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ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫҢ ЕҚЫҰ ЖАНЫНДАҒЫ ТҰРАҚТЫ ӨКІЛДІГІ

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE

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**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan,  
Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov  
in response to the Director of ODIHR, Ambassador Janez Lenarčič  
at the 737<sup>th</sup> Permanent Council meeting**

"30" October 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My delegation warmly welcomes Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Ambassador Lenarčič at the Permanent Council and thanks for his report.

We are satisfied with the continuing work of the ODIHR on protection of human rights, strengthening the rule of law, combating intolerance and discrimination, countering trafficking in human beings, migration and the rights of migrants. These issues are highly relevant in the OSCE agenda and require constant attention.

We note continues increase in the geographical representation of participating States in ODIHR observation missions and extension of the geographical scope of monitoring and also training and instructional seminars for specialists from the various countries.

We also welcome positive and practical results of the Seminar on Election Related Issues held in July this year as well as the Expert Seminar on electronic voting in Helsinki organized by the Finish Chairmanship with an assistance of the ODIHR.

The report causes special interest for thorough review on the OSCE's recent Thirteenth Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

The Delegation from Kazakhstan actively participated in the HDIM. Experts had fruitful exchanges of different views, ideas, and good practices discussing of existing concerns, challenges and seeking common solutions.

Kazakhstan consistently intensifies its interaction with the ODIHR on the whole range of issues the Bureau deals with and I am confident in its further

productive development. In this regard we would like to thank the ODIHR for its expertise on the Kazakhstan law on freedom of belief and religious associations. Some other draft legislations are expected to that respect.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to reiterate our confidence that the ODIHR will continue working in full conformity with its mandate, Brussels Ministerial Decision 19/06 and other relevant documents. We also hope that Office will apply its utmost efforts to minimize any contradictions and misunderstandings that may undermine its efficient work and cause mistrust between the ODIHR and any participating state or institution.

Concluding my statement let me wish to Ambassador Lenarčič and his dedicated team all the best in further activities.

Thank you.