

Kazakhstan Institute
for Strategic Studies under
the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

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AND THE ROLE OF THE OSCE”**

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On 3 October 2013 in Almaty, the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation's Centre in Astana held an international conference entitled the Eurasian Security Community and the Role of the OSCE.

This compendium, which includes presentations given at the conference by both Kazakhstan's and foreign participants, explores a broad range of topics related to the OSCE's main areas of focus, as well as current international security and regional co-operation issues.

The edition will be of interest to political scientists, international relations experts, civil servants, scholars, educators, university-level students, and broad sections of the public interested in the contemporary development of the OSCE.

Any opinions and recommendations expressed in the materials arising from the conference are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the conference organizers.

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**Welcoming Speech by Bulat Sultanov,
Director of the Kazakhstan Institute
for Strategic Studies under the President
of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It has been almost three years since the OSCE Summit in Astana (2 December 2010), when the Astana Commemorative Declaration ‘Towards a Security Community’ was adopted.

During this period the OSCE has been chaired by Lithuania (2011), Ireland (2012) and Ukraine (this year).

In 2014 the OSCE will be chaired by Switzerland.

In this connection, I would like to remind you of the fifth paragraph of the Astana Declaration, which, in particular, states that: “We recognize that the OSCE, as the most inclusive and comprehensive regional security organization in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area, continues to provide a unique forum,” which works “for promoting open dialogue, preventing and settling conflicts, building mutual understanding and fostering cooperation”.

Unfortunately, the problem of security provision in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian space has not been sufficiently elaborated either theoretically or practically.

In our opinion, based on paragraph 1 of the Astana Declaration, which refers to a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security space, stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, the talk can only be about the territory of 57 OSCE member states.

In other words, we need to abandon the idea that it is possible to create an effective security community on the huge Eurasian

sub-continent. The more so, that such words as North, South, West and East Eurasia have gained currency now.

We must be realistic and speak only about the creation of a security zone that falls within the OSCE's sphere of responsibility.

Considering the consequences related to the withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan in 2014, which are difficult to predict, the importance of Central Asia in ensuring security of the OSCE member states – as an outpost against the threats and challenges coming from Afghanistan – is increasing dramatically.

Unfortunately, we do not have full and objective information on what is actually happening in Afghanistan and adjoining countries.

As a result, quite often the Internet and the mass media post items which are far from the truth. Indeed, those who know the truth remain silent, and those who do not know the truth, write things which have nothing to do with reality.

Consequently, it is now of vital importance to have a deep understanding not only of what is happening in each individual country but also in Central Asia, and in the world at large too.

In this connection, once again, I would like to return to the proposal, put forward by the President of Kazakhstan at the Astana OSCE summit, on the creation of an OSCE Security Institute in Central Asia, which could be a scientific coordination centre for the study of and, most importantly, for forecasting the situation in the Central Asian and Caspian region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, owing largely to the efforts of the Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana, Ambassador Natalia Zarudna, we have a very high caliber of participants.

I take this opportunity to wish the participants of our international forum success in their work, fruitful discussion and

elaboration of recommendations, taking into account the rapidly changing geopolitical realities.

Welcoming Speech
by Ambassador Natalia Zarudna,
Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana

Distinguished Mr. Sultanov,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure that so many representatives of academia and scientific circles from a variety of OSCE countries have responded to our invitation and come together in hospitable Almaty, to discuss the pressing and complex issue of the Eurasian security community in the context of countering challenges and threats.

It is not the first year that our Centre, jointly with our trusted partner, the Kazakh Institute for Strategic Studies, has held international conferences dedicated to various aspects of security in the OSCE region. Thus, in the last few years we have discussed the priorities and outcomes of Kazakhstan's chairmanship of the organisation, as well as the potential of the Astana Commemorative Declaration in the context of further development of the OSCE.

In the same year, we, together with our partners from Ukraine and Switzerland – the current and future chairs of the OSCE – suggested focusing our attention on the topic of the Eurasian security community, especially in connection with challenges and threats that all OSCE member states face, to some degree or other.

We hope that the pool of OSCE experts, analysts and academics from European and Central Asian countries, whom we were able to involve in the discussion of this topic, will be in a position not only to analyse various aspects of the Eurasian security community and efforts to counteract transnational threats, but also

develop specific recommendations for strengthening the role of the OSCE in the context of the Helsinki+40 process.

I would like to believe that this conference will contribute to establishing a wide network of academic institutions and think-tanks within the framework of the OSCE to ensure a more fruitful and multilateral exchange of opinions, suggestions and practices. We are also pleased that Dr. Zellner, the Head of the Centre for OSCE Research (CORE), who was entrusted with the difficult but ambitious task of creating this network, agreed to participate in the current discussion.

