Statement by the delegation of Kazakhstan
at the Third Committee’s General Debates of the 68th Session
of the UN General Assembly
New York, November 13, 2013

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Kazakhstan welcomes this opportunity to engage with the esteemed Ambassador Henczel on the important work of the Human Rights Council.

For our delegation it is a great honour to speak today as a representative of the Human Rights Council’s Member Country. This membership for our country is considered not as an end in itself but the means to continue the efficient promotion of international standards in protection of human rights.

Kazakhstan is committed to the fundamental principles of international law, among which the respect of human rights and freedom impartiality and non-politicization are deemed pivotal for a sustainable, universal and effective global architecture for protecting human rights. This requires appropriate budgeting and strengthening of the Council and its Special Procedures, the UPR mechanism and institution of Special Rapporteurs, as well as supporting the capacity and authority of the other UN human rights mechanisms. We need to implement civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights at national, regional and global levels, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups.

Kazakhstan believes that a balance between political and civil rights on the one hand, and economic, social and cultural rights, on the other hand, should always be maintained in the work of the Council.
The global threat of terrorism and various forms of discrimination and xenophobia, natural disasters, domestic conflicts, HIV/AIDS pandemic, the problem of refugees and displaced persons, trafficking in women and children reinforces the need to protect human rights and freedoms. In this regard, the Human Rights Council should effectively and consistently respond to these challenges.

Kazakhstan believes that the Council faces unique challenges. That is why it is one of the most important institutions for the establishment of global standards in the field of human rights and coordination of international human rights mechanisms. There is no doubt that the creation of the Human Rights Council in 2006 was a historic event as part of reforms to improve the human rights system.

Kazakhstan is firmly committed to actively cooperate with international human rights instruments and intends to continue to strengthen its efforts to fully implement the recommendations of the UN Member States, NGOs, treaty bodies and Special Procedures of the Council.

In this regard, it should be noted that Kazakhstan has joined almost all the major international human rights instruments. Fruitful interaction with the special procedures is an important aspect of cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Council and as a confirmation of that in 2009 Kazakhstan extended a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders.

On this basis, in last four years the Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Independent Expert on minority issues, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences visited Kazakhstan and made their reports to the Council.

The other good example of our cooperation is the presentation of the first national report for the UPR in February 2010. The second cycle report is scheduled for presentation in October 2014.
Ladies and gentlemen,

Nowadays, there is an urgent need to strengthen the foundations of stability and security of the international community.

The question of the existence of peace and constructive interaction of peoples, religions, states and governments in our time is particularly significant. From a purely theoretical aspect it has moved into the category of the most important practical problems.

Our country has consistently called for strengthening of the global architecture of human rights protection and promotion system to raise the profile of statutory and treaty bodies, primarily the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures.

In this regard, we need a deep critical analysis of the events and phenomena on international level as well as on regional and domestic ones. This analysis will certainly help to protect human society from political, economic, religious and especially, military extremism in the future.

In this context we strongly believe that the Council should not go away from consideration of so-called "complex issues" and carry out efficient and constructive monitoring with the subsequent imposition of a balanced decision on particular Council’s agenda item.

Kazakhstan considers it highly important for the Human Rights Council to reinforce the confidence of Member States in its operations and further development of an equitable dialogue. In this regard, the Council should ensure the operating with proven and reliable sources of information with the opportunity of “the right of reply” by a Member State.

I thank you for your attention.