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

**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to
the OSCE, Ambassador Doulat Kuanyshev
at the 648th Permanent Council meeting in response to the Address of the
Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,
Ambassador Christian Strohal
1 February 2007**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My delegation welcomes Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Ambassador Christian Strohal at the Permanent Council and thanks him for his comprehensive report as well as oral statement acquainting us with planned activities.

We share hope of Ambassador Strohal that this report will give an impetus to the discussions on how participating States will jointly deal with the large number of challenges still remaining in the implementation of commitments.

We believe that the establishment of three Committees, one of which will examine the implementation of commitments in the Human Dimension, is a step towards enhancing the efficiency of our Organization. We also hope that the Human Dimension committee will prove to be a forum to discuss among other issues the follow up to the recommendations contained in ODIHR election observation mission reports. Aspiration of ODIHR to provide information and support for the successful work of this committee is essential.

The list of full fledged Election Observation Missions and Assessment Missions already held and to be held this year is quite impressive. Intention of the Bureau to refine and improve the delivery of the observation methodology including regular dialogue with other international organizations conducting observations upon assumption of these activities is an encouraging sign.

We support the topic of the annual Human Dimension Seminar in Warsaw in May which will focus on political parties and civil society as well as topics under discussion for this year's Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings in the sphere of freedom of assembly, association and expression, gender and security and sexual exploitation of children.

Kazakhstan consistently intensifies its interaction with the ODIHR on the whole range of issues Bureau deals with. Cooperation with the ODIHR is developing more rapidly and dynamically than with any other OSCE institution. Herewith I would like to stress that authorities of my country and Bureau's leadership have established outstanding relationship based on mutual respect and pursue of efficiency and I am confident in its further development.

One of the priority directions is cooperation in the sphere of elections. In particular, Kazakhstan is intended to expand presence of our representatives in the Election Observation Missions. At the end of the last year the Central Election Commission has composed the list of Kazakhstan citizens consisted from representatives of the state bodies, political parties, NGOs for participation in these missions. Permanently acting consultative centre under the Central Election Commission is engaged with preparation of Kazakhstan's observers.

We are in favour of the intention of ODIHR to pay equal attention to all directions of its activities at the core of the mandate. Special significant for us are activities in combating intolerance and discrimination and in promoting mutual respect and understanding. We welcome Ambassador Strohal's will to continue the ODIHR's work in combating manifestations of discrimination and intolerance. In general we think that OSCE activities on strengthening mutual respect and understanding are highly topical at present. From our side we are ready to actively cooperate with the Bureau in order to contribute to the ODIHR tolerance and non-discrimination programme.

Concluding my statement let me wish to Ambassador Strohal and his dedicated team all the best in every effort aimed at protection of the values of human rights and democracy.

Thank you.