

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND TO THE OSCE ON BEHALF OF  
CANADA, ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN AND SWITZERLAND.  
IN RESPONSE TO ODIHR'S REPORT ON THE ANDIJAN TRIALS IN UZBEKISTAN  
610<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

I take the floor also on behalf of Canada, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. We joins others in availing itself of the opportunity to return to the topic of the ODIHR Report on the Andijan trials.

We thank the ODIHR, under the guidance of Ambassador Strohal, for their professional and balanced report.

The professionalism of the observation team is also to be commended, especially given the challenging circumstances in which they were required to work.

Mr. Chairman, we were pleased that ODIHR staff were able to travel to Uzbekistan. We acknowledge that Uzbekistan has taken steps to engage with the OSCE through its response to the ODIHR report. We would encourage an expansion of this cooperation. A welcome starting point could be Uzbekistan inviting ODIHR officials to discuss how to implement the recommendations contained in the ODIHR report.

Further, Mr. Chairman, one year after the tragedy in Andijan we remain concerned that the tragic events of 12 and 13 May, 2005 have not been adequately explained.

We believe that the only way to learn the full story of what happened on those two days is for a complete, independent and international investigation to be carried out.

This is the best way to ensure that justice is served and that the credibility of the organization is maintained.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.