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**PERMANENT MISSION OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS  
IN VIENNA**

**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
in response to the Statement of the Minister for Foreign  
and European Affairs and  
Trade of Malta Hon. Dr Ian Borg at the 1457th OSCE Special  
Permanent Council meeting, 25 January 2024**

**Thank you, Madam Chair,**

The Delegation of Kazakhstan sincerely congratulates Malta on the assumption of the OSCE Chairpersonship.

We warmly welcome the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta Dr. Ian Borg to the Permanent Council and thank him for presenting the goals and priorities of Malta's Chairpersonship in 2024.

As we are approaching the **50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2025**, regrettably, we witness the resurgence of conflicts and violence, worsening geopolitical tensions and confrontational politics, accompanied by the erosion of international principles.

We strongly believe that even amidst current highly polarized security environment, sustaining the multilateral system and securing the principles of international law in the OSCE area remain essential.

In this regard, it is imperative to commit to the inclusive dialogue in order to advance the vision of a **common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community** free of the dividing lines, conflicts, spheres of influence and zones with different levels of security in accordance with **the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter and the Astana Commemorative Declaration**.

Under these conditions, it is crucial to **preserve the OSCE as a platform**, which is unique in its essence, as a regional pan-European forum operating on the basis of the rule of consensus and the principle of sovereign equality of states, based on **mutual trust, equal and open dialogue**.

**Dear Minister,**

We look forward to working together on important priorities mentioned in your statement with the commitment **to a balanced approach** across all three dimensions in accordance with the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security.

**In the first dimension**, we welcome Malta's focus on **Women, Peace, and Security agenda**, as well as on strengthening resilience against **cyber threats**, addressing **transnational threats**, and promoting compliance with **conventional arms control commitments**.

Against the backdrop of an unprecedented security crisis in the OSCE area, we must not forget about the growing transnational threats, such as **terrorism, organized crime, proliferation of weapons of mass**

**destruction, and the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,** which require a well-coordinated response.

Concerning the **second dimension**, we look forward to cooperating on issues related to sustainable economic growth and environmental co-operation.

We welcome Malta's intention to focus on **bridging digital divides and promoting wider access to digital technologies**, as well as on **combating corruption and enhancing food security**.

**Climate change** is one of the main challenges for Central Asia and the OSCE, in general. Therefore, Kazakhstan fully supports Chairpersonship's priority to promote cooperation on climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation. Please note that Kazakhstan is planning to host a **Regional Climate Summit in 2026** under the auspices of the UN and other international organizations to facilitate dialogue and find adequate solutions to climate challenges.

**Water scarcity** creates serious economic and other challenges in transboundary river basins in Central Asia.

At the beginning of this year Kazakhstan took over the chairmanship of the **International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea** for the next three years. Our country is committed to deepening partnerships with Central Asian states, along with other international organizations and financial institutions, to address issues related to the **Aral Sea**, including through the introduction of a unified automated system for accounting, monitoring, management and distribution of water resources in the Aral Sea basin

Today, it is the world's largest lake – **the Caspian Sea** – that also faces ecological challenges including shallowing, water diversion, and the pollution

of flora and fauna. Saving the Caspian Sea must be a matter of common priority that **requires long-term international cooperation**.

We hope for an effective co-operation with the OSCE to ensure preventive responses to environmental threats in Central Asian region.

Given the importance of the **human dimension**, Kazakhstan commends Malta's intention to advance inclusive approach to security by **mainstreaming gender** and increasing the **engagement of youth** in the OSCE activities.

We welcome the CiO's efforts to **increase media literacy** and the **safety of journalists**, as well as to **combat violence against women and human trafficking**, which correspond to the Human Rights Action Plan approved by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev last December

In closing, Madam Chair, Minister Borg, I would like to assure you of our support in pursuit of peace, security and stability in the OSCE region and wish you and your able team every success during the Maltese Chairpersonship.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to extend our invitation to you to pay a visit to Kazakhstan and the Central Asian region during your Chairpersonship.

I thank you.