OSCE

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council

PC.DEC/1521
30 December 2025

Original: ENGLISH

1547th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1547, Agenda item 6

DECISION No. 1521
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN ASTANA

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana until 31 December 2026.

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Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

By the delegation of the United States of America:

"In connection with the Permanent Council decision just adopted on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, the United States of America makes the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States is committed to structural reforms, including right-sizing field missions, to refocus the OSCE on its core mandate of promoting peace, preventing wars and increasing prosperity. We expect real, serious change and invite all delegates to join us in shaping an OSCE worthy of its origins in Helsinki and prepared for the responsibilities of this century – an OSCE fully ready to contribute to peace, stability and prosperity.

Madam Chairperson, I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of the day.

Thank you."

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30 December 2025
Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

By the delegation of Kazakhstan:

"Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

In relation to the adoption of the decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana until 31 December 2026, the delegation of Kazakhstan would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

On 16 December, Kazakhstan celebrated the 34th anniversary of its independence. Over the past years, our country has undertaken large-scale political, economic and social reforms aimed at building a 'Just Kazakhstan', from modernizing the governance system to improving the welfare of citizens and developing a competitive, resilient national economy.

These reforms include strengthening democratic institutions, expanding public participation in decision-making and enhancing the transparency and accountability of State bodies. Significant efforts have also been directed toward diversifying the economy, fostering innovation, improving the investment climate and supporting entrepreneurship.

Against this backdrop, the OSCE field mission in Kazakhstan has been operating for 26 years, since 1999. Over this period, it has played an important role in supporting national reforms, strengthening civil society institutions, promoting the principles of the rule of law and advancing economic and environmental co-operation. Through constructive engagement with government agencies and consistent support for Kazakhstan's priorities, the Office has fully carried out its mandate in the national context and has made a significant contribution to strengthening co-operation between our country and the Organization.

In light of these achievements, and taking into account the country's socio-economic and institutional progress, the comprehensive political and democratic reforms implemented, as well as Kazakhstan's growing role as a 'middle power' and a flagship of regional integration, the transition to a new format of the OSCE's presence in Kazakhstan appears well justified.

It is within this evolving context that, since 2017, Kazakhstan has consistently advocated for the transformation of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana into the Regional Centre of the OSCE on Sustainable Connectivity for Central Asia as a forward-looking

mechanism capable of addressing emerging economic and connectivity challenges across the OSCE area.

The idea of the OSCE Regional Centre was officially presented by the delegation of Kazakhstan at the OSCE Security Days devoted to the topic 'Adding value on the ground: Enhancing OSCE assistance, visibility and impact', held in Vienna on 27 April 2018 (SEC.DAYS/6/18 dated 30 May 2018).

In 2019, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities implemented the extrabudgetary project 'Feasibility study on the establishment of OSCE thematic centres/hubs or centres for analysis and research in the second dimension'.

As a result, by support of the Albanian Chairmanship, three rounds of informal consultations were organized for discussions and to explore the idea of this initiative further (CIO.GAL/89/20 dated 19 November 2020).

We hope for constructive co-operation with the Swiss Chairmanship, the Secretariat and the participating States next year to implement this initiative.

At the same time, we would like to remind once again of article 41 of the Charter for European Security, which states: 'The host country of an OSCE field operation should, when appropriate, be assisted in building its own capacity and expertise within the area of responsibility. This would facilitate an efficient transfer of the tasks of the operation to the host country, and consequently the closure of the field operation.'

Should the above-mentioned initiative to transform the OSCE Programme Office in Astana into the Regional Centre of the OSCE on Sustainable Connectivity for Central Asia fail to reach consensus among the participating States next year, the Republic of Kazakhstan will be compelled to take a decision regarding its closure in 2027.

Moreover, it is worth mentioning that the closure of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana would contribute to a reduction in the OSCE Unified Budget.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and journal of the day.

I thank you."