A UNDP project to strengthen Kazakhstan's parliamentary democracy

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FEEDBACK TO SOME COMMENTS OF THE TR ON PROBLEMS OF KAZAKHSTAN PARLIAMENT

1. Dear Mr. and Mrs. Seidman, in the reference to your first question about conducting interviews with parliamentary leadership, let us suggest to avoid the term "interview" and instead use the term "working meeting". Due to the sensitivity on the part of the leadership of the Parliament and the meaning of the word "interview" in Russian, the word can lead to confusion.

2. We suggest you conduct working meetings with drafters, MPs, Parliamentary staff in groups of 5 to 8 people. We will make separate arrangements with the heads of the legislative departments at the executive branch and the Advisor to the President of RK.

3. We will make arrangements for you to meet with the lawyers from the Institute of Legislation at the Ministry of Justice who are involved in the analysis and drafting of laws initiated by the Government.

4. We compiled the spreadsheet on procedures and processes of law tracking in the executive branch and in the Parliament. We are gathering other relevant information on legislative reform in Kazakhstan and research materials. We will send some information via e-mail or by pouch from UNDP/Almaty office.

5. We will try to get information on legal system research in Kazakhstan and will clarify the info on law making and law creating institutions and their processes. As soon as it is translated into English, we will forward it to you.

6. We will send the new law on Civil Service for your consideration that has been recently adopted and will come into force in January 2000. As soon as we clarify the details on the alternative dispute resolution system, we will let you know.

7. After the new bill is adopted by the parliament, it is published in state mass media. There were many foreign consultants actively involved in developments of draft laws in commercial law areas, NGOs and other related areas. For example, Charles Lipton a UN consultant made recommendations on oil legislation and on anti corruption law (ph: (212)-427-3951; Fax: (212)-410-5404). Ann Marie Bereschak -ABA/CEELI Liaison in Astana has worked on lobbying law and mass media law developments in Kazakhstan and set up drafting center in the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan and she works with the UNDP project in the Parliament (ambschak@yahoo.com, ambschak@aol.com) She will contact you in the US at Christmas time. We will make arrangements to meet with other working experts in Astana during your visit if appropriate.

8. a) As soon as you send us the outline of the seminars that you are proposing we will make suggestions. b) According to our discussions with the Heads of the Parliament staff, the Parliament is interested in conducting seminars for different departments in specific groups. c) Ann Marie Bereschak from ABA/CEELI has forwarded to us your article in English "I beyond contested elections: the
processes of bill creation and the fulfillment of democracy’s promises to the third world”, Harvard Journal on legislation, Winter 1997. We will translate this article into Russian and will distribute to the Parliament when you think it might be appropriate. d) we will forward to you the legislation that is currently considered at the Parliament for your consideration as soon as it is translated into English.

10. We briefed the Parliament staff on the issues that you are interested in to discuss and will brief the MPs about the same next week. We will get back to you as soon as possible on feedback to "interview schedule". Ann Marie Bereshak on her end will consult you while she will be in the US on how to approach the Parliament because there are certain legal, psychological and political peculiarities and specifics of mentality that should be taken into account.

Having discussed your forthcoming visit to Kazakhstan Parliament and taking into account your rich practical experience, the Parliament will appreciate your consultations concerning the regulations on the Parliament. As you might know, political parties are represented at the Parliament for the first time in the history of Kazakhstan, therefore, it is necessary to introduce new amendments taking into account the presence of political parties. It would be such a great contribution on your side to assist the Parliament to develop such amendments.

Please find attached some information on legal reform in the Republic of Kazakshtan.

With best regards,

Saule Kudekova-UNDP/Project Coordinator
Lubov Chapurina UNDP/Program Officer