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United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Human Rights in Uzbekistan

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
September 17, 2009

Madam Chair.

The United States is pleased to take note of the recent comments by the distinguished Director of ODIHR Ambassador Janez Lenarcic on the forward movement made by Uzbekistan and the increased cooperation between the Government of Uzbekistan and ODIHR in the area of human rights.

The efforts to improve detention conditions, the release of some human rights activists, and the extension of the International Committee of the Red Crescent program of prison visits were all particularly well received. We urge Uzbekistan to continue looking to ODIHR for guidance in areas such as enhancing legislation on human rights, fighting trafficking in persons and raising public awareness of human rights.

We also take this opportunity to urge Uzbekistan to capitalize on this increased cooperation and ensure full compliance with the requirements of due process in the appeal hearing for journalist Dilmurod Sayyid.

We are confident that cooperation between Uzbekistan and ODIHR will continue, especially in light of the upcoming December 27th elections, for which we expect ODIHR to offer assistance and to deploy an observation mission.

Thank you, Madam Chair.