



# ASTANA CALLING

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**Special OSCE issue**  
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## **Kazakh President Calls for OSCE Summit, Says Organization Needs to Rise Up to Modern Challenges**

(Proposes Designating August 1 the OSCE Day to Commemorate Helsinki Final Act, Declares Trust, Tradition, Transparency and Tolerance – as Chairmanship Motto)

## **Foreign Minister Specifies Chairmanship Priorities**

(Invites foreign ministers for informal meeting in Almaty in the summer of 2010)

## **Kazakh President Calls for OSCE Summit, Says Organization Needs to Rise Up to Modern Challenges**

In an unprecedented video address to the OSCE Permanent Council delivered in Vienna on January 14, President Nursultan Nazarbayev outlined his vision for Kazakhstan's Chairmanship agenda and called for a summit of this unique organization facing a decisive moment in its history.

Noting that Kazakhstan has assumed the Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) with “a sense of great responsibility”, President Nazarbayev said his country's 18 years of independence have prepared it well for the chairmanship challenge.



“There is no doubt that the current world situation makes even more arduous the test which Kazakhstan, as a country chairing the OSCE, will have to pass. However, the most pressing problems that the OSCE is now facing have always been at the heart of our foreign policy.”

The President said Kazakhstan's nuclear disarmament experience, its initiative to convene the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), an analogue of OSCE in Asia, its promotion of inter-religious dialogue and its responsible policies on energy and food security have made the country a responsible partner of the international community, which up to the challenge of leading the world's largest regional organization at the time of great trials in modern history.

“The erosion of the regime of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, humanitarian and ecological disasters, famine, poverty, epidemics, depletion of energy resources, conflicts based on interethnic and interreligious differences—such is a far from complete list of the challenges faced by modern civilization that call for maximum efforts by multilateral institutions of high standing like the OSCE,” the President said.

## **OSCE Is Unique Organization, Summit Needed to Strengthen It**

Kazakhstan considers the OSCE, with its unique geographical coverage, its experience of interaction and the instruments it has developed, as “one of the key mechanisms for ensuring international security and co-operation”.

At the same time, “the positive historical resources of the OSCE are limited. Today, it is not permissible to carry on endlessly drawing the so-called “red lines” and playing the “zero-sum games” which have diminished its credibility. Improving the effectiveness of international organizations in meeting new global challenges has come to the fore. That is the precise task of the OSCE, which is a unique platform for dialogue bringing together 56 States located on three continents,” the President said.

Therefore, a decisive question for the OSCE in the future will be “whether it can convert itself into a structure that recognizes the diversity of the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, or whether it will continue to be an organization segmented into blocs, where the West remains aloof from the space east of Vienna?”

In order to strengthen the organization and the principle of consensus on which the OSCE is based, President Nazarbayev proposed to organize a meeting of the heads of state of the organization this year.

“The 10-year interval since the last OSCE summit is an illustration of the fact that the consensus base is in stagnation, if not in crisis. In this regard, we call upon the OSCE participating States to support Kazakhstan’s initiative urging the convening of a summit in 2010,” the President said.

Such a meeting of OSCE leaders would also afford an opportunity to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Charter of Paris and the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II.

According to the President, the agenda of the summit could include topical security issues in the OSCE area of responsibility, as well as the situation in Afghanistan and issues relating to tolerance.

“Now is the time when the leaders of the OSCE participating States should demonstrate their political will and focus on solutions to the difficult challenges facing our nations. A summit would not only give a powerful impetus to adapting the OSCE to modern challenges and threats, but would also increase the confidence and respect enjoyed by the Organization itself among our peoples,” the President declared.

Calling the OSCE an irreplaceable organization, President Nazarbayev said “its stagnation or disappearance would create a volatile vacuum in the Euro-Atlantic area”. In this context, he proposed declaring August 1, the day of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, the OSCE Day.

## **Commitment to Democracy Reaffirmed, Motto Explained**

The President spoke of the importance of Kazakhstan’s OSCE chairmanship for the country’s own development.

“The trust bestowed on us by the OSCE participating States bears a special importance for Kazakhstan,” he said. “Building a democratic society has been a conscious choice of our people, and we will pursue further political liberalization of our country and seek to improve the quality of life of the people of Kazakhstan. Our OSCE Chairmanship is looked upon in the country not only as a foreign policy success, but also as a valuable national achievement in its own right.”

He went on to declare the motto of Kazakhstan’s Chairmanship as four Ts --*Trust, Tradition, Transparency and Tolerance*.