Distinguished conference participants,

Before we begin the discussion of specific security issues in the Eurasian context, we need to answer what appears to be a simple question: what is this Eurasian security community, and what are its geographical and geopolitical boundaries?

Can we automatically include in it all the countries situated on the Eurasian continent, as some experts and politicians suggest, or should we restrict it to within the boundaries of the OSCE area? Are there differences between the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security communities, or is it one single community spanning the whole of the OSCE member states?

On what principles and values can and must the cooperation between the countries of this community be based, if we nevertheless decide to go outside the boundaries of the OSCE area? Or perhaps the Eurasian security space can be formed on the basis of cooperation of various regional security and collective defence organisations?

And, finally, to what extent is the OSCE prepared to support the idea put forward by President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan at the Astana Summit, regarding the formation of a common security space from both the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific, and from the Arctic Ocean to the Indian?

At first glance, the Astana Declaration, where this notion was first mentioned, provides clear answers to these questions, emphasizing the commitment of the member states to the “vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals.”

It “should be aimed at meeting the challenges of the 21st century and based on our full adherence to common OSCE norms, principles and commitments across all three dimensions. It should unite all OSCE participating States across the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region, free of dividing lines, conflicts, spheres of influence and zones with different levels of security.”

At the same time, it is noted in the Declaration that the Eurasian security community implies cooperation among all member states and among the relevant organisations and institutions, of which they are members. This said, the cooperation must be built upon the principles of equality, partnership cooperation, inclusiveness and transparency.

Furthermore, the Declaration sets an objective to define concrete and tangible goals in addressing the challenges faced by the OSCE and its member states. We hope that in the course of the Helsinki+40 process, and also within the framework of our discussions, such goals and ways of achieving them will be identified, and new ideas will appear, aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the Organisation, maintaining its viability and giving new impetus to the strengthening of security in all its dimensions, both in the OSCE area and beyond it.

Since the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of adjacent areas, a goal has been set to enhance the level of interaction with partners for co-operation, first of all, in the Mediterranean and in Asia. This, in turn, opens wide opportunities to combine efforts with all participating States and partner organisations.

It should be noted that back in 1999, in Istanbul, the decision regarding closer cooperation with regional organisations was incorporated into the OSCE Charter for European Security. The Astana Declaration then confirmed the need for joint efforts in today’s complex and inter-connected world, including the need to counter transnational threats.

In other words, the OSCE documents quite clearly define the principles and framework of the Eurasian security community. At this stage the goal of creating a common security space throughout the whole of Eurasia has not been set, but such a possibility is not ruled out, provided this involves equal and transparent partner interaction with the inclusion of all parties concerned.

In our age of rapid globalisation the majority of regional and local problems acquire an international character. Often, it proves to be impossible for one country on its own, no matter how large and powerful it may be, to resolve these problems. A clear illustration of this is counteracting transnational security threats.

Counteracting non-military security threats in the foreseeable future will require progressively more attention and efforts on the part of member states. This is related not only to persisting regional hotbeds of conflicts, but also to the wide dissemination of radical ideas leading to violent extremism and terrorism.

Organised crime is operating ever more cynically and sophisticatedly with extensive use of the most recent technologies and covering increasingly more new spheres. Fighting the “cancer” that is cybercrime, the counterfeit product trade and human trafficking requires close interaction and prompt decision-making both at national and regional levels, if we want to avoid the spread of this “cancer” and to achieve positive results.

That is why it is so important to tackle present-day challenges using collective efforts and strengthening interaction. The tendency to form integrated ties within the boundaries of one or sev-

eral regions is becoming increasingly relevant, but, again, on the basis of common principles and common values.

In this context, cooperation between the OSCE and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia (CICA) should be mentioned. CICA representatives regularly take part in the OSCE ministerial meetings, conferences involving our Asian partners for co-operation, sessions on interaction with other organisations and specialised OSCE workshops and conferences. Thus, in June of this year, CICA representatives took part in the “Security Days” in Vienna, and in September, together with representatives of member states for the first time visited an air-base within the framework of the Vienna Document 2011.

The proximity of the OSCE area to the hotbeds of instability makes the problem of collective security provision one of the most urgent. Central Asia in full measure experiences the consequences of this instability, which brings new risks, challenges and threats to security.

When presenting the Kazakhstan-2050 Strategy, President Nazarbayev noted that the balance of powers in the world was undergoing significant changes both on a global level and in individual regions of our planet. Consequently, the role of regional security mechanisms is increasing.

