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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1401st MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 December 2022

**On the democratic reforms and early presidential election in Kazakhstan**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the distinguished Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Roman Yuryevich Vassilenko. We are grateful for the detailed information on the results of the early presidential election and on the democratic transformations that are taking place in the country.

The alliance relationship between Russia and Kazakhstan rests on a solid basis of equal and mutually beneficial co-operation. In October of this year we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Over this period – a relatively short one from the historical point of view – a robust inter-State legal framework for multifaceted bilateral co-operation has been created. Russo-Kazakh economic ties have moved on to a whole new plane, as confirmed by the partnership's steady growth. Having said that, the potential for the development of trade relations is far from exhausted.

Russia and Kazakhstan have established constructive co-operation in environmental protection and space exploration, in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and in academic linkages. Active dialogue is regularly conducted on the current foreign policy agenda. The positions of the Russian and Kazakh Governments coincide on the overwhelming majority of global and regional issues.

Esteemed Roman Yuryevich,

Allow me to offer my congratulations on the excellent organization of the recently held election. The President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, addressed a telegram to President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in connection with his re-election. He pointed to the “convincing mandate of trust” which opened up “new opportunities for implementing the trajectory of State development” being promoted by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The strategic partnership and the alliance between our countries, which are based on the traditions of friendship, good-neighbourliness and mutual respect, are evolving in a highly successful manner, as was fully borne out by the State visit to Russia by the President of Kazakhstan after his re-election to the highest office in the land – the first of his foreign trips. We will continue to work together to enhance our ties with fraternal Kazakhstan.

We also note the international community's very positive assessments of the preparation and conduct of the election. The electoral process was monitored by several thousand observers, including about 650 representatives of foreign States and members of missions from the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and other international and Eurasian entities. Their ranks included Russian experts as well.

Amid the general positive conclusions of the observation missions the only discordant note was struck by the negative conclusion of the observers from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). We agree with the assessments voiced earlier by Kazakhstan regarding these observers' lack of objectivity and detachment from reality. It is striking that over several election cycles their reports have invariably been in the same key, ignoring the progress made in the electoral field in that country. This approach towards the OSCE participating States "east of Vienna" is par for the course with the ODIHR – over many years, with facts in hand, we have been stressing the persistent double standards and geographical imbalances in the Office's election-related activities. It has to do with the lack of transparency and consistency in its election observation methodology. We do not quite understand why in some cases the ODIHR experts regard a ban on independent candidates as being at odds merely with unspecified recommendations from the Office or with paragraph 7.5 of the CSCE Copenhagen Document of 1990, whereas in the case of Kazakhstan they additionally point to the incompatibility of such a ban with paragraph 24 of the Copenhagen Document. Or why, when assessing election observation needs in participating States that are European Union countries, they have been ignoring the broadcasting bans on Russian media outlets, while the media landscape situation in post-Soviet States is in most cases examined as though under a magnifying glass and portrayed in a negative light. There are plenty such examples. This unpalatable state of affairs can only be rectified by developing a consensus-based observation methodology, as Russia and its partners have been insisting for many years.

The re-election of President Tokayev has demonstrated that the programme advanced by him for shaping a new Kazakhstan – a programme aimed at comprehensive transformation of the country – is supported by the vast majority of the population. We wish our friendly neighbour Kazakhstan further success on the path of State-building and enhancement of its democratic institutions.

Thank you for your attention.