

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 970th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 November 2013

Regarding the presidential elections in Tajikistan

Mr. Chairperson,

We too should like to congratulate our Tajik colleagues on the presidential elections that took place on 6 November.

The elections were held in accordance with the current electoral legislation of Tajikistan and ensured the right of the citizens to freely express their will.

An observation mission from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly consisting of 194 persons found the elections to have been free, open and in accordance with recognized democratic standards. Although the mission also detected some irregularities, they were of a technical nature and could not have influenced the outcome of the elections. The head of the CIS observation mission and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth, Mr. Sergey Lebedev, noted that in comparison with the 2006 presidential elections these elections had been more organized and recommendations by the CIS mission and proposed amendments had been taken into account.

The observation mission from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation also recognized the presidential elections in Tajikistan as having been free and transparent.

Unfortunately, we once again note that the conclusions of the international election observation mission, which consisted of observers from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament, have political overtones.

We note that during the 20 years of Tajikistan's independence ODIHR representatives have, regrettably, not recognized a single round of elections there as being democratic.

This fact once again confirms the need to work out uniform, clearly understandable, transparent and universally applicable rules and principles for the monitoring of elections.

Thank you for your attention.