



KAZAKHSTAN

Statement

**by the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of
Kazakhstan,**

H.E. Mr. Kairat Umarov

**at the High-level Meeting of 67th session
of the UN General Assembly
on the Rule of Law at the National and International levels
(New York, 24 September 2012)**

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Mr. President,
Ladies and gentlemen,

In a time of major economic, social and political cataclysms, the establishment of and respect for the rule of law take on paramount importance for the world community.

Kazakhstan welcomes the increased attention paid by the United Nations to this issue and expresses its deep appreciation for the organization of the first meeting on the subject at such a high level.

We are deeply convinced that the rule of law manifests itself primarily through strict adherence to its norms and principles in all areas of public life. At the same time, the United Nations, which has been mandated to be a focal point for harmonizing the nations' actions to achieve common objectives set in its Charter, should play a coordinating role here.

In this regard, I would like to thank the United Nations Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on the subject of today's discussion, which not only reflects the current challenges in the area of the rule of law but also offers constructive ways to meet them.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is a champion of the rule of law, both at the national and international levels. Our country has consistently called for strict compliance with universally accepted legal norms by all members of the international community. We fully share the view that, at the international level, the rule of law ensures predictability and legitimacy of actions taken by the states, promotes their sovereign equality and provides the basis for state accountability to all individuals within its territory that are subject to its jurisdiction.

Mr. President,

Over the past 20 years of nation-building, the Republic of Kazakhstan has carried out reforms virtually in all areas of public and social life. Special attention has been paid to the consolidation of our statehood, the development of applicable law,

the establishment of an effective and transparent mechanism for the development of the individual and the society and the improvement of the living standards of the population.

The Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan includes all the guarantees needed for the promotion of constitutional legality and the further strengthening of existing pillars of a democratic, secular, rule-of-law and social state. It has become the principal real tool for the realization of the constitutional imperative of the highest order, i.e. the individual, his or her life, rights and freedoms, and for addressing issues related to the implementation of the sovereign rights of the state in international relations.

We consistently adhere to the principle of universality of human rights, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which includes common standards in that area, so that the state could be guided by them in order to enforce them in its domestic legal order.

Kazakhstan is a party to more than 190 universal international treaties and conventions, primarily in the area of human rights. There is an ongoing process of improvement of mechanisms that ensure public participation in the set up and exercise of state power and the involvement of citizens in state governance. Thanks to the strengthening of the legal framework for the organization and operation of political parties and the non-governmental sector and the establishment, under government agencies, of advisory and deliberative bodies, the state has been able to pursue gradual devolution of socially important sectors and functions to the civil society.

Legislative measures have been taken to ensure comprehensive political pluralism and enhance the role and status of women in social and political life. In order to fully ensure the rights of women, to the full extent of universally recognized international standards, the country has been progressively implementing its Strategy of Gender Equality for 2006-2016 and has enacted the laws "On the Prevention of Domestic Violence" and "On State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women."

Mr. President,

We hope that today's meeting will be a starting point for the further development of mechanisms to ensure and consolidate the principle of the rule of law.

As for Kazakhstan, let me assure you that the country will as always support the efforts to enhance the capacity and role of the United Nations legal machinery and will continue to work for the promotion of the rule of law at all levels.

Thank you for your attention.