



MISSION PERMANENTE  
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU KAZAKHSTAN  
AUPRÈS DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES  
ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS  
INTERNATIONALES AYANT LEUR  
SIÈGE A GENÈVE

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and taking into account the interest of the Office of the High Commissioner to recent protests and meetings on issues related to amendments to the Land Code has the honour to clarify the situation.

Recent meetings took place in some regions of Kazakhstan in response to amendments to the Land Code, which were expected to come into effect on July 1, 2016. The protestors misunderstood the latest land reforms, believing that new provisions of the law allow land to be sold to foreign nationals.

In the light of protests the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev declared a moratorium on a number of norms of the Land Code until next year and tasked to establish a State Commission on Land Reform. On May 12, 2016 the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan established a State Commission with the participation of all interested civil society members including the opposition. This Commission together with state bodies, public associations and other interested groups would discuss this issue, try to explain the norms of the Code and only then would come up to Parliament for its re-examination.

The land reforms are part of Kazakhstan's overall drive to modernize its economy and spread prosperity to its citizens. They are an important part of achieving the country's ambition to join the top 30 most developed countries by 2050. The reforms

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would not be a new departure but simply an extension of existing policy and are in the best interests of Kazakhstan and its people.

Kazakhstan's Constitution clearly states that our citizens are absolutely free to peacefully assemble, hold meetings, rallies, demonstrations, street processions and pickets. However, just as in many other countries, there is a process in place to get approval to hold the demonstrations. People are free to protest, as long as these demonstrations are carried out peacefully and in line with the legislation of the country.

The Permanent Mission avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner the assurances of its highest consideration.

**Geneva, May 19, 2016**

