

2 July 2010

Original: ENGLISH



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on OSCE's Role in Kyrgyzstan

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 1, 2010

The United States wishes to extend its congratulations to the people and the Provisional Government of Kyrgyzstan for having conducted what by all accounts was a peaceful and orderly referendum on the new constitution for Kyrgyzstan. We welcome the generally positive assessment by the election monitors, which commended the Provisional Government for organizing a peaceful process that allowed for a high turnout. The United States commends the civic participation and peaceful conduct of ordinary citizens who voted without incident.

It is our hope that the Provisional Government and all citizens of Kyrgyzstan will use the opportunity afforded by this successful referendum to advance the process of reconciliation and accountability and move Kyrgyzstan forward on the path toward stability, security, democracy and prosperity for all citizens of the republic. We are looking to our partners and the OSCE in contributing all appropriate support and assistance to the people and government of Kyrgyzstan in these efforts.

We welcomed the dispatch of the OSCE Needs Assessment Mission last week to Bishkek to examine a possible OSCE contribution to help Kyrgyzstan confront the challenges ahead. We are currently studying the team's report and recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, we appreciate your efforts to promote the draft Permanent Council statement. We believe this will be a visible manifestation of OSCE engagement and concern.

The OSCE, as the Chairmanship's June 22 Concept Paper noted, is well placed to provide a Police Task Force to assist the Kyrgyz authorities in the task of rebuilding trust between the citizens and the police force. We believe it can usefully contribute to the restoration of peace, public safety and the rule of law, especially in the south of the country.

Now is the time for us to build upon our pledge two weeks ago to provide help in response to requests received from the Provisional Government and demonstrate our readiness to step forward with a targeted and meaningful police assistance package. Such a package, in our view, is within the existing mandates of the Center in Bishkek and of the OSCE's police-related activities. We realize, however, that the Police Task Force will require resources and while some of those resources can come from extra-budgetary contributions, some will also need to come from a supplement to the unified budget. We hope a supplementary budget decision could be taken by the Permanent Council in a timely fashion to ensure sufficient resources for any deployment.

The Police Task Force, as the Needs Assessment Mission made clear in its discussions in Bishkek, should aim to build bridges between the police services and civil society through

dialogue and through such measures as inclusive patrols. An essential precondition to any full-scale deployment, however, should be a clear understanding with the Kyrgyzstan authorities on the purpose and role of the Task Force and a firm commitment of cooperation and support from the local police. Working with civil society, we would like to see the Police Task Force – in partnership with the local police – focus on building an atmosphere of trust and confidence in law enforcement, reinforcing stability, and ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law. We would also seek to ensure adequate security and appropriate support for the Task Force and its operations.

As we have said before, time is of the essence and it is imperative that we act. Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the attention and focus of you and the executive structures who have put such hard work and long hours into this, and now it is our responsibility as participating States to provide our political and financial support to the deployment of a Police Task Force.

Clarifying some of these issues that I mentioned – about a clear understanding with the Kyrgyzstan authorities – we believe may require another trip to Kyrgyzstan, and I hope the Strategic Police Matters Unit will consider doing this in light of the urgency of this situation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.