Many international and regional institutions, different in their objectives, format, methods and tools, but, ultimately, geared to achieving a common goal, are dealing with the security issues in the OSCE area.

Kazakhstan is an active and responsible partner with regard to strengthening security at regional and global levels. The OSCE greatly appreciates the principled position of Astana in such regional organisations as the CICA, the OIC and the SCO, whose members include many OSCE member states and partner states.

In the last few years, Kazakhstan has established itself in the role of a specific link, not only between these organisations and

the OSCE, but also between Europe and Asia. In this context, your country is called upon to promote better understanding of mentality, interests and capabilities of each other, within the framework of the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community.

The approach to resolving security issues embraces new challenges and also provides new opportunities for the OSCE and its member states. After all, the Organisation is facing many tasks, in the first place, in the context of the pending withdrawal of the international forces from Afghanistan in 2014.

Furthermore, despite the efforts of the Ukrainian chairmanship and intensification of negotiations on Transnistria, the problem of drawn-out or “frozen” conflicts remains as yet unresolved. There is also a dire need to intensify efforts to combat human trafficking, drug trafficking and the illegal trade in weapons, as well as violent extremism and terrorism, including its funding.

It should be noted that the Astana Commemorative Declaration emphasizes the importance of the anti-terror approach of the OSCE based on the comprehensive concept of security and supported by the rule of law and respect for human rights. According to this document, “respect for and promotion of human rights are by themselves the most effective tools for preventing terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation, which lead to terrorism.”

Environmental issues have also become more acute; economic and financial systems are still in crisis. There is a clear need for interaction in managing water, energy and other natural resources, the fight for access to which is as yet not abating.

There is also a need to foster a tolerant attitude towards other cultures, religions and ethnic groups, and to establish the rule of law throughout the entire region as well.

All this brings to the fore the issue of adapting the OSCE to the changing realities and enhancing the effectiveness of its activities. However, what remains indisputable is the understanding of the principal need for maintenance and development of the

OSCE in the interests of ensuring regional and international security and adherence to the fundamental principles of international relations, democracy and respect for human rights, which unite the OSCE member states.

The Helsinki+40 initiative reflects the desire of member states to elaborate possible changes and amendments to the core OSCE documents, for the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of its activities in the context of modern challenges and threats to security, as well as determining further prospects of its development.

Ukraine, as the current OSCE chair, has already started this process, aimed at maximum specificity and result. However, Switzerland, next year's OSCE chair, is entrusted with the most difficult task of preparing the Helsinki+40 Document.

I believe that this Document will set out specific strategic objectives and put forward specific ways and methods of resolving them, allowing the OSCE, whose foundation was laid in the last century, institutionally and content-wise, to step into the 21st century.

In conclusion, once again, I should like to express my appreciation to the Kazakh Institute for Strategic Research, and especially to its Head, Mr. Sultanov, as well as to the Embassies of Switzerland and Ukraine for supporting this conference.

I wish all of us interesting and passionate, but most importantly, constructive and productive discussions! And please remember that our primary objective is not simply to discuss the challenges and problems, but to put forward to the OSCE the recommendations that will be passed on to the Helsinki+40 working group.

Thank you for your attention.

**Welcoming Speech by Serzhan Abdykarimov,
Chairman of Committee for Foreign Policy
Analysis and Forecasting,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

Esteemed Bulat Klychbayevich, Natalia Nikolayevna,
Distinguished conference participants,

I would like to welcome you all and thank the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the OSCE Centre in Astana, for organising and holding this conference, the subject of which is undoubtedly of great relevance for Kazakhstan.

The expert community discussion process, aimed at determining a clear format for the Eurasian security community, is extremely useful for facilitating the appropriate implementation, by the Current Ukrainian and future Chairmanships, of the OSCE Summit Astana Declaration, in the context of the task set to create a common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community.

In our opinion, security challenges in the OSCE Eurasian area are largely determined today by the following factors: 1. Post-2014 Afghanistan development; 2. Processes in Central Asia; 3. The situation in the Middle East.

As highlighted in the Astana Declaration, 'the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of adjacent areas', as well as with the commitments undertaken on Afghanistan and the enhancement of the level of interaction with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

Afghanistan

If the assistance of the international community and our community, despite the complex economic situation in different parts of the OSCE area, is provided in full, then the internal political and socio-economic situation in Afghanistan will begin to stabilise.

