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**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN  
TO THE OSCE**

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**Statement  
by the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan, Ambassador Kairat  
Abdrakhmanov at the 737 PC meeting  
30 October 2008**

Bernard, we have come a long way since the beginning of the year 2008 when I was given the honor to chair the Economic and Environmental committee. It was a challenging year but nevertheless your office under the guidance of the Finnish Chairmanship proved to really make a difference. There have been many ideas brewing in the air with respect to perspectives of the Second dimension. I would like to echo your concluding remarks that you made today, especially, with regard to the topics where the OSCE can bring added value (climate change, migration, water management). I would also like to express my deep appreciation for the activities that you have been carrying out in the field, particularly, in Central Asia, coming up with assessment reports, handbooks, follow-up events, etc., which raise awareness and promote the OSCE profile in the region. Your Office and you personally have always been on the frontline of providing security locally.

I see also merit in your observations on the possible role of OSCE under the conditions of international financial crisis. The OSCE could indeed bring its added value to cope with security implications of the crisis.

To wrap up I'd like to wish you all the best in your future postings and express hope that your successor will be as good as you were for us all individually and the OSCE on the whole with the same strong dedication, high dignity and excellent human qualities.

Thank you.