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PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
TO THE ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

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**Statement by the
Minister of Interior Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic
Lt. gen. of police Mr. M. T. Kongantiev
at the 775th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
Vienna, 24 September 2009**

Distinguished chairwoman,

Distinguished Ambassadors,

It is both a great honour and pleasure for me to have this opportunity to address you today. I immensely value this opportunity because it is important for the Government of Kyrgyzstan through me to be able to convey to you the real **significance and impact** of the OSCE's support for the reform of the Police Service in Kyrgyzstan and to outline to you the **work and challenges that lies ahead**.

Kyrgyzstan is undergoing a **long-term** programme of reform of the Police Service. This entails setting not only the professional and managerial standards, in accordance with internationally-accepted values, but also ensuring that the capacity, human and technical, are created. While this is, self-evidently, a long-term process, it is a process of incremental change that the Authorities are able and do plan for in three-year strategic cycles.

The necessity for reforming the Law Enforcement and Judicial Agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic was stressed in the Kyrgyz President's speech Mr. Kurmanbek Bakiev at the session of the Kyrgyz Parliament on September 1st, 2009.

Central to the reform process is the paramount importance of ensuring that the Police Service is **equipped and trained to provide for public safety, law and order and a code of conduct that respects citizen rights and justice**. Strengthening mutual trust, confidence and the means for cooperation is an integral part of the change-process.

In this regard, the OSCE's **Police Reform Programme** provides – may I say – the backbone for this reform process. The Programme has specifically, to name just a few achievements

- enhanced the education and training of police officers
- improved police investigation methods, including better evidence-based approaches such as the use of forensics
- widened the geographical and human “reach” of the police service in the regions and with civil society through the community-based policing approach
- developed platforms and initiatives for trust and cooperation such as the public prevention centres, neighbourhood inspectors and neighbourhood watch schemes.

I have recently set a **strategic plan** for Police Reform for the period 2009-12, which is underpinned by the support programme of the OSCE's PRP plan covering 2009-12. This reflects the **close working relations** that my Ministry and I enjoy with the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the SPMU here in Vienna. The quality of dialogue, suggestion and **constructive comment** that we receive in particular from the Programme Manager, Evgeny Cherenkov, and the Ambassador and Head of Centre, Andrew Tesoriere, are truly welcome.

I know that questions arise within OSCE as to **how much longer** the support of the Police Reform Programme will be required. I cannot give you a definitive answer. What I can say with confidence is that Kyrgyzstan both needs and wishes the OSCE's support for the strategic planning cycle I have mentioned covering 2009-12 and that it seems probable that we would request this support to continue beyond 2012 for at least another 3-year planning cycle.

I would like to offer some explanations for this.

First of all, the police agencies of Kyrgyzstan are **working under difficult conditions**. Today the police and other law enforcement agencies of the country are facing new threats such as international terrorism, organized crime and religious extremism, which threaten society, the independence of state structures, stability of financial organisations and the functioning of democratic institutions. In order to successfully oppose these threats, well trained police officers need to have up to date

knowledge in these areas and be able to work closely with other internal and external stakeholders (countries and international organizations).

Significant organizational, financial and legal efforts are needed **to combat organized crime**. During the last year and a half, we have managed to reduce the number of organized crime groups working in Kyrgyzstan. During special operations, data from the Intelligence Analysis Unit set up as part of the OSCE-funded Police Reform Programme, was widely used. However, organized crime still presents a serious problem, which can only be fought using modern equipment and effective crime investigation methods. We would like to continue cooperating with the OSCE in this area.

In this year, we have seen increased **numbers of murders and attempted murders**, of which, during an eight-month period of 2009, there was an 1.4 % (14 cases) increase compared to the same period in 2008. Theft accounts for the largest number of crimes (37.1 % of the total number of crimes registered in Kyrgyzstan, (7518 cases, and the crime detection rate is 58.3%).

