



ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫҢ ЕҚЫҰ ЖАНЫНДАҒЫ ТҰРАҚТЫ ӨКІЛДІГІ

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE

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**Statement by Kazakhstan delegation
at the 716th Permanent Council meeting in response to the statement of the
Director of the ODIHR, Ambassador Christian Strohal**

"12" June 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My delegation would like to warmly welcome Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Ambassador Christian Strohal at the Permanent Council and thanks for his detailed report outlining remarkable results of the activities and achievements of the Office during last five years.

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 the ODIHR's efforts made to improve its election related activities. Among them the 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 believe there is a room for further development and harmonization of the ODIHR's election monitoring activities. Kazakhstan is ready to support ODIHR's efforts to enhance the Office's capacity to fulfill this part of its mandate. In this regard we are looking forward for positive and practical results of the forthcoming Seminar on Election Related Issues in July.

Kazakhstan considers important and stands ready to support ODIHR's activities in promoting mutual respect and understanding, freedom of religion and belief. In this regard we would like to thank the ODIHR's experts for elaborating recommendations on draft amendments to the law of Kazakhstan on freedom of belief and religious associations. They will be thoroughly considered and taken into full account in the further drafting process.

We believe that challenges remaining in the OSCE region, including in humanitarian sphere will be successfully overcome by ODIHR, which must become a reliable and responsible partner for all participating states in their democratic development.

Kazakhstan wishes to extend its warmest gratitude to you, Ambassador Strohal, for your devotion, commitment and hard work during your heading the ODIHR. Let me wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Thank you.