

Dear Acting Minister, dear participants,

We come together after a traumatic period in the life of Kyrgyzstan.

Before proceeding, please allow me to express here my deepest condolences and wishes to all families directly affected by the conflict. We pray for forgiveness and tolerance.

OSCE and the wider international community wants to help Kyrgyzstan get back on its feet. We want the restoration of public order, national reconciliation and national renewal. The international community has pledged to help Kyrgyzstan providing the country is prepared to help itself.

The police are central to national recovery. The Police retain primary legal and operational responsibility for the maintenance of public order. Both Government and non-Government interlocutors have repeatedly highlighted to the OSCE the urgent need to restore morale among the Police service while at the same time ensuring their full respect for the citizen's human rights.

The task before us is to build a professional and publicly accountable police service, which meets international standards. But this transformation will mean nothing unless the public are involved in this rebuilding and have confidence that the Police are there for their well-being and protection, and not to control or intimidate them.

Today's meeting is key. Representatives of Civil Society and the Police Authorities are here to sit down together to work out a better relationship. Both Police and Civil Society deserve support and respect.

I hope we shall be able to work together in a constructive manner, in order to take full account of today's recommendations so as to develop a Police Service that honours its responsibilities both in law and practice.

Thank you for your attention.