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Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 79th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Kazakhstan, pursuant to Rule 65(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the timely submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 9, 16, and 20 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/KAZ/CO/4-5), adopted following the consideration of the State party's 4th and 5th periodic reports in February 2010. The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its 6th and 7th periodic reports to be submitted in a single document by 25 September 2012.

Paragraph 9 of the Concluding Observations. The Committee thanks the State party for the statistics provided, but emphasizes the need for further actions to be taken in order to ensure the effective implementation of the norms guaranteeing the free choice of every person to learn and use his or her native language. In addition, the Committee requests clarification on the gap between the data provided by the State party at the time of the dialogue and in the follow-up report, since it would seem that the teaching of three minority languages have stopped in 2010/2011. The Committee would appreciate receiving further information in this regards, namely whether this is the case for three minority languages and the State party's considerations when arriving to this decision.

Paragraph 16 of the Concluding Observations. The Committee thanks the State party for the information provided and expresses appreciation for its on-going efforts to fight illegal immigration and human trafficking. It notes with interest the draft law proposing to establish a new work permit system with selective criteria, and requests further details regarding the provisions of such law.

The Committee also requests further clarification from the State party on how the effective investigation, prosecution and punishment of employers responsible for violations of the rights of migrant workers and foreigners is ensured in practice, and that Kazakhstan include statistics on this issue in its next periodic report.

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In addition, it notes that information addressing the issue of migrant workers and their families' effective access to health care, education and social benefits, without discrimination was not provided. Considering that this issue is also of particular concern for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which examined the State party in May 2010, the Committee requests the State party to provide such information in its next periodic report.

Paragraph 20 of the Concluding Observations. The Committee thanks the State party for the information provided on this issue and looks forward to receiving information on any new effective measures taken to ensure the use of minority languages and/or the protection of the cultural rights of minority groups in the context of the next periodic report of Kazakhstan. In addition, the Committee requests further clarification on when the State party considers it necessary to use minority languages, in addition to the official language and Russian, on visual information texts, according to article 21 of the Law on Languages of 1997, and on how Kazakhstan ensures the use of the multi-language approach, in practice.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Kazakhstan, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Anwar Kemal

Chairperson of the Committee
on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination