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**STATEMENT BY MR. KANAT SAUDABAYEV,  
CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE OF THE OSCE AND SECRETARY OF  
STATE AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN, AT THE OPENING OF THE  
2010 OSCE SUMMIT**

Astana, 1 December 2010

Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to add my voice to the warm words spoken by our Head of State and also to cordially welcome you to Astana.

It was on this day, 1 December, in 1991 that presidential elections took place for the first time in the history of Kazakhstan and our people entrusted their fate to Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Allow me to congratulate the President on this landmark date. And now, on the eve of the 19th anniversary of our independence, Kazakhstan, as the country holding the OSCE Chairmanship, is hosting a summit meeting of this prestigious international organization.

This is a sign of the objective recognition by the international community of Kazakhstan's impressive successes in its socio-economic and democratic development during the years of independence and convincing evidence of the leadership of Nursultan Nazarbayev and his contribution to ensuring regional and global security.

I should like to express to all of you our sincere gratitude for the fact that through your presence here you are reaffirming your commitment to the values and principles of the OSCE.

I must also thank the Secretary General of the OSCE, all the heads of the Organization's institutions and their staff, who have helped us throughout our Chairmanship.

Distinguished Summit participants,

During our Chairmanship, we have adhered strictly to the fundamental principles and values of the OSCE and to our strategic vision and the pressing priorities outlined by us.

Kazakhstan has consistently taken into account the views and interests of all the OSCE participating States and ensured a balance between all three dimensions of the

Organization. We have endeavoured to fully live up to our motto – trust, tradition, transparency and tolerance – and be worthy of the confidence placed in us by the participating States and meet the expectations of the OSCE community.

Kazakhstan has sought to strengthen and develop the good traditions of the Organization. This was the reason for the special conferences marking the 20th anniversary of the Charter of Paris and the Copenhagen Document in France and Denmark and the informal meeting of the OSCE foreign ministers in Almaty.

Greater attention has been paid to inter-ethnic and interreligious tolerance with a view to reducing the risks of conflicts in the OSCE's area of responsibility. The OSCE High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination held in Astana focused on this issue.

In addition, we have endeavoured to strengthen trust and transparency in the OSCE area, which we are at times lacking.

Constructive collaboration by all participating States within the Corfu Process has made it possible to infuse a fresh spirit into the Organization's work and restore its significance as a key platform for security dialogue.

Work undertaken in 2010 within the framework of existing negotiation formats on protracted conflicts gives us grounds for cautious optimism, despite all the difficulties and the long-term nature of these problems.

The tragic events in Kyrgyzstan confirmed the need for the OSCE, which will remain committed to stabilizing the situation in that country and ensuring its sustainable development.

Our Chairmanship has given a new impetus to the common efforts to revive and strengthen the arms control regime and confidence-building measures, and we hope that next year an updated version of the Vienna Document 1999 will be approved.

We have endeavoured to enhance co-operation in countering transnational threats and challenges, including those from outside the OSCE area, primarily from the territory of Afghanistan.

The priorities of the Chairperson-in-Office, namely the promotion of Eurasian continental transit and transport corridors and a focus on environmental problems, have revitalized the work in the economic and environmental dimension.

In the human dimension Kazakhstan has done all it can to foster constructive co-operation with civil society and has ensured the broadest possible involvement of non-governmental organizations in the Organization's activities and the many events in the run-up to and within the framework of the Summit.

We have firmly supported the work of the OSCE institutions, which serve as important tools for ensuring the rule of law, human rights and the development of democracy.

However, we must concur that the transformation of the CSCE into a fully fledged organization is still not complete.

Today, in expressing our gratitude to our predecessors, Greece, it is with a feeling that we have done our duty that we now pass the baton to the Lithuanian Chairmanship and wish it every success in its responsible work. We also offer hearty fraternal congratulations to Ukraine on fact that it has been approved to chair the OSCE in 2013.

I want to assure you that Kazakhstan will remain an active participant in the OSCE after its Chairmanship as well.

Distinguished heads of delegations,

In conclusion, I should like once more to call on you to show the wisdom and courage of true leaders and reach a consensus on the fateful issues of strengthening security and developing co-operation in the area from Vancouver to Vladivostok. This would be a first step towards realizing Kazakhstan's idea of establishing a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian community of common and indivisible security. An outcome of the Astana Summit of this kind would be in keeping with the hopes of our peoples for a safer and better world.

Thank you for your attention.