According to the President, “The first T refers to the trust that is necessary for all of us. The second one refers to our commitment to the fundamental principles and values of the OSCE. The third one conveys maximum openness and transparency in international relations, free from “double standards” and “dividing lines”, as well as a focus on constructive co-operation in order to address challenges and threats to security. Finally, the fourth T reflects global trends towards strengthening of intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue, which is gaining major importance in today’s world.”

## Commitment to Balance of Interests and Baskets

Speaking of the principles that will govern Kazakhstan's chairmanship, the President said the country will focus on achieving the optimum balance among all three OSCE "baskets".

Such an approach would make it possible to see problems in their entirety, and not only to effectively confront external manifestations of modern challenges and threats, but also to tackle their roots.

As the OSCE chairman, Kazakhstan is "firmly committed to the fundamental principles and values of the OSCE", President Nazarbayev said.

"We intend to find mutually acceptable solutions in the interests of all the participating States of the Organization," he stressed.

In conclusion, the President quoted a Kazakh saying, "*Birlik bolmay tirlik bolmas* (Without unity, there can be no life)," and said Kazakhstan considers the OSCE "a single space of democracy, stability and prosperity for all the peoples living in it."

## Foreign Minister Specifies Chairmanship Priorities



Photo by OSCE/Susanna Lööf

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Secretary of State and Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev, speaking to the ambassadors from 56 participating States of the OSCE after the video address from the President, specified Kazakhstan's priorities for its Chairmanship.

He stressed that Kazakhstan's Chairmanship will focus on achieving an optimal balance between the OSCE "baskets" (politico-military, economic and environmental, and humanitarian) in an effort to approach security challenges in their entirety and deal with their

causes and not just their symptoms.

In the **political and military dimension**, Kazakhstan will concentrate on raising the OSCE's capabilities to contribute to the international community's efforts to counter new security threats and challenges, including combating terrorism, extremism, organized crime and drugs trafficking. Based on its experience of nuclear disarmament, Kazakhstan is well placed to address issues of proliferation of dual-purpose technologies and weapons of mass destruction.

Kazakhstan's Chairmanship will seek progress in resolving the "protracted conflicts" in the former Soviet space with particular reference to Nagorno-Karabakh and Transdniestria.

The involvement of the OSCE in post-conflict reconstruction of Afghanistan will be a priority for Kazakhstan's Chairmanship.

Astana has proposed the idea of convening a Summit in 2010 to renew the consensus on security challenges facing the OSCE. This proposal builds on the work of Greece's Chairmanship that launched the Corfu Process in 2009 aimed at promoting an open dialogue on the fundamentals of European security.

In the **economic and environmental** dimension, Kazakhstan's Chairmanship will promote a dialogue on co-operation on transport and transit corridors connecting Europe and Eurasia. Three conferences will take place in 2010 in Vienna, Minsk and Prague focused on raising the effectiveness and security of land border crossings and facilitating international car and rail links in the OSCE region.

Kazakhstan will pay close attention to issues of environmental monitoring and reactive capabilities and will support the use of the OSCE's potential to address regional environmental problems that could have global consequences such as the Aral Sea. The Chairmanship will also continue the OSCE's work in the area of effective management of water resources and measures to counter land degradation and soil contamination.

Kazakhstan's agenda will also include migration issues and development by the OSCE of appropriate laws and integrated approaches to migration policy to improve global management of migration.

On energy security, Kazakhstan will continue to support the consolidation of the international community's efforts to provide stable and secure exports routes for hydrocarbons as part of the mutual dependency of producers, consumers, transit states and transnational corporations.

In the **humanitarian dimension**, Kazakhstan's efforts will centre on the basis of global security – the promotion of tolerance, inter-cultural dialogue and peaceful co-existence of ethnic groups in the OSCE area. With its unique experience of developing dialogue and harmony between different ethnic and religious groups, Kazakhstan will convene a high-level OSCE conference on tolerance and non-discrimination in Astana in June 2010.

Kazakhstan will also pay close attention to the development of democratic institutions, protection of human rights and provision of gender equality. In this area, the Chairmanship will give priority attention to addressing the problem of human trafficking.

Kanat Saudabayev also said Kazakhstan also intends to continue the “fine tradition initiated by our predecessors Greece by inviting the foreign ministers of the OSCE participating States to an informal meeting in Almaty this summer”.

“Here in the Alatau mountains rising 3000 metres above sea level and among the flowering alpine meadows we could in the spirit of Corfu continue the open and free exchange of views on the most pressing problems in the OSCE's area of responsibility and ideally approve an agenda and time frame for the summit,” he noted.



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