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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 June 2005

Mr. Chairman,

In connection with the report distributed on 17 June of this year by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) on the preliminary findings on the events in Andijan of 13 May 2005, we should like to mention the following points.

First. Uzbekistan is extremely shocked at the publication of the report in question and regards it as a flagrant violation by the ODIHR of the mandate given to it by the OSCE participating States.

We should like to know who authorized the ODIHR to conduct an “investigation” on the territory of an OSCE participating State that affects the interests of another participating State, when did they do this and how? Today, we are addressing this question, first and foremost, to the Slovenian Chairmanship and expect it to provide an explanation.

Second. In addition to the fact that the ODIHR has exceeded its mandate, we are also deeply disappointed at the “selective” methods used to conduct the “interviews” and the blatantly biased approach of the Office’s experts in preparing the report on the events in Andijan.

We believe that the ODIHR’s findings are completely subjective; they are based on interviews with 44 persons, among whom may have been persons involved in terrorist attacks and their relatives, and were from the outset critical of the Government. In addition, the Office’s experts ignored the official view of Uzbekistan — a fully fledged participating State of the OSCE.

Third. We should like to draw attention to the attempts by the ODIHR experts in the report to provide political assessments of the events in Andijan, which is an open and most flagrant violation of fundamental OSCE principles. Only the collective bodies of the OSCE and the participating States themselves are authorized to make political assessments of other participating States. All talk about the “autonomy” of the ODIHR and the independence of its leadership is unfounded and should cease henceforth.

Fourth. We regard the tone of the report’s recommendations as unacceptable, especially such formulations as “The Uzbek Government should co-operate with and

support...”, and “...should hold accountable...”. The ODIHR is not authorized to tell sovereign participating States of the OSCE what they should or should not do.

Fifth. The ODIHR report on the events in Andijan by and large constitutes a repetition of unsubstantiated evidence and conclusions drawn from it that have already been published by some non-governmental organizations and the media. In that connection, we should like to ask the Chairmanship and those in charge of the Secretariat whether it was justifiable to spend ODIHR funds and divert human resources to conduct this kind of “investigation” if in the end we are presented with the same information that has long been circulating openly in the media?

Sixth. We have considerable doubts as to whether this ODIHR report reflects the opinions and views of the OSCE participating States regarding the tragic events in Andijan.

Taking into account everything that has already been said, we wish to state that Uzbekistan categorically disagrees with the context, findings and recommendations of the ODIHR report on the events in Andijan and also with the way in which it was prepared.

We should like to draw the attention of the Chairmanship, the Secretariat, all the OSCE institutions and a number of OSCE participating States to the fact that any activities affecting the interests of Uzbekistan should be carried out in consultation with the Uzbek authorities and with their agreement.

If the ODIHR and other OSCE institutions continue their flagrant violation of fundamental principles of this Organization and of the sovereign rights of its participating States, Uzbekistan reserves the right to take appropriate measures.

I should like to take this opportunity to draw the Permanent Council’s attention once more to the fact that an investigation of the events in Andijan is currently being conducted by a competent investigative team of the Office of the Prosecutor General of Uzbekistan. At the end of the investigation, open judicial proceedings will be held, which will provide an unbiased and objective assessment of the tragic events that took place in Andijan.

As we have already informed you, an independent parliamentary commission has also been set up in Uzbekistan, whose main task is to conduct a thorough analysis of the development of the events in Andijan and also provide a legal assessment of the actions of the Government and other power structures in the country.

As part of their work, members of the parliamentary commission have already held a great many meetings and discussions with the leaders of Andijan and the Andijan region, law-enforcement agencies, members of the investigative commission, representatives of public organizations, self-government authorities and the local population.

The parliamentarians are carefully studying the investigative commission’s preliminary material and the response of and measures taken by the local authorities and the law-enforcement agencies in connection with those who organized and carried out the actions. In addition, work is under way to compare the data of the investigative commission with that of foreign sources as regards the number of people killed during the events in Andijan.

According to the preliminary results of the parliamentary investigation, the armed action in Andijan was carefully planned and co-ordinated with support from outside.

The organizers were pursuing the long-term goals of seizing power in one region and subsequently destabilizing the situation in the rest of the country and Central Asia as a whole.

The preliminary study of what happened in Andijan indicates that there were cases of negligence and irresponsibility on the part of representatives of the law-enforcement agencies and the local authorities.

The parliamentary commission is co-operating closely with the international working group consisting of representatives of embassies of lead nations accredited in Tashkent, including members of the United Nations Security Council, and also of countries of the region, including OSCE participating States, to monitor the investigation under way.

The international working group is scheduled to visit Andijan and the Andijan region in the near future.

The delegation of Uzbekistan will inform the Permanent Council and interested delegations about the official investigation and its results.

Thank you for your attention.