



**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan
to the OSCE Ambassador Nuriddin Shamsov
at the 682 Permanent Council Meeting,
October 18, 2007**

Delegation of Tajikistan welcomes Mr. Vladimir Pryakhin – Head of the OSCE Center in Dushanbe and expresses its satisfaction for comprehensive report on the activity of the Center during the period from May to October 2007.

Delegation notes positives changes in the project activities of the Center and its efforts made to address the national priorities of the Government of Tajikistan.

OSCE Center in Dushanbe continues useful work in political-military dimension on implementation of de-mining program in the territory of Tajikistan. However it is worth mentioning that at present it is becoming obvious that further realization of the de-mining program faces shortage of financial resources which cause concerns of the Government of Tajikistan. In this regard the Delegation calls upon the donor countries to continue efforts for further financing of the mentioned programs which are being implemented, among others, by the Tajik de-mining Center as well.

Tajikistan supports the activities of the Center in the framework of SALW and CA Program and implementation of its Phase II. We note the progress in destruction of rocket components as a task of the Phase II on October 12 and express our appreciations to the Governments of Slovenia, Andorra and Norway for their contribution to this task. We hope that by joint efforts of the Government and the Center during this year the main part of the program will be implemented.

The Government of Tajikistan attaches serious importance on border security issues and combating drug-trafficking through its territory. In this regard, we call for close coordination between the Center and the Government on

formulation of priorities including provision of financial and technical assistance to modernize border checkpoints, conducting the International Donor Conference, preparation of Draft National Border Strategy, etc.

In the economic and environmental dimension Tajikistan stands for further focus on implementation of projects in the field of safety provision in uranium burial sites in the north of the country, establishment in coordination with UN Commission on Combating Desertification the Regional Land Degradation Center and the branch of the Water Institute in Dushanbe, as well as implementation of the projects in the hydro-power field, etc.

The Government of Tajikistan is confident that the Center will pay priority attention to the issue of realization of the national initiatives on establishment of regional economic and environmental centers of the Organization in Tajikistan. The Delegation supports the suggestion of the Head of the Center to increase the salary of the local staff and believe that this problem will be addressed as soon as possible.

The Government of Tajikistan expresses confidence that the forthcoming draft budget of the Center for 2008 will reflect national priorities of the country. We believe that proceeding from the experiences of the past the Center will put necessary efforts to increase the efficiency of its project activity using internal resources, increasing larger projects instead of small ones, decreasing of administrative expenditures, etc.

Availing of this opportunity I reiterate my gratitude to Mr. Pryakhin for his comprehensive report and wish him success in his further job.

Thank you.