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**STATEMENT BY MR. ZAMIR SUERKULOV,
FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE OF THE KYRGYZ
REPUBLIC, AT THE OPENING OF THE KYRGYZ CHAIRMANSHIP
OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

18 January 2012

Madam Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

For me it is a great honour to welcome you to the first meeting in 2012 of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and, in so doing, to inaugurate the Kyrgyz chairmanship of the Forum during the first trimester of this year. I should like to express the hope that our chairmanship will be a constructive and successful one. The support that we receive from our Troika partners (Kazakhstan and Latvia), our co-ordinators and the FSC Support Section under the Conflict Prevention Centre as well as from Conference Services will be invaluable in that regard.

However, a successful chairmanship is impossible without active and close co-operation with all delegations and their experts in achieving consensus on the many issues facing the Forum, since it is this consensus that provides the basis for stepping up the work of the FSC in a productive manner in the immediate wake of the OSCE's Vilnius Ministerial Council meeting.

We look forward with optimism to the work ahead of the Forum, with every confidence that it will maintain the pace set by the previous chairmanships, particularly that of Kazakhstan. Last year the work to implement the instructions given by our Heads of State during the Astana Summit was very effectively continued under the chairmanship of that country.

As we take up our work in this Forum, building on the results of the last OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius, we shall be guided by those decisions and recommendations that were adopted with regard to the FSC.

For us it is very important to sustain the impetus recently achieved as regards the introduction of amendments to the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011 along with the modernization of the politico-military tools available to our Organization as a whole.

Allow me at this point to touch on the work ahead of us. We have distributed as an official document (FSC.INF/1/12/Corr.1) a tentative programme of work for the Forum's

chairmanships during 2012. That document contains a review of the basic priorities of all three FSC chairmanships this year. We are grateful to our colleagues from the Latvian and Macedonian delegations for their outstanding co-operation in preparing that document, and we wish to thank the co-ordinators and the FSC Support Section for their contributions.

In accordance with the tentative schedule of the meetings we have planned for the period of our chairmanship, we intend to hold 11 regular meetings of the Forum. We also hope that we shall succeed in holding a joint meeting of the Forum and the OSCE Permanent Council in close co-operation with our colleagues from the Irish Chairmanship.

In addition, our work programme envisages a 22nd Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM). We believe that this annual conference will enable us to hear new proposals with the result that the AIAM should serve as a platform for a lively and constructive exchange of ideas on the further updating of the Vienna Document. In order to ensure the success of this event, we intend to co-operate closely with the chairmanships involved – those of Estonia and Finland.

I should like to note in particular that our schedule of meetings is of a tentative nature and may be modified, while the document itself may, if necessary, be revised as our work proceeds.

We consider it important and necessary to continue the practice of holding a security dialogue, and we are of course open to proposals and ideas on the part of delegations on the issues and problems of interest to them.

We now have on the table before us the Vienna Document 2011, and it is important to continue the forthcoming negotiations on its improvement and modernization, taking into account the present-day aspects of security and the evolution of armed forces for the purpose of strengthening military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States. For that reason, further work to improve that document will play a leading role in the endeavours of our chairmanship.

The discussion and implementation of confidence- and security-building measures must become the chief tools for ensuring stability, predictability and transparency in the military area. These measures need to be updated and modernized and new life needs to be breathed into them. For this purpose, there has already been accumulated a solid basis of proposals and ideas that are now awaiting attention and action on the part of the Forum. It is important to evaluate thoughtfully the merits of each proposal and to arrive at agreed positions on their basis. As the country exercising the chairmanship, we are prepared to assist in achieving consensual and mutually acceptable decisions and to listen attentively to all wishes regarding the best ways of moving forward in this important matter.

In accordance with the Vilnius decision we are to continue the discussion on issues concerning the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and on progress in the forthcoming work to assist in implementing United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 and also in supporting an exchange of information on national progress and on the lessons that have been learned in that connection.

We are pleased at the fact that the Irish Chairmanship of the OSCE intends to devote particular attention to the question of assisting in the implementation of United Nations

Security Council resolution 1325 on peace and on women and security. In that connection, we hope that the new co-ordinator appointed to deal with this subject will help in studying ways in which the FSC can assist in implementing within the OSCE area Security Council resolution 1325 and other related resolutions on the gender issue and on security.

The problems involved in carrying out the Forum's decision on small arms and light weapons (SALW), including the question of stockpiles of conventional ammunition, will also without question remain on its agenda. For the Kyrgyz Republic this question is extremely important, particularly as regards the carrying out of the related projects. We intend to make a contribution of our own to the discussion of this issue at the forthcoming seminar to review the Plan of Action on SALW.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Vienna Document 2011, the Code of Conduct and the documents on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition continue to be the basic normative documents guiding our Forum. With a view to assisting the work of the Forum in these areas, the Kyrgyz chairmanship, in agreement with the members of the Troika and with the Conflict Prevention Centre, has decided to confirm the mandates of the FSC chairmanship co-ordinators:

- Lieutenant Colonel László Szatmári (delegation of Hungary) as the co-ordinator for projects involving small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition;
- Lieutenant Colonel Detlef Hempel (delegation of Germany) as the co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct;
- Dr. Pierre von Arx (delegation of Switzerland) as the co-ordinator for the FSC Chairperson on the Vienna Document.

We are grateful to all of you for the work performed last year and are prepared to co-operate with you this year. We greatly value your contribution to the work of the Forum and your support.

I am also extremely pleased to announce the following appointments:

- Lieutenant Colonel Martin McInerney (delegation of Ireland) as the co-ordinator for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325;
- Ms. Katarina Žáková (delegation of Slovakia) as the co-ordinator for the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference.

Permit me to wish you every success in your work to achieve the goals set for you.

As regards the chairperson of the informal "Group of Friends" on small arms and light weapons, we are awaiting proposals from a number of delegations as regards candidates and shall immediately inform the Forum at its next meeting.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Mr. Anders Byrén for his personal and invaluable contribution and also for his excellent work in heading the informal "Group of Friends" on SALW.

I want also to express particular thanks to the outgoing Kazakh chairmanship for its tangible contribution to the work of the Forum during the final quarter of the past year. For our part, we shall do all we can to build on the solid achievements that we took away with us from Vilnius, and we are inspired by the desire to work closely with our Kazakh friends within the Troika.

I wish also to address words of gratitude to Italy, which is leaving the Troika, for its contribution, and to welcome Latvia as the new member of the Troika.

We are very much looking forward to constructive co-operation with the Conflict Prevention Centre and, above all, with the FSC Support Section as well as with Conference Services.

While acknowledging the importance of the active involvement of the Partners for Co-operation in the work of the Forum, the Kyrgyz chairmanship invites our partners not only to take part in the plenary meetings but also to be present as observers at the meetings of the working groups, as was the practice of chairpersons in years gone by. This would enable us to more actively implement not only all the decisions that have been adopted and the declarations of the OSCE Ministerial Councils, but also the Astana Commemorative Declaration of 2010, which underscores the importance of raising the level of interaction with the Partners for Co-operation.

In conclusion, I should like to reaffirm our readiness for co-operation with all delegations. Without your support no chairmanship would ever be successful. It is important that the year 2012 be marked by a stepping up of co-operation and efforts to achieve agreed decisions, essential elements of which must be transparency, predictability and the security of the participating States within the OSCE area.

Thank you for your attention.