficking in human beings and gender mainstreaming across all dimensions of security.

In the same vein, continuous support to Tajik Media Council by Office is important in terms of independent media promoting the ethics and rights of journalists and building their capacity.

Mr.Chairperson.

Kazakhstan and Tajikistan historically have close bilateral relations built on trust and friendship. During the official visit of President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon to Kazakhstan on 14 March 2018 important bilateral agreements in the spheres of bilateral cooperation and migration were signed.

Kazakhstan is the largest export and trade partner for Tajikistan in Central Asia. Last year the volume of mutual trade amounted to 800 million USD, which is an increase more than 30%.

On 15 March 2018 leaders of the five Central Asian states met in Astana. The five-party talks held on the eve of the common for all nations of Central Asia “Nauryz” celebrations. Joint statement of the Heads of States were adopted in which they emphasized important issues, which will contribute to the sustainable growth of the well-being of the peoples of Central Asia.

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

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 conclusion, taking account that Ambassador Tuula Yrjola it is your last report to the Permanent Council as a Head of Mission, I would like to thank you and your able team for dedicated work and wish you all the success in future endeavors. Your elegant and beautiful dress shows your personal engagement with the culture of Central Asia.

I thank you.