**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Kazakhstan,**

**34th Session, November 7, 2019**

The United States welcomes the Kazakhstani delegation to the UPR Working Group.

We recommend that Kazakhstan:

1. Protect space for dissent by amending or abolishing Articles 174 and 274 of the Criminal Code to remove vague concepts, such as incitement of discord, and also decriminalize defamation.
2. Allow independent trade unions to flourish by passing and implementing amendments to bring the Law on Trade Unions into compliance with ILO Convention 87.
3. Revise the 2015 Law on Charity to remove the registration process for NGOs and end restrictive reporting requirements for NGOs.

We urge the government to continue its increasingly productive engagement with civil society and encourage further measures to ensure and protect freedom of peaceful assembly and expression, in particular allowing for open dissent.