

Round Table on Freedom of Religion and Dialogue,

organized by State Agency on Religious Affairs, September 27, 2009

Distinguished Director, Mr. Osmonaliev, Deputy Governor, and Distinguished participants,

I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak at and attend today's training forum.

I am also pleased to see the **spectrum** of participation, including local community leaders, civil society, local State Officials and community police officers. The **diversity** of the participation will be, I hope, an important element in making this a successful and productive forum. OSCE values all its partners here today.

Today's training and discussion seminar is one of a series of seminars to be held in each of the seven provinces of Kyrgyzstan under the auspices of the OSCE and the State Agency of Religious Affairs. These seminars form part of a growing nationwide **two-way dialogue** to build stronger understanding, trust and communication at local community-level between State Authorities and Citizen interests, founded on the core principles of tolerance, cooperation and rule of law.

These seminars also significantly support the **combined efforts** of the OSCE, State Authorities and Civil Society to build a meaningful, nationwide "Public-Private Partnership" to counter the threats from terrorism, extremism and radicalization. For this partnership - this desire for peace and moderation - to be successful, it must be rooted in and enjoy the support of communities at the local level. It must **be inclusive and participatory**. It must be founded on an understanding of the law. This is the spirit and the reason that underpins these seminars.

I hope you, dear participants, will learn, contribute, debate and share the fruits of today's events with your colleagues, friends, contacts and families. You can play an important and personal role in strengthening communal understanding and tolerance, founded on good values and the Law.

Thank you for your attention.