



United States Mission to the OSCE

Closing Statement at the OSCE Summit

Astana, Kazakhstan

December 2, 2010

Delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly

U.S. Permanent Representative to the OSCE

Thank you, Mr. Chairman/President.

First, I would like to thank you and your entire team for the extraordinary work and effort that has gone into hosting this summit. Kazakh hospitality and warmth has been fully on display and greatly appreciated. We also appreciate the dedication and creativity of your team to building consensus on a wide range of issues.

Today in Astana we have reaffirmed our shared vision and principles. As Secretary Clinton said at this table yesterday, one of the defining characteristics of this organization is its recognition that true security demands not only security among states but democracy, human rights, and fundamental freedoms for individuals within states, and we are proud that the Astana Declaration reasserts the centrality of these fundamental principles.

The United States, of course, regrets that that we were not able to agree at this summit to an Action Plan delineating the OSCE's future work. As we have consistently stated over many weeks and months, however, we could not accept an action plan at the first OSCE Summit in eleven years that failed to adequately address the most serious and enduring threats to our security, namely the unresolved conflicts in Georgia, Moldova and Nagorno-Karabakh. Since agreement was not possible, we and others concluded that the best way forward was to adopt the Astana Commemorative Declaration, a strong reaffirmation of OSCE principles and call for action moving forward.

As we look ahead to next year we note the importance of lending strong support to the incoming Chairmanships, starting next month with Lithuania, as they look to elaborate an OSCE Plan of Action. We support the comments by the EU in this regard, and we look forward to working together with all of our OSCE partners to ensure a success in the years ahead.