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**STATEMENT BY MS. LYDIA IMANALIEVA,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC TO
THE OSCE, AT THE 882nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Vienna, 13 October 2011

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished colleagues,

As the distinguished Secretary General of the OSCE, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, has already mentioned today, the Kyrgyz Republic is currently preparing for the most important event in the political life of the country – the presidential elections scheduled for 30 October 2011. These elections will mark a turning point in the history of my country since they should establish a tradition of peaceful and civilized transfer of State power at the highest level. The outcome of this political test will be an important step towards preserving stability in the country and the region as a whole.

In this context, I should like to provide you with some brief information about the preparations being made for the elections.

The Central Election Commission (CEC) has registered 23 presidential candidates so far – 10 candidates from political parties and 13 independent ones.

The elections will be conducted under a three-tier administrative system, namely the CEC, 58 territorial election commissions and 2,318 district election commissions. Work is also currently under way to open 29 polling stations outside the country at diplomatic and consular missions.

The CEC is working to refine and update the electoral register. According to the lists submitted by the precinct election commissions and territorial election commissions, the electorate currently stands at more than 2.8 million people.

Kyrgyzstan's Central Election Commission has already approved the text and format of the ballot paper and drawn lots among the candidates to establish the order in which they will be listed on the ballot papers.

The election campaign began on 25 September. A total of 40 television and radio stations, along with more than 100 print media, have been accredited by the CEC to cover the election campaign. Electronic media also have every opportunity to cover the elections.

At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, the observation mission sent by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has begun its work. It consists of 15 members based in Bishkek and 28 long-term observers deployed across the country. In addition, some 350 short-term observers from the ODIHR are expected to monitor events on election day.

We are also expecting active monitoring of the electoral process by international observation missions dispatched by the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Community and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, as well as monitoring on a bilateral basis from countries such as Belarus, Kazakhstan, Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russia and Turkey. Accordingly, the CEC has so far accredited 50 long-term international observers representing 5 organizations and 24 different countries.

In summing up what I have said so far, I should like to stress that we see as our goal the conduct of honest and transparent elections, which will make it possible to consolidate the institutional and democratic reforms launched by our country's new leadership. The elections on 30 October 2011 will mark the last stage in the transitional period, while national unity, the rule of law, good governance, public participation and a free press will help us to build a prosperous and powerful country.

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished colleagues,

I should like to take the opportunity of today's Permanent Council meeting to draw your attention to another extremely important question for my country as regards its foreign policy agenda.

As you know, the Kyrgyz Republic has applied to serve as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the period 2012 and 2013. As a landlocked country and a member of the group of small countries and countries with transition economies, and also as a young democratic republic with a multi-faith population, Kyrgyzstan believes it is essential that all these categories of countries be represented in the Security Council and advocates the strengthening of their role in decision-making.

For the first time in its history, Kyrgyzstan has applied to join this United Nations body. I should like to underscore that no Central Asian State has as yet participated in the United Nations Security Council. We believe that our region has a key role to play in security issues and deserves the right to be represented in the Security Council. In this regard, we once again ask our partners to vote in favour of the principle of equality of States and fair rotation within the United Nations system.

The election of the Kyrgyz Republic as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council would signal the international community's support for the reforms being carried out in my country and would help to further strengthen our democratic achievements.

Thank you for your attention.