

## **STATEMENT**

**by Mr. Marat Beketayev, the Executive Secretary  
of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan,  
at the fourteenth session of the Human Rights Council**

**Mr. President,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First-and-foremost, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Universal Periodic Review discussion for your unbiased assessment of all aspects of the human rights in Kazakhstan at the UPR Working Group session in February 2010. We have had an opportunity to be heard by all members of the United Nations and to learn how our problems and accomplishments are seen from the outside.

Kazakhstan's delegation has received 128 recommendations from 54 countries and has expressed its position on 102 of the recommendations. For this session, we have prepared written answers to the remaining recommendations.

In follow up of the UPR discussion, we have again closely reviewed all recommendations and discussed them extensively with state authorities, representatives of international organizations and NGOs. We have based the review on whether the recommendations accord with our policies on democratic institutions and civil society, rule of law and human rights. Certainly, we have also taken account of the resources and facilities that are available to implement the suggestions.

Following the review, I believe it is important to focus on the several key aspects and try to avoid being repetitive, to the extent possible. First of all, I report that Kazakhstan has accepted the total of **121, or 95%** of all recommendations and not able to accept – 7. This attests to a genuinely constructive approach and responsibility of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the UPR process.

Kazakhstan is willing to comply with **the recommendations to continue its policy and carry out the reforms** to protect human dignity and freedom of thought, conscience and religion, to enforce the economic, social and cultural rights and strengthen the national institutions of human rights.

We are appreciative of the high assessment of the specific steps that our country has taken to improve lives of women and children. The parent and child protection remains one of the key priorities of our social policy. We will intensify measures to **protect the rights of children and promote the juvenal justice system, fight domestic violence and improve human rights education and awareness.**

Kazakhstan delegation is thankful for the positive resonance that **the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2009-2012 and the Legal Policy Concept for 2010-2020** have created. These programme documents will allow us to continue, in collaboration with NGOs, the stage-by-stage implementation of the strategies to protect the social, economic and cultural human rights and humanize the national law. The Strategic Plan for Development of Kazakhstan 2020 recently approved by the Head of State lays down the requisite conditions for further development of human capital.

With due regard to the international law on treaties, **we will continue work to accede to international treaties on human rights.** Subject to financial implications and the need to make changes to the law and the legal practice, Kazakhstan intends to continue to gradually expand its international obligations in this respect. As a first step, we plan to accelerate ratification of the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.** In March this year, Kazakhstan has ratified the **Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.** This will allow us to cooperate with the authorities of other states in protection of the rights of children from Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan will continue to regularly accept visits from the **special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council** in accordance with its extended standing invitation. The special rapporteur on adequate housing is expected to visit Kazakhstan in the near future.

The reforms of **the judicial and law enforcement systems** will continue with due regard to the recommendations received. The main objectives of the reforms are: to increase public confidence, improve quality and efficiency of the law enforcement, ensure enforcement of judgments and reinforce independence of judges and status of the attorneys-at-law in accordance with international standards.

We envisage further steps towards the **quality development of our penitentiary system and torture prevention**, improving the confinement conditions and administering alternative punitive measures other than imprisonment. In April this year, the Government adopted a three year action plan; the draft bill on the independent torture prevention mechanism was prepared and is being discussed with the NGOs.

Kazakhstan accepts all recommendations regarding **cooperation with NGOs, protection of human rights advocates and journalists and reinforcement of the role of the Ombudsman**. We will continue to join efforts in this respect with all interested parties, international organizations and experts and update our national laws pursuant to the National Human Rights Action Plan and the principles of democracy.

The Government will continue **constructive dialogue with non-governmental organizations**.

Further measures will be taken to ensure independence of the media and a quality development of laws governing the operation of media in the realities of innovative technologies.

As one of the most multi-ethnic states, Kazakhstan will continue robust **protection of the rights and freedoms of the ethnic minorities**. It was an honour to receive such a high assessment of the policy that Kazakhstan pursues to ensure inter-ethnic and inter-religious accord. Our state will continue to support the minority languages and ethnic cultures and to monitor problems of native language learning in our system of education.

Kazakhstan will continue to expand and intensify the international cooperation on human rights and develop an equitable and non-confrontational dialogue within the framework of the Human Rights Council and in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. We are open for constructive cooperation and willing to share our experience and best practices, especially on issues of inter-ethnic and inter-religious accord, protection of the rights of women and children and in education.

**Mr. President:**

Kazakhstan has and will place special emphasis on sustainable development with a focus on human rights and freedoms. We are strongly convinced that the UPR process will stimulate yet another series of systemic measures to promote human rights.

In conclusion, I would like to note that Kazakhstan delegation is prepared to answer questions as regards our reaction to the recommendations set out in paragraph 97 of the report of the Council's Working Group on Kazakhstan's UPR. We keenly look forward to the constructive and objective accounts as to whether Kazakhstan's participation in the UPR process has complied with the requirements set by the respective resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the UN Council for Human Rights.

**Thank you, Mr. President.**

**Mr. President,**

I would like to thank all delegations and representatives of civil society for their comments and recommendations. Kazakhstan will carefully consider them and will continue active cooperation with the Human Rights Council in implementation of recommendations which were accepted.

It is a pleasure for me to express our gratitude to our friends, constructive partners and civil society members for their active engagement in the Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

We thank distinguished members of the Troika for their intensive work and assistance. We are grateful to all interpreters and secretariat of the Human Rights Council.

Finally, Mr. President, let us thank you for your excellent chairmanship.