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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 July 2009

Madam Chairperson,

We should like to express our gratitude for the assessments of the recent presidential elections in the Kyrgyz Republic delivered by the European Union, the United States of America, Canada, Norway and Russia, and to assure you that those assessments will be passed on to our government. Allow me also to thank the election observation mission dispatched by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) for its painstaking work in monitoring the presidential election campaign in our country.

In line with its international commitments, the Kyrgyz Republic acted in good time to invite international observers and to put into place all the conditions needed for international and domestic monitoring of the preparations for and conduct of the presidential elections, for example by doubling the number of international observers.

Some one thousand international monitors along with 20,000 observers from local organizations monitored the preparations for and holding of the presidential elections in the Kyrgyz Republic on 23 July 2009. They included an OSCE mission consisting of 280 monitors from 40 countries, including 38 long-term and 210 short-term observers as well as 28 parliamentarians and staff from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

On the whole, the Kyrgyz presidential elections took place in quite a calm, good-natured and transparent atmosphere respectful of the constitutional rights and freedoms of the country's citizens. This represents an important factor in the further democratization of public life in our country.

According to preliminary figures made available by the Central Election Commission, 2,328,000 voters participated in the elections, in other words 79.13 per cent of all those entitled to vote. The elections were held in accordance with the provisions of the current electoral legislation in the country. Ballots were cast at 2,330 polling stations in the presence of observers from political parties, other public associations and non-profit organizations.

On the basis of the vote count carried out, as of today it would appear that Kurmanbek Bakiyev secured 76.12 per cent of the votes cast.

It is worthwhile noting that despite the fact that the elections were held on a working day and during the vacation period, a great many people went to the polls. This high turnout

for a presidential election attests to the keen sense of civic responsibility on the part of Kyrgyz citizens in exercising one of their basic rights, the right to vote. This is yet further evidence of the effective way in which the government and civil society are today communicating with one another.

In continuing the policy already begun to expand and intensify this multilateral dialogue, the Office of the President has proposed to all interested parties – representatives of the various political movements, all branches of government, civil society, international organizations and the media – that a public discussion of the latest presidential elections should be held in September of this year. To this end, there is a plan to establish a working group made up of representatives of all interested parties.

As for complaints, I should like to draw particular attention to the fact that as of today the Central Election Commission has reviewed all the complaints received in line with the current national legislation, has properly assessed them and has identified ways of dealing with them.

It was with great interest and sense of responsibility that we read the preliminary report by the ODIHR mission, which will very soon be analysed most carefully by the Central Election Commission and other interested agencies.

At the same time, as one studies the preliminary report, and on the basis of information received from our country, one has the impression that a number of ODIHR mission representatives are interested in “dramatizing things”. A few instances of irregularities, often of an isolated nature, are used to justify a negative impression as a kind of basic leitmotif, generalized in the form of conclusions that speak of “inability”, “mistrust”, “concern”, “abuse”, “pressure”, “regret”, “disappointment” and “failure to recognize or to meet key OSCE commitments”.

We firmly believe that these descriptions are not in line with the general opinion of most of the members of the missions or the international observers who were present in Kyrgyzstan.

We are ready for constructive co-operation to find effective ways of improving our electoral process in line with the recommendations made by all the observation missions that were working in Kyrgyzstan.

In conclusion, I should like to say that no one doubts that any elections should be viewed as providing an opportunity for gradual changes as part of the sustained and ongoing development of electoral legislation and all election-related procedures.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.