



DELEGATION OF  
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**Statement by Delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the  
International Organizations in Vienna at the 1190<sup>th</sup> meeting of the  
OSCE Permanent Council in response to the statement by  
The Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana,  
Ambassador György Szabó  
(21 June, 2018)**

**Thank you Mr.Chairperson,**

Delegation of Kazakhstan thanks Ambassador György Szabó, for his comprehensive report to the Permanent Council on activities of the OSCE Program office in Astana.

As a host country, we are pleased to note that for last three years with the new mandate it has been established even more efficient and effective cooperation between the Programme Office in Astana and relevant stakeholders of Kazakhstan in all three dimensions in accordance with the priorities of the host country. We also welcome balanced funding of all three baskets as a means of equal approach to all three dimensions.

We commend the work of field mission in supporting priorities set in the reform goals under the Kazakhstan-2050 Strategy and the strategic document 100 Concrete Steps to Implement Five Institutional Reforms and Third Modernization program and we strongly encourage the Programme Office to continue strengthening its focus on project activities in this thrust and be guided by mentioned strategic documents.

We are particularly glad to hear that reporting period was remarkable in terms of identifying new ways to demonstrate the impact of the Program Office's programmatic activities and how to design new activities in a way that provides even more added value. We appreciate that you took note of our concerns last year and accordingly paid attention to handing-over capacities and events to the host authorities, government and civil society. Also, more focus was given to self-evaluation and lessons learned during project implementation. We would like to see concrete conclusions and steps in this regard.

We would like to note that governmental authorities are interested in the work of the Programme Office with the focus on regional and subregional projects.

We also welcome cooperation and coordination with UN Agencies and international organizations such as the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC), the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG), inter-governmental structures such as the EU Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA), Regional Hub for Countering

Global Threats has been established on the basis of the Academy of Law Enforcement Agencies under the Prosecutor General's Office of Kazakhstan. Building a partnership with regional organizations at the time of positive political developments in the Central Asia is significant and exemplary to other OSCE field missions in the region. We believe that Program Office in Astana will continue its role of a facilitator of regional cooperation along with OSCE field operations in Central Asia.

We appreciate efforts of the Program Office in line with the priority of the Italian Chairmanship to strengthen international cooperation in combating trafficking in human beings along migration routes and its assistance in preparing simulation training similar to the one held in Vicenza in 2016 and 2017, which will take place in the Regional Hub on 24-28 September 2018 in Astana.

We also welcome that Program Office communicates regularly, effectively, in a timely manner in Kazakh, Russian and English languages, which is fair enough to rank the Office in among the most active field operations in publishing event announcements, media advisories, press releases and news items.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

In reporting period, high number of programmatic activities were implemented, however we would like to stress importance of quality rather than quantity.

In addition to that, as we emphasized during your report at the Permanent Council last year, field presences of OSCE in Central Asia should join their efforts to multiply the positive effect of their activities. This request also applies to the OSCE Secretariat and Institutions. We hope to see an analysis of this nature soon.

We consider the Programme Office not as assisting element, but rather as an instrumental tool fostering ties between Kazakhstan and OSCE Institutions and a channel to get the best practices in the OSCE area.

In this regard, I would like to draw your attention to the issue of the establishment of OSCE Thematic Centers/Hubs or Centers for Analysis and Research that was well elaborated during the OSCE Security Days on field missions on 27 April 2018. This initiative fully matches with documents of OSCE Astana and Istanbul summits and it is extremely important in widening the horizons of the OSCE field missions.

We propose to create a new generation OSCE presence in Astana which would become the pragmatic step pointing the evolution based on success story of the existing field operation. We believe that this new entity should focus on exchange of best practices, analytical and research work. Through it Kazakhstan will not only receive, accumulate and implement knowledge, but also disseminate best practices in the entire OSCE region.

My delegation thanks all delegations that have delivered their statements in response to the report of Ambassador Szabó. We noted them duly and will properly channel them to the respective authorities in my capital.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Ambassador Szabó for his work and wish him and his dedicated team all the success in future activities.

Availing this opportunity, I would like to invite all Permanent Council members and delegates to the opening of photo exhibition dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Astana, which will be held today at 1.15 pm. on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor in Hofburg.

I thank you.