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Delegation of Kyrgyzstan

**STATEMENT BY MS. LYDIA IMANALIEVA,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
TO THE OCSE, AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 November 2011

Regarding the presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Chairperson,

Four days have already passed since the Kyrgyzstan presidential elections, an extremely important and momentous event in the country's recent history.

In connection with this, we should like to inform the Permanent Council of the preliminary results of the 30 October elections.

These elections were of inestimable significance for my country. They put the robustness of the political reforms initiated by the interim Government to the test, making Kyrgyzstan the first parliamentary republic in Central Asia.

The Kyrgyzstan presidential elections have ushered in a new era in the democratic development of my country. For the first time in the 20-year history of independent Kyrgyzstan, power has changed hands peacefully.

These were the first elections whose result was not known in advance. Today, we can say with certainty that presidential elections have been held without any glaring irregularities during the voting. They were transparent, above board, peaceful and democratic. All of the total number of 16 candidates were able to conduct an election campaign that the media could cover. They were treated equally and given the opportunity to express their point of view. The number of candidates for the presidency ensured a wide choice for the voters and the people exercised their will freely.

The elections were conducted in accordance with current national legislation and with international electoral standards. The country's leadership took painstaking steps to prevent the misuse of administrative power and to reduce the risks of any irregularities during the elections.

My fellow countrymen and women showed a great sense of responsibility for upholding and strengthening the principles of democracy and for the country's destiny in

general. The Kyrgyz public was ready to see all the candidates who took part in the presidential contest display a high level of political culture.

According to the Kyrgyzstan Central Election and Referendum Commission, more than 3 million people were registered to vote and preliminary assessments put the turnout at over 60 per cent. The votes were also counted in an open and transparent way.

Of course, there were some shortcomings, but these were mainly of a technical nature and so few that they could not have had any effect on the overall election results. Nevertheless, the problems that arose will not be ignored but will be carefully analysed and resolved. Work on this has already begun.

As you will be aware, President Roza Otunbayeva did not stand for election and did not take part in the race. She was an impartial guarantor that the elections were held according to the principles of openness and democracy. Through the example of Kyrgyzstan, the acting President has clearly demonstrated that power can change hands peacefully, setting a precedent as the first constitutional handover of supreme State authority in the history of Central Asia.

The Central Election Commission has made a preliminary announcement that Almazbek Atambayev, who was Prime Minister before standing down in September, has won the presidential elections with over 63 per cent of the vote.

The participation in the election committees of representatives of the political parties and of local government authorities and the presence of a wide range of observers at the polling stations also greatly helped to ensure a transparent and open electoral process. The presidential elections were carefully watched by, besides local independent observers, observers for the candidates and the media, 792 observers from 47 international organizations representing 56 countries and more than 100 representatives of the foreign media. The presence and work of the independent observers and the range of media ensured public, impartial monitoring of the elections. I would particularly stress that the observers' rights were not compromised and all possible arrangements put in place to ensure that they could monitor the electoral process fully.

In conclusion, we should like to stress that these elections have been clear evidence of Kyrgyzstan's dedication to fulfilling its obligations under international legal human rights documents. The elections went ahead with transparency and democracy. They represented yet another step towards consolidating the democratic process. Above all, they were fair. They represent a starting point for a normal and peaceful life for all Kyrgyz citizens.

The start of the work of the President elect sees the end of the transition period and the full establishment of all the executive branches pursuant to the new Constitution, which we hope will set the country on a stable path of advancement.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.