One area of special concern is **juvenile crime** that has increased by 9% (26 cases) compared to 2006. To resolve this problem, an integrated set of measures is needed, including looking for effective ways of combating juvenile crime by actively involving all relevant official institutions and community associations. In order to help achieve this, the Ministry of Interior of the Kyrgyz Republic has started to appoint **school inspectors on juvenile affairs** in each community school funded by municipality. However, due to the lack of funding for this measure, it is being implemented extremely slowly. Special police officers have been appointed to work with juvenile delinquency inspectors and strengthen crime prevention measures.

The issues of **border related cooperation with neighbouring countries in the area of law-enforcement** are being considered by us as an integral component of state policy. It is worth noting that this area is receiving support from the OSCE and this year, an international expert on border related issues has started working in the OSCE Centre in Bishkek.

Systematic and consistent efforts are needed to **maintain and safeguard interethnic consensus in Kyrgyzstan**. Interethnic conflicts in Petrovka and Iskra prove that police agencies need to have the capacity to prevent such conflicts and the OSCE is funding a programme of related activities that we believe should be strengthened.

Another pressing problem is **rustling**. To effectively combat rustling, we would like to propose that GIAS (Geographical Information - Analytical System) be set up and used under the police programme. GIAS will contain data on the social and economic indicators of each rural area, the numbers of livestock, cases of rustling, social portraits of the criminals and victims involved, etc. Over eight months of this year, 535 crimes have been committed (71.7% crimes detected, with a restoration rate of 46.9%).

I am fully aware that **human rights in police custody detention centres are poorly observed**. Together with the OSCE, we have taken certain steps aimed at improving the situation and we would like to continue working closely with the international experts in training police custody detention centres' officers, improving the conditions for detainees, including medical examinations and equipping the centres with video surveillance and security equipment. (7 of 47 police custody detention centres were remodelled with support of the OSCE, and in 5 of them, the joint projects with OSCE are being continued. Yearly, the detention centres accommodate about 12 thousand persons).

Secondly, we understand that the successful future of the Kyrgyz police is closely linked to **further deep and long-term reforms of the entire law enforcement system**. Consistently promoting the planned activities country-wide will demand considerable human and financial resources. Currently Kyrgyzstan is experiencing significant financial difficulties and the consequences of the serious losses of professional staff that took place in the 1990s. Therefore, implementation of the planned activities on reforming the police agencies by the Ministry of the Interior of the Kyrgyz Republic will need considerable long-term, external financial, advisory and other support.

The need for police agency reform is supported **by criticism from civil society** concerning the current state of the law-enforcement system. The Ministry of Interior of the Kyrgyz Republic (KR) shares civil society's concerns about the existing problems of how the country's law enforcement agencies function. When meeting with representatives of the community, including those who criticise the system, I get a complete picture of police agencies' activities. The MoI of the KR fully recognizes the **need to create a feedback mechanism** in order to receive society's complaints in a timely way so that appropriate action can be taken to correct any problems.

In this regard I have recently signed legislation that considerably **expands the opportunities for civil participation in the oversight of police activity**. My Order № 792 dated 03.09.09 approved and brought into effect on September 10th 2009, the Regulation **"About the Agency for Civil Oversight of the legitimacy of the Actions of Police Officers of the Kyrgyz Republic"**. This document was drawn up with the active assistance of international organizations. I have also authorized **"Written instructions for filing complaints against police officers"**, implementation of which will help international organizations monitor the enforcement by police officers of the approved codes of conduct and offer them effective advisory support.

Considering the experience gained during the implementation of international programmes and taking into account modern needs, we consider the issues aimed at **further building and consolidating partnerships between the police agencies and the population countrywide and involving representatives of the community in resolving problems in the area of law enforcement**, to be beneficial and urgent

tasks. A number of preliminary steps have been taken in this direction with an emphasis on **engaging civil society in helping resolving these issues**

In order to strengthen this component, the MoI of the KR has started drawing up a draft law **“About citizens’ participation in ensuring law and order”**. The draft has passed concordance and will shortly be sent to the Kyrgyz Parliament.

