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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 July 2010

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to extend a specially warm welcome to my close friend and comrade-in-arms, and my colleague in the joint activities being undertaken in the Council of Permanent Representatives of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Minsk, Mr. Sergey Nikolayevich Lebedev. We are happy to see you here today within the walls of the OSCE at the Hofburg palace, Sergey Nikolayevich, at a time when we recognize the significance of the recently activated bridge of co-operation between the CIS and the OSCE.

We should like to thank you for the review and detailed account elaborated on in your address which highlights the role of the Commonwealth of Independent States from the moment of its inception in providing a hugely important base for co-operation between member States in the most different fields. The history of the creation of the CIS is already rich and tangible results have been achieved over the years.

The almost twenty-year history of the CIS demonstrates that it today represents the optimal form of development for multilateral co-operation in the interests of all those countries that it unifies. A deepening of the partnership within the framework of the CIS is in keeping with global trends and corresponds to the national interests of each member State.

But, at the same time, this is a long and difficult process, the parameters of which are determined by the degree of interest of the participants in particular forms of co-operation.

The Commonwealth has fulfilled one of its historic functions quite successfully: it did not allow the disintegration of States that were left alone to face the problems of development and it prevented possible large-scale upheavals. On the other hand, it has laid the foundations for new inter-State relations in the post-Soviet area.

Despite the difficulties of development, despite the lengthy process of reform of the CIS bodies, we were not always pleased with the way many integration processes were going, however whilst other forms of organization were not yet in existence and in the absence of alternatives, it was extremely important that the projects being implemented within the framework of the CIS should bring benefit to our States and our peoples.

Today there are many issues of a multidimensional character on the agenda of the Executive Committee of the CIS which touch upon problems of a completely different nature. These are issues to do with political, economic, humanitarian and military co-operation.

We are witnesses to an evolutionary improvement of the existing structure, to the multidisciplinary character of the Commonwealth and to the harmonious development of all existing and new spheres of co-operation.

Much work lies ahead of you, Sergey Nikolayevich, in transferring to a practical level efforts to implement documents recently agreed upon within the CIS on the most different areas of co-operation.

Today the Commonwealth has a great opportunity to exploit its historical and geographic advantages, one may say the unique experience gained from this co-operation, which has seen the intertwining of human fates and cultures to ensure the dynamic socio-economic development of member States and to increase their role and authority in the world community.

Although we ourselves are going through a difficult time, we are ready to actively participate in this effort.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.