

## The statement on the outcomes of the seventh round of the Astana Process on Syria



*Astana, October 31, 2017* – The seventh round of the Astana Process on Syria resulted in the adoption of the Joint Statement by Iran, Russia and Turkey regarding the issues of a comprehensive settlement of the Syrian conflict. Kazakh Foreign Minister Kairat Abdrakhmanov presented the final document on behalf of the guarantor states.

The statement emphasises the progress in the fight against terrorism and elimination of DAESH/ISIL, Nusra Front and all other terrorist groups as a result of the launch of the de-escalation areas. The document calls for stepping up efforts to advance the UN-led political process in Geneva and considering the Russian Federation's proposal to convene a Congress of the national dialogue in accordance with the Geneva process. The parties emphasised the need to further increase the international humanitarian aid and take confidence-building measures, including the release of detainees/abductees, the handover of the bodies, as well as identification of missing persons.

“We hope that all the agreements reached today are fully implemented. All the items on the agenda, including the issues related to hostages, detainees, missing persons, humanitarian demining and other issues discussed during the seventh round in Astana, are of great importance for all parties,” Abdrakhmanov said, presenting the document. He also added that the Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev fully supports the Astana Process and looks forward to meaningful talks in Geneva.

Prior to the plenary session, President Nazarbayev met with the heads of delegations of guarantor states, observers and the United Nations. The head of state stressed the entire international community's interest in the early resolution of the Syrian conflict. The

President highlighted the importance of strengthening the ceasefire regime, improving the humanitarian situation and reaching a comprehensive political settlement.

The seventh international high-level meeting on Syria in Astana was held on October 30-31 with the participation of the delegations of the guarantor states of the observance of the ceasefire regime in Syria - Iran, Russia and Turkey, the Syrian government and the Syrian armed opposition, high representatives of the United Nations, the United States and Jordan. The parties agreed to hold the next meeting of the Astana Process in the second half of December this year.