



DELEGATION OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN  
TO THE OSCE

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**Statement by Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the International Organizations in Vienna at the 1183<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in response to the statements by Ambassador Martin Sajdik, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group and Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan, Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine  
(26 April 2018)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

I would like to warmly welcome Ambassador Martin Sajdik and Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan back to the Permanent Council and thank both distinguished Ambassadors for their comprehensive reports. We welcome the extension of the SMM mandate until 31 March 2019 and thank Italian Chairmanship and delegations for the timely approval of the Permanent Council decision on this important issue. We note that owing to Ambassador Apakan's high professionalism, good knowledge of the SMM work and deserved respect of all stakeholders his contract was extended for another year. Notwithstanding of provisions of the OSCE Rules of Procedures.

We reiterate our strong support to the activities of SMM where Kazakhstan representatives contribute to the work of Mission. We welcome the reuse of the long-range unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV's) by SMM during the reporting period. In this regard, we appreciate regular informal briefings by SMM on its key technology and assets. At the same time, we express our concern about unpredictable and volatile situation in eastern Ukraine and frequent cease-fire violations, which have a direct impact on civilian casualties. Cases such as a shelling of the bus with the employees of the Donetsk filtering station, as well as the death of the family caused by drive on the explosive device, which happened only last week is unacceptable and we call for immediate implementation of the Trilateral Contact Group Framework Decision on Disengagement by all sides.

Kazakhstan fully endorses the activity of the Trilateral Contact Group and its working groups on implementing confidence-building measures in four areas that they are covering. We welcome the adoption of Statement on recommitment to the ceasefire starting from 30 March on the occasion of the Easter celebrations by Trilateral Contact Group, with the participation of the representatives of certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and results of the last TCG meeting in Minsk on 18 April 2018.

SMM has recently reported on restrictions of the freedom of movement of monitors and impediments on the form of mines and unexploded ordnance to the fulfillment of its mandate. We call for full, safe and unhindered access for the SMM monitors throughout Ukraine and full transparency in the conflict zone, which is an essential requirement for confidence building. We condemn the action of threats to SMM patrols in non-government controlled areas and incidents of 2 February and 5 March 2018, which threatened the lives of SMM monitors, should never happen again.

In addition to that, I would like to highlight our readiness to promote measures and tools that might be conducive to confidence and security building with regard to the situation in and around Ukraine through the second dimension according to the priorities of the Italian Chairmanship. In this regard, we welcome Informal meeting with Mr. Per Fisher, Coordinator of the Working Group on Economic Issues of the Trilateral Contact Group, which was organized last Friday in Hofburg. We were glad to hear about progress in this working group and express our readiness to cooperate within the Economic and Environmental Committee.

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 is ready to make all possible inputs in a sake of peace, including in the framework of its non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

In conclusion, Ambassador Sajdik and Ambassador Apakan, we greatly appreciate your outstanding work and excellent cooperation as you jointly contribute to the achievement of settlement of the situation in and around Ukraine. I wish you a success in carrying out your important missions.

I thank you.