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**Statement by Delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the International Organizations in Vienna at the 1190th
meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in response to the
statement by OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine,
Ambassador Vaidotas Verba
(21 June, 2018)**

Thank you Mr.Chairperson,

Delegation of Kazakhstan joins other speakers in welcoming Ambassador Verba, and thanks him for his report.

We welcome the continuing efforts of the Project Coordinator in Ukraine (PCU) in the framework of OSCE activities on stabilizing the situation in Ukraine, including tackling current security challenges. In this regard, we welcome strategic plan for 2019-2021 finalized by Project Coordinator, which sets strategic objectives to better fulfil its mandate and achieve impact, and establishing multi-year goals for programming areas.

It is obvious that the demand for the services of the PCU has increased significantly over the last year, and we are pleased to note that the response to this was the increased project activity. It is encouraging that all projects are carried out in accordance with the initiatives and needs of the host country, and in activity areas where the OSCE can make a contribution.

In this regard, it is important to continue projects on the development of the national dialogue, which was supported by all stake holders. We welcome assistance of PCU in promoting dialogue between Ministry of Economy and Trade with businesses, and facilitating a series of dialogues among journalists.

We also support programmatic activities on human security, countering trafficking in human beings, economic good governance, environment, mine action and critical infrastructure.

We welcome PCU programme on developing a 48-hour training course for police emergency telephone operators, to help better identify gender-based-violence calls, communicate with the victims and cope with stress. The police are expected to incorporate the course into its in-service training curriculum.

In the same vein, we commend distribution of manual “Women.Peace.Security” with the aim to promote gender aspects in conflict areas.

We note the active involvement of OSCE institutions in Ukraine, for example recently the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities contributed expertise and international experience on language policy.

We welcome your cooperation with the SMM. Coordination and synergy of all parties involved in resolving the crisis in and around Ukraine is more important than ever.

My country closely follows developments in Ukraine, since historically we have close relationships with Ukraine, now growing with consistency and mutual interests. In this regard, I believe appointment of new Ambassador of Ukraine to Kazakhstan will give a new impetus to expanding and strengthening our cooperation in political, economic, cultural and other areas.

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 recognize 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 adheres to a balanced and realistic approach to resolving this crisis based on the fundamental principles of international law. Kazakhstan is ready to make all possible inputs in a sake of peace.

In conclusion, Ambassador Verba taking into account that it is your last report at the Permanent Council in capacity of Project Coordinator in Ukraine, I wish you all the success in your future career!

I thank you.