**Statement of Kazakhstan Intersessional Seminar on Youth and Human Rights**

**08.04.2021**

Dear participants,

Kazakhstan takes note of the remarks made by previous speakers and emphasizes that rapidly growing youth population creates unprecedented opportunities for their economic, political and social empowerment.

We also welcome UN’s Youth 2030 strategy and development of Youth 2030 scorecards. We highlight the importance of working with member states and incorporating the assessment of their policy outcomes into the scorecards.

In this light, I would like to share the initiatives of Kazakhstan in support of youth.

First package of political reforms announced by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in 2019 established a 30% quota for women and youth representatives on electoral political party lists. This is the step made to ensure active participation of youth in political processes.

The second package of political reforms established a single legitimate online petition institution for citizens to initiate reforms and make proposals. This effort is made to enhance the engagement of the Government with the population at large, especially youth, and contribute to further implementation of the concept of a “Listening State”.

Lastly, in the third package of political reforms the President announced Introduction of the Youth Development Index for assessment of implementation of the youth policy by local executive bodies. This resonates with UN efforts to develop Youth 2030 scorecards.

We believe that international community shall continue doing more to develop policies and reforms for youth that allows them to reach and unleash their full potential.

I thank you.