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## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Statement on Deployment of a Police Advisory Group to Kyrgyzstan**

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
November 4, 2010

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States would like to welcome to the Permanent Council and express its thanks to Deputy Minister Soldashenko for his report today on the situation concerning the deployment of the OSCE Police Advisory Group (PAG) to Kyrgyzstan. Minister Soldashenko's comments provide the Permanent Council with the much needed context surrounding the difficulties the Government of Kyrgyzstan has encountered in implementing this important decision. Nonetheless, we must say we are deeply disappointed that, as you have explained, the deployment of the PAG has become such a political lightning rod in Kyrgyzstan and has been misunderstood – and even intentionally characterized and misused for political ends – by some factions, especially in the south of the country.

As you will recall, Mr. Minister, the Permanent Council – including of course our colleagues from Kyrgyzstan – decided last July that the deployment of a Police Advisory Group was the best available means for the OSCE to assist in the urgent task of restoring mutual trust, preventing further conflict and working towards reconciliation in the wake of the tragic events of June 2010. These goals were deemed critical in light of the role local law enforcement allegedly played in those events; they remain critical today and remain essential to improving police services in Kyrgyzstan.

Virtually all experienced voices continue to caution that ethnic tensions remain dangerously high, especially in the south, and that the need for reconciliation is still critical. We have observed with growing concern the continued dangers and obstructions faced by human rights activists as defendants and ethnic-Kyrgyz lawyers, who in defending ethnic Uzbeks, seek to uphold their constitutional and vital roles and rights in the service of justice for the June events. It is our hope that, capitalizing on the success of the October 10 elections, the Government of Kyrgyzstan will now be in a position to demonstrate the required political will to work with the OSCE on this important mission. This will allow the Government of Kyrgyzstan to show that it takes seriously the security of, and relations with, ethnic minorities.

You have told us here today that the deployment of the Police Advisory Group is no longer feasible in the precise terms we first envisioned. Accordingly, we must not waste time or ignore the peril still facing your people in Kyrgyzstan. The United States, therefore, urges that appropriate steps be taken to address these still grave dangers. You, Mr. Minister, and the people of Kyrgyzstan, should be assured of our unwavering commitment to assisting you to do so rapidly and successfully.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.