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**STATEMENT BY MS. LYDIA IMANALIEVA,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC TO  
THE OSCE, AT THE MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 April 2010

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished colleagues,

Kyrgyzstan has been experiencing some very difficult days and weeks. The entire world community has its eyes focused on a distant mountainous country that I call my home.

During these challenging days our mission to the OSCE is aware every minute of every hour of the support of the OSCE Secretariat and our colleagues in the Permanent Council. I should like to express my sincerest gratitude to everyone who has spoken of their readiness to provide assistance and support.

We should also like to endorse the conclusions that have been so quickly drawn by the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), Mr. Herbert Salber, regarding the events that have occurred in Kyrgyzstan.

As you are aware, Mr. Kanat Saudabayev, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE and Secretary of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, visited the Kyrgyz Republic on 19 and 20 April of this year.

The purpose of his visit was to familiarize himself with the situation in Kyrgyzstan and to hold meetings and exchange views with members of the interim government on measures to stabilize the political and economic situation and on possible humanitarian and other assistance on the part of the international community.

During Mr. Saudabayev's visit, at which the CPC Director Mr. Salber was also present, there was a detailed and constructive dialogue with members of the government. We should like to mention that Kazakhstan, as the holder of the OSCE Chairmanship and taking into account the shared view of the leaders of such key nations as Russia, the United States of America, China and countries of the European Union, has endeavoured to resolve the situation as regards the departure of Kurmanbek Bakiyev, thereby helping to defuse the situation considerably. The international community is supporting the interim government. There is a shared understanding of the situation, and the parties are ready to examine the

scale of possible assistance, but on condition that the government is accorded legitimate status and is recognized by the international community.

The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office stressed that the government is facing a greater responsibility. He held consultations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Spanish Presidency of the European Union and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Ms. Catherine Ashton. All the parties expressed their firm wish that the situation should be stabilized and a way found out of the present crisis. The need now is to determine how Kyrgyzstan intends to escape from the current situation, whereby a critical issue is that of the legitimacy of the government.

Minister Saudabayev stressed the important role of the time factor. The trust the people have shown for the time being must without fail be preserved.

Dates have been set and announced for a referendum, which will take place on 27 June, and for the main elections, which will be held on 10 October.

There is a shared decision on the part of the United Nations, the OSCE and the European Union as strategic partners to provide assistance. Currently the initial levels of that assistance are under discussion.

Once an official government has been formed, international financial institutions can bring pressure to bear on the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to provide significant financial assistance. A number of countries have already made available such help, notably Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkey.

The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office concluded the meeting by outlining what he considered to be the primary tasks facing the government:

- The ensuring of stability and the safety of the population;
- The legitimacy of the authorities;
- The speedier implementation of the action plan already drawn up;
- An official statement by the government to the international community.

In the next part of my statement I should like to touch on some questions that are giving rise to, if I may use the term, great amazement and are undoubtedly a matter of concern for everyone present in this hall.

As you are aware, the former president Bakiyev is currently in Minsk at the invitation of President Alexander Lukashenko.

We firmly believe that the statement delivered by Mr. Bakiyev yesterday in Minsk raised for all OSCE participating States the important question of the legitimacy of using such high-level platforms for satisfying the unrealized political ambitions of certain “figures” who have ingloriously left office.

I want to remind you that for several days following the events of 6 and 7 April in Kyrgyzstan Mr. Bakiyev was in hiding in the south of our republic in his home village and under the protection of his personal guard and numerous relatives and supporters. This situation, together with the inflammatory statements delivered by our former head of State that he was still president and would defend himself with weapons in hand and with the participation of his entourage, kept the civil society and the government structures of Kyrgyzstan in a state of great tension and in fear of a looming civil war, adding to the anxiety felt by the population. Numerous skirmishes and clashes broke out between the supporters and opponents of the Bakiyev regime in the Jalalabat and Osh regions in the south of the country. These events gave rise to much alarm and concern both among the leaders of the interim government and the ordinary people of Kyrgyzstan.

Assistance in bringing about a compromise resolution of this situation came from the leaders of Russia, Kazakhstan and the United States. With the direct help of President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, the former Kyrgyz head of State was allowed to travel to Kazakhstan, from where his resignation statement was initially sent by fax, after which the original was also received.

At the personal behest of President Lukashenko of Belarus, Bakiyev together with members of his family arrived in Minsk with the assistance of the Belarusian intelligence services.

Further on this same subject we might add that we regard the statement by the leader of Belarus, a country with which we have always enjoyed amicable relations, as an attempt to elevate his personal preferences and ties of friendship to the level of inter-State relations. The friendship between our peoples cannot be put at risk in the interests of political intrigues of various kinds. The statement by the Belarusian President regarding Bakiyev's presence in Minsk and the accompanying hasty and unbalanced assessment of the realities of the current situation in Kyrgyzstan have given rise and are continuing to give rise to indignation on the part of society in our country.

Along with this, as we see it, a diplomatic victory has been won by the Chairperson-in-Office, which has once again demonstrated the ability of the OSCE to bring about compromises and to avoid a fatal step towards civil war.

In this context, how can the aforementioned statement be reconciled with the request to relinquish office, the genuineness of which has been attested to by the OSCE as well with the direct mediation of the Kazakh Chairmanship?

For the first time in the history of our prestigious Organization, it finds itself having mounted a major effort and taken a joint decision that have been called into question by the leader of a participating State.

Our Organization has already encountered great difficulties in overcoming political conflicts, and today we once again have the task of confirming our principles calling for a collective approach and equal partnership and our fundamental priorities for peace and the ensuring of stability.

In its consciousness, the Kyrgyz people have confined the image of their former ruler to political ostracism. The very mention of his name triggers pain and suffering in the hearts of ordinary Kyrgyz men and women who have lost loved ones and relatives.

We want our people to enjoy the full and guaranteed right to live in peace and freedom and to be able to deal with the urgent matters facing them within the country.

In view of all this, we need your support and understanding of our situation.

I call on the OSCE to respond in a balanced and objective manner to the behaviour displayed amidst these facts by the leader of a participating country of our Organization.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.