

Opening of Training Centre on Anti-Terrorism and Bomb Disposal, August 5, 2009

Distinguished Minister, dear participants and media representatives,

I am pleased to participate in this opening of the renovated anti-terrorism training centre of the Ministry of Interior, which has been improved with assistance from the OSCE Centre in Bishkek.

This OSCE material, financial and human support comes within the **broader framework of the Memorandum of Understanding**, signed between the OSCE and the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the State Committee on National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek (CiB) fully supports both the Authorities and people in order to prevent terrorism, extremism and radicalisation.

In this context, the Bomb disposal Centre plays an important role. The capacity and ability of the Kyrgyz security authorities to **respond to bomb alerts and incidents and resolve them** is vital for the safety of the citizen, critical State infrastructure and private property.

The development of the Bomb Disposal Centre is already underway. The first training for the MOI's internal services troops will begin (with OSCE support ?) in October 2009.

The Bomb Disposal Unit will be trained in the **identification of different types of explosive devices**, which may be used by Terrorist groups. Such bombs include Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) Unexploded Ordnance (UXOs) Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs), Vehicle-borne Explosive Devices (VIEDs), a Suicide Bomber (SB) and other such Explosives. Naturally all these types of bomb are potentially life-threatening for the innocent citizen, especially children. The threats are real. Grenades and other explosives devices have been found on suspected terrorists recently arrested in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Allow me also to take this opportunity today to briefly remind participants and, through the media, the wider audience of the fundamental initiative the Kyrgyz Authorities have begun with support from the OSCE. The initiative is called the "**Public-Private Partnership**" **approach**. What it means is a shared partnership among the Authorities, Business, religious organisations and the population to prevent terrorism and extremism. Each partner has a responsibility and a practical role to play. The vigilance of the public, their "eyes and ears", helps the Authorities identify potential terrorist threats. The measures taken by Business, for example utility services such as water, gas and electricity, to safeguard their infrastructure and services against terrorism prevents disruption for their clients. Cooperation between Business and the security services is key. The third forum on "PPP" will take place in August in Issyk-Kyl. The first was in Bishkek last October and the second in Osh last

Yet ultimately it is the security authorities who bear the primary responsibility for the physical protection of the citizen. To do so, they need **good training, good equipment, and good cooperative support from Society**.

The bomb-disposal centre is an important part of this bigger picture. I wish the Centre's personnel OSCE's best wishes and every success.

Thank you very much for your attention.