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

**Statement by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan
H.E. Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov at the 699th Permanent Council meeting
in response to the statement of
H.E. Ms. Condoleezza Rice, US Secretary of State
31 May 2007**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Delegation of Kazakhstan would like to welcome the United States Secretary of State H.E. Ms. Condoleezza Rice at the Permanent Council meeting. I will point out only one practical issue – post-conflict rehabilitation of Afghanistan.

We share the US position on the inevitability of urgent additional and concrete measures in securing achieved positive results and further implementation of social and economic programs for Afghanistan which main provisions are set out in the “National strategy of the development of Afghanistan” and “The Afghanistan Compact” adopted at the conference in London in 2006.

Substantial growth of drugs production and smuggling is of great concern for all of us, especially for Central Asia. It poses a threat to the restoration of the state structures, rehabilitation of the collapsed economy, provision of peace and stability in the country. Kazakhstan is interested in the development of the cooperation with Afghanistan and all neighboring countries of the region in combating drugs production and trafficking, international organized crime and terrorists.

We believe that further comprehensive and wide-scale political-military, financial and economic assistance to Afghanistan from the world community will allow to take out the country from the crisis.

Kazakhstan learnt with interest with initiative proposed by Ambassador Finley on possibility to enhance the OSCE role in the process of post-conflict settlement in Afghanistan which is OSCE partner-country on cooperation. We think that the use of OSCE's expert potential in border management and police activities will let our Organization contribute in provision of humanitarian security and stability.

Supporting in general the US initiative and considering it as useful and timely, we expect for its further discussion and in perspective adoption of the relevant Ministerial Council decision in Madrid.

We hope that this issue will become a topic of discussion at the upcoming visit of the OSCE Secretary General this summer.

Concluding my statement, let me wish Secretary Rice and her dedicated team in the Department of State every success in their future work.

Thank you.