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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 April 2010

Regarding the situation in Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia is watching with particular attention the unfolding of the events in Kyrgyzstan, where recent days have seen clashes between members of the opposition and the law enforcement authorities. We are deeply concerned at the escalation of violence between the opposing parties and we appeal for restraint. We believe that the most important thing at the present time is to prevent fresh human casualties and to restore the State's ability to control the situation.

Russia is interested in maintaining political stability in a country with which we enjoy friendly relations and which has been and remains our strategic partner. The Russian Government has taken a decision to allocate to Kyrgyzstan humanitarian aid, which has already begun to arrive in the Republic.

We should like to express our support for the measures being taken by the Kazakh Chairmanship to assist in initiating political dialogue in Kyrgyzstan. We consider the dispatch to Bishkek of Mr. Zhanybek Karibzhanov as special envoy of the Chairperson-in-Office to be a timely gesture, and we are counting on receiving from him, directly from the scene, objective and complete information on what is happening.

By and large, the Kazakh Chairmanship has, it seems to us, acquitted itself well in this difficult situation and has taken concrete steps while at the same time observing all the necessary procedural norms, something that, unfortunately, cannot be said of the OSCE as a whole. One cannot avoid asking the legitimate question: Where was the preventive diplomacy of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) and of the field mission in Kyrgyzstan, both of which, let us be frank, once again failed to perform their assigned duties, proving incapable of either providing early warning or of preventing a conflict involving violent clashes and the spilling of blood.

In any case, up to the very beginning of April 2010 there was no clear mention in the reports by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek distributed in Vienna of a likely tragic turn of events in the host country. Neither did we receive any information from the senior officials of the

CPC regarding the crisis situation that was developing there. I do not rule out the possibility that some confidential reports about which we, the participating States knew nothing were circulated. Here the logical question arises as to the openness and transparency in the work of this institution, which is after all accountable to the Permanent Council.

You will agree I am sure that the behaviour of the OSCE in this matter once again provides grounds for serious thought to be given to the question of our Organization's relevance with respect to crisis management. The time has come to draw the proper conclusions.

And one final remark. We have serious doubts as to the need to involve the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in the events taking place in Kyrgyzstan, something suggested by a number of previous speakers. We see no added value and, most importantly, no usefulness in involving the resources of this OSCE institution at the present stage. This is not its task.

Thank you for your attention.