

HOM Remarks
International Conference
Astana, October 1, 2025

Hello,

It is a great pleasure to greet you in person at the 2nd International Conference on Constitutional Justice. Interestingly and appropriately, this Eurasian Forum focuses on the Roles of Constitutional Courts in Periods of Constitutional Changes and State of Emergency.

Starting last year, the Government of Canada has been pleased to support the Moscow-based Centre for Constitutional Research and its partner, the Bishkek-based NGO “Change Agents,” who, despite many challenges, have succeeded in organizing this important gathering.

The rule of law is at the heart of any democratic society. It ensures that institutions are accountable, that rights are safeguarded, and that citizens can place their trust in fair and independent courts. For Canada, this commitment is not only domestic but also international. We work with partners around the world to encourage open dialogue, strengthen democratic practices, and support civil society as a vital part of building resilient institutions.

We recognize that constitutional justice becomes particularly significant in periods of transition and uncertainty. Moments of constitutional change or states of emergency can test the strength of legal institutions. In these times, it is critical that courts and legal professionals continue to uphold principles of fairness, transparency, and equality before the law.

This is why forums such as this are so valuable. They bring together judges, scholars, lawyers, and civil society actors who can share experiences, explore lessons learned, and develop practical approaches to challenges we all face while ensuring different contexts and geopolitical realities are considered. Such exchanges not only enhance professional expertise but also strengthen regional and international networks of cooperation.

Canada engages academics, civil society partners, and subject-matter experts in many parts of the world to discuss promising and most viable practices to respond to challenging circumstances. Through this collaborative approach, we aim to reinforce democratic principles and ensure that legal systems remain accessible and responsive to citizens.

We see this Forum as an opportunity to foster collaboration among legal professionals across Central Asia and beyond. We believe that constructive dialogue – grounded in inclusivity and mutual respect – can help empower civil society and contribute to protecting human rights through legal and constitutional means.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the experts – both local and international – for the knowledge and experience you bring. By sharing insights from your work with constitutional courts and human rights institutions, you enrich this conversation and strengthen the foundations of justice across societies.

I wish you fruitful and meaningful discussions over the next two days.

Thank you very much.