One of the conditions for the recovery of the situation will also be the development and the level of participation of the Afghan economy in regional cooperation and implementation of transport, railway and energy projects in this country and with neighbouring countries. This should be facilitated by confidence-building measures in the sphere of commercial and financial-and-economic opportunities as part of the Istanbul process, including fulfilment of commitments undertaken by the international community in the follow-up to the Tokyo and other conferences.

For its part, Kazakhstan is investing in the creation of regional and transcontinental transport infrastructure, training of Afghan human resources, construction of social facilities and the delivery of humanitarian aid. The “Western Europe – Western China” transit corridor, the “Kazakhstan–Turkmenistan–Iran” railway route, the Kazakhstan transport infrastructure in the Northern Distribution Network system, the “New Silk Road” initiative – this is our country’s contribution to regional integration.

The resolution of these tasks can be facilitated by the opportunities offered by the city of Almaty – a transport hub and the location for UN system agencies. The establishment of a UN Regional Centre here will focus on the recovery of Afghanistan and sustainable development of the Eurasian space.

Today, the drugs situation in the region and worldwide is largely determined by the drug production in Afghanistan. In this regard, we will offer all support possible to foster cooperation between the OSCE and the CARICC, the headquarters of which are located in this city.

This year’s Almaty Ministerial meeting of the Istanbul process made it possible for the participants to adjust their positions on the Afghan problem. Supporting countries and international organisations voiced their intentions to consolidate joint efforts to promote collaboration on Afghanistan.

The OSCE, in implementing its projects and cooperating with the UN, the CSTO, the CICA, the SCO, NATO and the government of Afghanistan, is in a position to greatly contribute to the country’s security. Utilising bilateral and multilateral formats will promote the achievement of synergy of efforts in the interests of Eurasian space.

Dear friends,

The development of the situation in Central Asia is of great importance for the stability and security of the OSCE. The regional problems concerning the rational use of water-and-energy resources, the environment, poverty, illegal labour migration, inter-ethnic conflicts, corruption, the strengthening of the positions of the narcomafia are laden with critical mass. There is an escalation of threats coming from terrorist and religious-extremist groups, and from transnational and criminal networks.

Conscious of the responsibility for stability and safety in the region, Kazakhstan believes that the best way to stabilise Central Asia is to ensure intraregional integration, which will be conducive to the reduction of conflict potential, resolution of socio-economic problems and to the unravelling of a knot of water-and-energy and other differences.

Central Asian countries need to build politically stable relations, consolidate joint efforts in counteracting internal and external threats, and develop comprehensive regional cooperation, with OSCE support within its mandate, too.

Central Asian states, situated at the junction of Eurasian transport corridors, enjoy rich natural resources, an extensive trans-

port-and-communications network, considerable investment attractiveness and high human potential.

Kazakhstan, located within this geo-economic hub, is making joint efforts with other countries to develop a regional commercial-and-economic and interregional transport infrastructure, which is to become the foundation of long-term interaction between Asia and Europe.

Cooperation in the region will be successful provided there is support from external actors which are interested in the development of Central Asia. It is important to build greater trust and dialogue between all parties, the advancement of which is one of the core elements of Kazakhstan's foreign policy.

The resolution of the outlined issues will contribute to the elaboration of a common position to prevent both intraregional and external challenges and threats. The ultimate aim is to transform Central Asia into a single, integrated entity of global policy and economy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The development of the situation in the Middle East and North Africa is at a critical phase, the impact of which can spread outside the region.

The protracted military conflict in Syria, the complex politico-military situation on the borders of the member states and partners of the OSCE, streams of refugees, the on-going political and socio-economic transformations in the "Arab Spring" countries, and many other related problems have become a serious challenge not only for the OSCE and its areas—South Eurasia, the Caspian and Central Asian regions, but for the entire world.

Kazakhstan advocates rapid stabilisation of the situation in the states of the region, and trusts that all political forces, influencing the situation in those countries, will accept responsibility and

take measures to put an end to violence, to seek dialogue through negotiations and to ensure civil peace and concord.

In this regard, reaching an agreement on chemical weapons in Syria, aiming at holding the next meeting in Geneva, and the first signs of easing in the dialogue on the Iranian nuclear programme, give us hope that the international community will use all opportunities and means available to continue with efforts towards resolving these conflicts in a peaceful manner and bringing the situation back to normal.

Dear friends,

The problems of the OSCE Eurasian dimension are of great interest both to diplomats and representatives of the expert community. I believe that the open discussion within the framework of today's conference, and the proposed recommendations, will be of great help in developing effective solutions on the part of the Current and future Chairmanships of the OSCE for maintaining stability and strengthening security in the zone of responsibility of our Organization and its Eurasian dimension.

I wish you all a fruitful conference.

Thank you.
