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United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on OSCE Role in Kyrgyzstan

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
June 17, 2010

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

We very much appreciate your report. We're very glad to hear that on Monday you do plan to present to the Permanent Council a specific plan of action. Let me say right at the first, I think that you can count on our support. I wanted to take a couple of minutes – I know we've been here a long time, it's running late – I just want to outline to you what the views of the United States are and what kind of next steps our organization can take to respond to this crisis in our community.

We believe that the OSCE as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, can build upon the shared commitment expressed in our statement on Tuesday, and serve as a platform for supporting, underpinning and guiding international assistance efforts. We can also engage in planning for longer-term efforts such as capacity-building for local law enforcement agencies and rule of law bodies, renewing dialogue between communities at the local level, and defining steps to deter further destabilizing acts.

In addition to this coordinating capability, we also believe the OSCE can make an important contribution to ensuring that the borders of Kyrgyzstan do not become a flashpoint for continued violence and increased regional tensions. Given the dramatic increase in cross-border movements, the OSCE, with the agreement of the relevant national authorities, could consider offering civilian monitoring and support in the affected border areas. These actions could build upon or be accompanied over time by capacity-building programmes for national border management agencies.

Another area that we believe the OSCE's current experience and capacity could be deployed is in support of the police of Kyrgyzstan. An international police task force organized and managed by the OSCE could monitor and mentor Kyrgyzstan's police forces and support the Kyrgyz authorities in restoring public order strengthening law-enforcement capacities of local authorities; and, easing inter-ethnic tensions to further political dialogue aimed at finding a long-term solution to the crisis.

Mr. Chairman and colleagues, we all know the humanitarian situation in Central Asia is dire. Time is of the essence. The need for action is urgent. We need to act in conjunction with other international institutions to give form to the concerns that we so eloquently expressed in this hall two days ago.

We look forward to the more detailed elaboration of these ideas from you, Mr. Chairman, and from the Secretariat in the coming days.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.