



KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT
by
H.E. Mrs. Byrganym Aitimova, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations
at the General Debate of the Third Committee
on agenda item 69 "Human Rights"

8 November 2012

New York

**Chair,
Distinguished delegates,**

At the outset, let me thank the Secretary-General and Special Procedures mandate-holders for their comprehensive and well-grounded reports, which embrace a wide range of urgent human rights challenges on a global scale. The world is currently facing dramatic upheavals in the Middle East and North African regions, driven by people's efforts to realize human rights. To go in this direction demands that much is done to ensure implementation of the United Nations agenda for promoting and protecting human rights.

Last year, Kazakhstan celebrated the 20th Anniversary of its Independence. Since 1991, over the past two decades, the country has embarked on the path of building a democratic, secular and legal state in strict accordance with international standards and principles. Democratic transformations are successfully moving the newly formed state towards a free and open society. However, like every emerging country, Kazakhstan which is in its early stages of nation building, is faced with occasional social instability.

Last December, Kazakhstan witnessed demonstrations fueled by protesters in the city of Zhanaozen. Disagreements over working conditions and wages resulted in a social unrest in western part of Kazakhstan. All precautionary measures were taken to maintain the necessary facilities and services, together with guaranteeing decent employment to the displaced workers. Investigations into the causes of this temporary dissent were conducted in an open and transparent manner with the full engagement of the civil society.

Chair,

Fostering human dignity demands an adequate human rights architecture and institutionalized processes of rule of law and good governance. Our government pays particular attention to General Assembly resolution on the review of the Human Rights Council adopted last July. This resolution aims to strengthen the Universal Periodic Review as an objective and non-politicized tool to enhance dialogue with Member States. I would like to bring to your attention that Kazakhstan has undergone the first cycle of UPR in 2010. Furthermore, improvements in national legislation and practice, and institution-building, have been undertaken to implement recommendations of an impartial assessment.

As a candidate to the Human Rights Council, for the term 2013-2015, my country will spare no effort to enhance the mandate and effectiveness of the Council. We therefore would highly appreciate the support of Member States at the forthcoming election.

Due to the rapid increase in the number of human rights instruments during the last 10 years, and their corresponding Monitoring Committees, and reporting obligations of State Parties, paramount attention is being paid by my Government to the ongoing process of strengthening of United Nations Human Rights Treaty bodies. Welcoming the initiative in general, Kazakhstan considers it necessary to ensure transparent and impartial dialogue with each State party. It is also equally important for the Treaty bodies to operate with reliable and trusted sources to maintain entrusted mandates.

Chair,

Kazakhstan, since its independence, has striven and continues to be part of multilateral efforts and global processes, especially those that strive to attain inalienable rights and freedoms. It is noteworthy that during Kazakhstan's Chairmanship of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, a Standing Committee on Human Rights was established. Such a Committee provides a platform for dialogue and exchange of experiences among the Muslim countries of the OIC on improving the situation of civil rights and freedom. In 2010 Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the OSCE has been marked by initiatives in the human dimension and recommitment of the fundamental principles of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act that led to convening first after 11 years OSCE Summit in Astana and adoption of the Astana Declaration. With the positive experience it has achieved in keeping lasting peace and accord in multicultural and multi-religious society, Kazakhstan promoted tolerance and intercultural dialogue during its OSCE's chairmanship.

Guided by respect for diversity and dialogue for peace, UNESCO in collaboration with Kazakhstan, successfully marked the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, in 2010. I would like to draw your attention to our initiative on instituting the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022). My delegation hopes that this initiative will be supported by Member States.

Chair,

Permit me to briefly highlight some key national measures undertaken in Kazakhstan for comprehensive legal reform with the objective of ensuring human rights in keeping with major international instruments and documents. Comprehensive legislation was undertaken to improve the human rights protection system in full compliance with the provisions of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2009-2012 and the Concept of Legal Policy 2010-2020. These

strategic activities are meant to establish more effective, consistent and coordinated policy for optimal legislative and law enforcement practices in the human dimension, involving state bodies, and international and non-governmental organizations. Moreover, the Action Plan fully incorporates the recommendations made by Special Rapporteurs and UN treaty bodies on human rights.

In conclusion, Kazakhstan stands ready to strengthen the process of promoting and protecting human rights globally, regionally and nationally. At the same time, I reaffirm my country's political will and aspiration to meet all its human rights obligations.

Thank you for your attention.