



## **Joint declaration on the occasion of International Women’s Day**

The Embassies of Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Estonia, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain & Northern Ireland, Latvia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the Delegation of the European Union congratulate the women of Kazakhstan for organizing a Women’s march, acknowledging a collective effort of a wide diversity of women in Kazakhstan. We commend the authorization granted by the local authorities of the City of Almaty, recognizing the rights of women to peaceful assembly, providing an opportunity for women’s voices to be heard.

This year is particularly important when the world will come together for the Generation Equality Forum in France in July 2021, a year after a global celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landmark Beijing Declaration on women’s rights. This Declaration is a historic blueprint of a vision of equal rights, freedoms and opportunities for women – everywhere, no matter what their circumstances.

This year is also particularly important when the United Nations Secretary General draws attention to a disproportionate impact of the ongoing COVID crisis on women and the need for an urgent action.

This gesture, once more, demonstrates Kazakhstan's commitment towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, taking practical steps towards the Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls.

This march will serve as a positive example in Kazakhstan's upcoming periodic review under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

We would like to congratulate Kazakhstan on its steady progress towards gender equality and inclusion, and stand ready to work together in eliminating barriers for women and girls in all countries.