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**Statement by the Delegation of Kazakhstan  
at the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of WG of HRC / UPR of Russia  
29 April, 2013**

**Mr. President,**

Kazakhstan delegation warmly welcomes H.E. Minister of Justice Mr. Alexander Kononov and delegation of the Russian Federation and takes note of the well-crafted National Report and comprehensive presentation today.

As a multilingual and multinational country Kazakhstan expresses its deep respect and support for the efforts of Russia in the field of social, economic and cultural rights by advancing its strategy on prohibition of discrimination and promoting the inter-ethnic relations.

We would like to mention the reform of the penitentiary system, humanization of the criminal law and criminal procedure law and the subsequent reduction in the number of persons held in custody.

To this end, our delegation calls on Russia to further strengthen its international human rights commitments and adherence to the principle of cooperation and dialogue with the UN human rights mechanisms. Kazakhstan delegation recommends:

1. Apply positive measures in order to ensure appropriate conditions for persons in detention, with involvement of public monitoring commissions.
2. Continue the policy of expanding opportunities in the existing legislation and mechanisms of influence of civil society in decision-making process.
3. Continue policies aimed at intensifying the fight against all forms of corruption.

**Thank you!**