



ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫҢ ЕҚЫҰ ЖАНЫНДАҒЫ ТҰРАҚТЫ ӨКІЛДІГІ

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE

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**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the OSCE, Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov
at the 718th Permanent Council meeting in response to the Address of the OSCE
High Commissioner on National Minorities,
Ambassador Knut Vollebaek**

"26" June 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My delegation warmly welcomes Ambassador Knut Vollebaek at today's Permanent Council meeting and expresses its gratitude for his comprehensive and detailed overview of his Office's activities, which we studied with great interest.

We note with satisfaction the broad geographic scope of his visits. We welcome the Commissioner's efforts to carry out on-the-spot investigations into the situation with regard to the status of national minorities.

We highly regard the considerable attention of HCNM to the Central Asia, and agree that one of the key priorities in the region is education. Close interaction of the High Commissioner and States in enhancing efforts to use education as a means of integration in their multi-ethnic societies is a very important element of the activities.

Upholding the rights of national minorities remains one of the vital priorities of our Organization. We agree that Recommendations are needed to be updated and adjusted to the changing needs and realities on the ground.

We consider active monitoring and elaboration of the new sets of Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations to be an essential task the High Commissioner has to deal.

In this regard we look forward to the discussions, regional consultations with participating States on this issue as well as participation in the conference for the new Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations to be held in Italy.

Kazakhstan consistently intensifies its cooperation with the HCNM Office on the whole range of issues. We are looking forward to the upcoming visit of Ambassador Vollebaek to Kazakhstan. We believe it will be useful opportunity to exchange views on the situation with regard to inter-ethnic relations with both interested governmental structures and concerned civil society institutions.

Concluding my statement let me wish to Ambassador Vollebaek and his dedicated team all the best in their future activities.

Thank you.