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**STATEMENT BY
MRS. DINARA KEMELOVA, DEPUTY MINISTER
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC,
AT THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Vilnius, 6 and 7 December 2011

Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to associate myself with the words of gratitude expressed to the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Mr. Audronius Ažubalis, and his team and also to the staff of the OSCE Secretariat for the excellent organization of our end-of-year ministerial meeting.

For the Organization 2011 was a year of yet more tests of its political will to resolve universal challenges in the OSCE area. For the Kyrgyz Republic this year was also a difficult one and, at the same time, extremely important. For the first time in two decades a tradition was established for the peaceful transfer of power, as evidence of the new approaches and ideas in our country.

Presidential elections were held on 30 October of this year. The people of Kyrgyzstan freely elected Almazbek Atambayev to the highest position in the State. The international community gave a positive assessment of the electoral process, which proceeded peacefully and openly in a highly competitive environment and without large-scale violations. They convincingly testify to the country's return to democratic values and to the new policy aimed at building a genuinely democratic society.

The presidential elections marked the end of the transitional stage in our country and the results of the voting confirmed the people's confidence in the new policy announced following the change in power in April 2010. Despite all of the difficulties, our young parliamentary democracy is growing stronger.

Kyrgyzstan is entering a new age; a new coalition will soon be created in Parliament and a coalition government formed with the prime minister at its head. We made our momentous choice and believe that it will become the starting point for the stable and peaceful life of our country.

Mr. Chairperson,

Today confidence constitutes one of the keystones of security, and our Organization must orientate itself towards this component.

In this context, the Vienna Document occupies an important place in the building of confidence. Its modernization and updating is an important part of the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation and its Chairperson. As the next country to chair the Forum, from January 2012 the Kyrgyz Republic intends to preserve and secure the viability, transparency and relevance of the Vienna Document.

Combating transnational threats must remain one of the priorities of the OSCE's work. This is mainly a question of strengthening the co-ordination and consolidation of the measures taken by all the OSCE participating States in combating terrorism, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and chemical precursors, transnational crime and trafficking in human beings.

The dangers emanating from the territory of Afghanistan pose a threat to the security of other States. The Istanbul Summit and the Bonn Conference on Afghanistan demonstrated the increased desire and commitment of the international community to ensure stability and security in the country. We are gratified to note the OSCE's activities in training Afghan border guards and customs officials in the Kyrgyz Republic and the provision of a high standard of education at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. In this connection we believe it important to preserve and continue this OSCE project activity, which has really proved itself over the last few years.

The Kyrgyz Republic, recognizing the extraordinary importance of a comprehensive approach to security, also attaches great importance to the economic component of the OSCE and to strengthening the practical benefit of the Economic Forum, especially in terms of creating equal conditions with respect to trade, transport and economic co-operation in the OSCE area, with the interests of all participating States taken into account. We support the development within the OSCE of dialogue on energy and environmental security. Water and energy co-operation and efforts to prevent the thawing of glaciers should be on our Organization's agenda. In the Kyrgyz Republic more than 2,000 glaciers or a quarter of the country's total number of glaciers have already disappeared in the Tian Shan and Pamiro Alai regions. The OSCE can play a role and make a contribution by responding to global challenges if there is the political will and, if necessary, by providing early warning and preventing conflicts.

On the whole, the strengthening of the economic dimension in the OSCE's activities should provide a significant impetus in the development of the Organization, making it possible to focus common efforts on ensuring energy, food and other forms of economic security.

The principle of the rule of law, the development of democratic institutions, the establishment of tolerance and non-discrimination, the protection of the rights of national minorities, the prevention of trafficking in human beings, gender issues and the problem of migration will be priority areas for co-operation with the OSCE in the human dimension. A permanent platform for constructive dialogue between the State and legislative authorities

and civil society and human rights organizations has now been established in the Kyrgyz Republic, a public television and radio company has been set up, the process of judicial reform is under way and the foundations have been laid for the development of a democratic society.

We are in favour of continuing the institutionalization of the OSCE and its organizational structure and giving it a legal status through the adoption of a constituent document. It is important that all the OSCE participating States show the necessary political will to increase the effectiveness of the work of our Organization in this area.

The existing OSCE partnership for co-operation is one of the Organization's most important resources and its development should continue with a view to increasing security in the OSCE area. In this connection, the Kyrgyz Republic supports Mongolia's desire to become a fully fledged participating State of the OSCE.

In conclusion, I should like to wish the future Irish Chairmanship every success in leading our Organization and confirm the willingness of the Kyrgyz Republic to participate fully, actively and in a manner guided by democratic values in the work of our Organization in all three dimensions.

Thank you for your attention.