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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR RINA PRIJIVOIT,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
TO THE OSCE, AT THE 695th PLENARY MEETING OF THE OSCE
PERMANENT COUNCIL ON ITEM 1 OF THE AGENDA**

10 January 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

To begin with, allow me to congratulate you too, Mr. Chairman, on your assumption of a leading role in the work of our Organization. This is a high honour and a great responsibility, but at the same time it provides you with a favourable opportunity for contributing to the renewal of the OSCE and actively assisting in further developing its considerable potential.

Permit me also, on behalf of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, to express my sincere gratitude to the Spanish Chairmanship for its extremely active and fruitful work and particularly for the useful initiatives that have resulted in an increasing involvement of the OSCE in the Central Asian region.

We agree with you that, despite different approaches and views, our Organization must, as in the past, continue to work actively to ensure security throughout the OSCE area. Representing as it does a unique platform for dialogue and the discussion of political problems, the OSCE is at the same time an active player in transforming into reality the decisions that have been adopted. It is precisely in this process, as we are all aware, that the capacity and *effectiveness* of the Organization is manifested.

Along with the other participating States, we shall unquestionably continue to co-operate with and support the Chairmanship in its overall effort to adapt the OSCE to the new realities and demands confronting it. In this connection it is obvious to us that equality must remain a core feature of the OSCE and should be transformed into a feeling of a shared unity in diversity on the part of States espousing common values.

We regard as extremely interesting the proposal to involve in the work of the Troika two countries chosen to chair our Organization in the future — Kazakhstan and Lithuania. The participation of a representative of Central Asia in this “quintet” will unquestionably make it possible to better guide the work of the Organization towards the solution of the problems facing the countries of the region.

You were right, Mr. Chairman, in pointing out that securing the borders with Afghanistan will help to increase the level of security for the entire OSCE area. This applies to all the dimensions in the work of our Organization. The countering of terrorism, the drugs threat and organized crime, the development of the economy and the protection of the environment, and the further democratization of the processes of State-building and the establishment of a civil society — all these undertakings require continued effective co-operation with the countries of Central Asia so as to ensure reliable conditions of collective security.

In that context there is good reason to continue the positive trend noted in your statement towards expanded co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations. For the countries of the region it is important that the OSCE should work together with such regional organizations as the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Shanghai Co-operation Organization. Each of these organizations has its own specific expertise that can serve as a supplementary and effective factor in achieving the common goal of ensuring stability and prosperity for the Central Asian States.

We welcome Finland's intention to step up the OSCE's interaction with the countries of Central Asia. The Kyrgyz Republic endorses the basic aims of the OSCE's activities in Central Asia as listed in the programme of the Finish Chairmanship of the OSCE for the year 2008. At the same time we also think it important to include among those activities the question of the rehabilitation of the uranium tailings storage sites, which pose an ecological threat to all the countries of the region. We likewise sincerely welcome Finland's readiness to strengthen the work of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, which has become one of the region's most successful training and research institutions. We should like to express the hope that the priority tasks as earlier formulated for the activities of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek for 2008 will be fully realized.

The Kyrgyz Republic ascribes particular importance to the work of the OSCE field missions, playing as they do a vital role within the terms of their mandates in assisting participating States to meet their obligations. In this connection we should like to note that November 2007 marked the end of the term in office of Ambassador Markus Müller as head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, a term that has since then been repeatedly extended. We are concerned at the absence of consultations with the leadership of the Republic as provided for in the case of the appointment of OSCE field mission directors. We should like to express the hope that the new head of mission in Bishkek will be appointed in full accordance with the Staff Rules and Regulations, an important provision of which requires that full account be taken of the results of consultations with the host country. For us an approach of this kind would be, as you have put it, Mr. Chairman, an "injection of optimism".

In conclusion, allow me on behalf of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to wish the Finnish Chairmanship every success in the year ahead, one that will see the OSCE enter a qualitatively new stage in its evolution. Helsinki has, as pointed out, always been associated with turning points in the history of our Organization.

Thank you for your attention.