

**Statement of the Head of Delegation of Tajikistan Ambassador Nuriddin Shamsov
at the 761 th OSCE Permanent Council Meeting (Vienna, 14 May, 2009)**

*In response to Head of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan
Ambassador Vladimir Praykhin*

Thank you Madam Chairperson,

Delegation of Tajikistan warmly welcomes Ambassador Praykhin to the Permanent Council meeting and thank him for insightful report.

Tajik Delegation has studied with interest the written report that was circulated earlier. We note, in this connection, that the report submitted by Mr. Praykhin allows to conclude the OSCE Office in Tajikistan is making positive contribution within its mandate to address current challenges and assist host Government to carry out the prioritized tasks.

Tajikistan supports the Office meaningful involvement in Government's reforming process as well as initiatives aimed at further strengthening of security and promotion of sustainable development.

We note the constructive atmosphere and dialogue between the OSCE and Government of Tajikistan. Over the last two years successful conducting of Task Force meetings has commended this forum as a unique model of cooperation. Tajikistan remains adherent to its commitment on balanced treatment of all three dimensions noting special regional aspect of the OSCE Office's activity in Tajikistan.

Countering the threats of terrorism and extremism, drug and human trafficking and trans-border organized crimes, addressing demining, SALW program and radioactive waste problems, promoting trade, communication, water management and energy security, enhancing small-medium business and investment climate include the priority directions of upcoming cooperation between the OSCE and Tajikistan.

Regarding Tajikistan firm position on water and energy problems in Central Asia, President Emomali Rahmon during his annual address to Tajik Parliament on April 15, 2009 declared that aiming to reach strategic goal- national energy independence, the Government will continue all efforts to utilize hydro-energy potential of the Country at maximum in favor of interests of Tajik nation and the region. We have no right-stated Tajik Leader-to prolong anymore suffering of our people faced by them during last fifteen years. Implementation of national hydro energy projects on internal rivers of Tajikistan

will be undertaken on transparent manner and with full respect of interests of neighboring countries. It means securing of balanced solution of water and energy problems in the region also.

Government of Tajikistan reiterates it's interest to establishment of OSCE regional bodies which could address issues of common concerns in Central Asia such as dry land, cargo transport and alternative energy resources. Simultaneously, Tajikistan underlines importance of creation of regional mechanisms for supporting the right to development, including that through rational management of water resources.

My Delegation welcomes upcoming inauguration of the OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC) in Dushanbe on May 27, 2009 which is designed for purposes of all OSCE Participating -countries and Partners for cooperation.

The Programmatic activities of the Office in the field of humanitarian dimension, democratization, rule of law and legislation improvement are of utmost significance for Tajikistan. Regarding third dimension, Tajikistan will continue the open-dialogue with the OSCE to find common approaches and consensus on wide range issues. My delegation shears concerns regarding the OSCE Office local staff's low salary scale and recalls the Chairmanship together with the Secretary-General to resolve this problem.

Ambassador Pryakhin,

Taking note Your last appearance here in Permanent Council in Your capacity as Head of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, I'd like to convey words of appreciation of mine personally and my Government for your significant contribution to increase the effectiveness of the Office's activity and assistance to upgrade useful cooperation between the Organization and Tajikistan.

Thank you Madam Chairperson,