Using the available mechanisms to achieve the set goal is linked to the availability of funding, especially in remote areas of Kyrgyzstan.

In the near future, the MoI of the KR together with the OSCE, is planning to hold in Bishkek, **a Public Forum in which representatives of local government agencies, police agencies and civil society of Kyrgyzstan will take part** with the aim of finding and developing modern and effective mechanisms for society to work with the police on maintaining law and order. It is expected that OSCE’s expertise will actively promote the recommendations developed by the stakeholders, i.e. society and the law enforcement agencies.

One of the most important tasks for the near future is **forming groups of competent police officers** capable of organizing and implementing activities directly related to police reform. Training such specialists would be greatly enhanced with the active assistance of international organizations, such as the OSCE, with the support of the participating states through bilateral agreements.

Strengthening the human resources capacity of the MoI is one of the main tasks at the present stage of reform. Together with international organizations, we have analyzed the existing state of affairs and are taking action to improve the capacities of employees. So on September 11th, 2009, I signed **“The Instruction on organizing and recruiting staff to serve in the police agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic”**. This legal tool will introduce the procedure for filling vacancies solely on a competitive basis, including advertising open competitions, forming competition commissions, etc.

We consider strengthening employees’ capacities through the prism of the psychological skills of officers. By Order of the Minister of the Interior of the KR, **“The Centre for Training and Retraining Police Inspectors and Psychologists”** was set up as part of the Psychology and Training Division of the Police Academy of the KR. In February this year, this Centre ran its first course for newly recruited officers of the Psychological Service of the MoI of the KR with the support of the OSCE Police Reform Programme. However, a lot more needs to be done and considerable funding sourced.

The MoI also plans to **strengthen the press-service of the Ministry** by creating an editorial board that will edit newsletters on issues of police reform, improve the equipment of the editorial board and hold international conferences and roundtables about positive aspects of the police agencies’ reform. In March this year, I signed the order, **“About ratification of the Concept Document for Improving Police Interaction with the Mass Media and Community Associations for the period 2009-2014”**, which will improve mass media coverage.

There are currently **two special police riot control squads** (105 police officers), created with financial and advisory support of the OSCE. It is deemed necessary to continue the joint work between the MoI of the KR and OSCE on training police officers (specialized and non-specialized subdivisions), as well as increasing the specialized subdivisions in Bishkek, Osh and provincial police departments.

Modernisation has helped the senior management of the MoI of the KR understand the need to train police officers in **managing interethnic relations and combating ethnic and gender discrimination and domestic violence**. Today, the situation in these areas is improving. For example, during the last one and a half years, the number of women police officers has increased by 10 %. For the first time in the history of the MoI of the KR a woman, Militia Colonel Mrs. G.M. Alieva PhD, has been appointed head of the HR department.

The MoI of the KR with OSCE support and in close cooperation with the Democratic Process Research Centre is working on preventing domestic violence, based on the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “About Social and Legal Protection from Domestic Violence”. The number of protection orders issued by the police to domestic violence victims has increased this year by 368 %.

Complete reform of police agencies is possible in the context **of reforming the other law enforcement agencies of Kyrgyzstan**. In this regard, this autumn the MoI of the KR, with OSCE assistance is planning to hold **a joint meeting of law enforcement agencies of the KR with the aim of developing a joint approach to reforming the law-enforcement and judicial systems**. This meeting will allow us to identify the main directions of joint activity, to coordinate the efforts of all the law enforcement agencies of Kyrgyzstan and develop the concept of reforming the law enforcement agencies system. The next step of conceptual documents being developed by international experts is being considered. We are counting on OSCE assistance in granting the MoI of the KR this expert support.

In conclusion I would like to thank the OSCE, other international organizations and the states working with us bilaterally and hope for continuing cooperation in the area of reforming the police agencies in Kyrgyzstan.

Thank you for your attention!