

PC.DEL/288/10
22 April 2010

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 April 2010

On the situation in Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Chairperson,

I should first of all like to join those speakers who have given a positive assessment of the timely and effective work of the Kazakh Chairmanship and the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre in the connection with the events in Kyrgyzstan. The actions taken by these offices demonstrate once again that our Organization has at its disposal sufficient leverage to effectively promote the resolution of crisis situations and that there is no need to invent new mechanisms.

We have often and at different levels emphasized that Russia is not indifferent to the fate of Kyrgyzstan. It is precisely for that reason that we continue to follow very closely the unfolding of events in the Republic, where the situation remains extremely tense.

We believe that today the most important thing is to achieve internal political stability and in effect to re-establish the State, setting it on a new path of stable development under the rule of law and legitimizing its institutions of power. It is our hope that the interim government will be able to organize open and fair parliamentary and presidential elections, to ensure law and order and to resolve the urgent socio-economic problems facing the country.

Responding to the requests of the interim government, Russia has already provided significant humanitarian assistance to the population of Kyrgyzstan, a country with which we maintain friendly ties. However, full-scale economic co-operation between our countries will be possible only when stable institutions of power that have won the support of all the people and that are not exercising their authority on a merely de facto basis have been established in the Republic.

We note with satisfaction the efforts of the presidents of Russia, Kazakhstan and the United States of America, the Kazakh Chairmanship of the OSCE and Minister Saudabayev personally in co-operation with the authorized representatives of the United Nations, the European Union and the Collective Security Treaty Organization to re-establish a political framework for dealing with the crisis that has broken out and that has harboured a genuine threat of turning into a civil war. We should like to believe that this dramatic scenario with its

implications for the security of the region is now behind us, despite the attempts of the previous Kyrgyz president to contest the powers that he himself has relinquished. The assistance of the international community in regenerating democratic development in Kyrgyzstan is unquestionably important, but it must not be imposed and must be fully in line with the real needs of the population of that country.

I should like to take this opportunity to note our serious concern at the appeals received by our embassy in Bishkek in recent days from Russian citizens in connection with instances involving seizures of and attacks on their property and manifestations of day-to-day nationalism in the capital and in a number of other regions in the country. While all this is happening, the local authorities and law enforcement agencies have unfortunately frequently failed to respond to the calls for help and protection. We would note that, given this situation, the President of Russia has instructed the Ministry of Defence to take measures to ensure the safety of Russian citizens in Kyrgyzstan and to step up the protection of the Russian property there.

This being the case, we call on the interim government to use all means available to it to prevent an exacerbation of the inter-ethnic situation. At the same time we welcome the efforts of the present authorities to organize people's militias made up of representatives of different ethnic groups, and also the active steps being taken by residents to ensure law and order in their communities.

Further, we call on all the sound forces of Kyrgyz society to display the wisdom and good sense typical of all the peoples living in the country and to make a maximum effort to normalize the situation there.

Thank you for your attention.