

PC.DEL/980/10  
13 October 2010

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of Kyrgyzstan

**STATEMENT BY MS. LYDIA IMANALIEVA,  
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TO THE OSCE, AT THE MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 October 2010

Mr. Chairperson,

Kyrgyzstan has figured among the pressing subjects discussed in the OSCE over the last six months and the parliamentary elections are one of the most important signal events today.

In this regard, we would like to inform the Permanent Council of the results of these elections, which took place on 10 October.

The elections were held in accordance with the national laws in force and with international electoral standards. The Government took exhaustive measures to ensure that administrative resources were not used and to reduce the risk of any irregularities during the elections.

According to the Kyrgyz Central Election and Referendum Commission there were over 3 million registered voters.

According to the preliminary results, the turnout was almost 56 per cent. The five leading parties, namely Ata-Zhurt, the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan, Ar-Namys, the Republican Party of Kyrgyzstan and the Ata-Meken, passed the 5 per cent threshold. The official results will be announced in the next few days.

The elections to the Zhogorku Kenesh were monitored by 850 international observers representing 32 organizations from 52 countries. This unprecedented number of observers may be regarded as a special feature of the elections.

According to independent experts, altogether thousands of short-term representatives of various parties and civil organizations observed the voting.

Thus it can be said that the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan were conducted in an organized and transparent fashion.

The peaceful nature of the elections was extremely important for the people of Kyrgyzstan, especially after the events that took place in June. They were of momentous historical significance for our nation and State.

It was not simply a question of electing a parliament but of inaugurating a new system of government in the form of a parliamentary republic, turning a new page in the history of Kyrgyzstan. President Roza Otunbayeva spoke of this in her address to the nation right after the results had been announced.

Today, she said, we had the first free democratic elections in the 20 years of our independence. They mark a step towards the stabilization of democracy, which the country needed after the recent events.

Some 29 political parties of various orientations and views stood for election and attempted to win the voters' favour. All of the parties were guaranteed equal conditions and no one attempted to utilize State or administrative resources. The voting was preceded by lively political debates. On the whole the election was honest and clean, with both the parties and the civil organizations playing a huge positive role.

The elections were marked by political pluralism, an animated electoral campaign and balanced reporting by the media, with freedom of expression, assembly and association. They represented a further step towards the consolidation of the democratic process and, most importantly, they were fair.

The last few weeks have shown that Kyrgyzstan is capable of conducting elections notable for the independence of the electoral bodies and for political plurality. The people demonstrated civic responsibility with all the necessary conditions to enable them to express their will fully and independently.

Without any doubt, the Central Election and Referendum Commission played an important role in the electoral process. Its impartiality and independence gave it credibility and won it recognition from all participants in the process.

There were also shortcomings, of course. They will be examined and carefully analysed and suitable appraisals made. On the whole, however, they were not of a major character and did not have a serious impact on the outcome of the election.

We should like to stress in conclusion to this eminent audience that the elections provided striking evidence of Kyrgyzstan's adherence to the commitments set forth in international human rights documents. They were transparent and democratic and in spite of all the difficulties and the opposition by destructive forces, the country is overcoming the crisis and now, particularly since the elections, is moving every day towards stability and improvement of the life of its citizens.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.