



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
High Commissioner on National Minorities**

The Hague, 13 March 2015

**His Excellency Nursultan Nazarbayev
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Astana**

Your Excellency,

Please allow me to warmly congratulate you as Chairperson of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan on the occasion of the Assembly's 20th anniversary. I take particular note of the significance of the Assembly as a symbol of Kazakhstan's diversity and its achievements in supporting the maintenance of inter-ethnic accord in the country.

As you know, the first High Commissioner on National Minorities, Max van der Stoep, took a special interest in the work of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan in its early days, including supporting the Assembly's efforts to develop and expand its work. The Assembly has continued to be an important counterpart for my Institution in Kazakhstan. The role of advisory or consultative bodies in facilitating channels of communication between governments and community representatives is emphasized in *The Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies*, alongside other measures to ensure that diverse groups are adequately represented in all relevant public administration structures and decision-making bodies.

I remain ready to work with the Assembly on relevant initiatives to strengthen the integration of Kazakhstani society, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you during my planned visit to Kazakhstan in June this year.

Yours sincerely,

**Astrid Thors
High Commissioner on National Minorities**