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## United States Mission to the OSCE

### Statement on Events in Kyrgyzstan

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Carol Fuller  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
July 8, 2010

We welcome the information just provided by the Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan and the Director of the Conflict Prevention Center.

The United States is of course disappointed that we are not today reaching consensus on a PC decision to send a Police Task Force to Kyrgyzstan. We fully expected that we would have done so today.

Perhaps it is worth recalling some of the conclusions and recommendations of the Needs Assessment Mission issued ten days ago. In its report, the Mission made clear that:

- There has been a breakdown of trust and confidence between the civil society and the police;
- An OSCE Police Task Force could contribute to developing dialogue and trust between the police and the ethnic communities of Kyrgyzstan;
- Deep anger remains, fueling tensions that affect the stability of the entire region;
- There is a genuine danger that even some small events could trigger renewed hostilities. Mediators of the Police Task Force, working together with police and communities, could help defuse these tensions;
- A Police Task Force could help to fulfill expectations that the international community take steps to address the root causes of these problems.

Mr. Chair, despite the comments made today, we are concerned that time is passing and action is still needed. As a Spot Report from the OSCE Center in Bishkek issued July 6 reveals, the figures of those killed during these sad days of conflict are still growing. The Spot Report also states that the cities of the south remain calm, but tense. Sporadic shooting continues to be heard during the night. A curfew is not efficiently enforced and instances of ethnic unrest continue to flare, as in the case of ethnic Turks in the village of Nariman reportedly ordered to leave their homes on July 1. Provocative rumors continue to swirl. Delays in the delivery of aid and relief supplies, occasioned by the fear of traveling into certain neighborhoods, also continue.

We recognize the sovereign right of Kyrgyzstan to decide what it needs and to make those needs known to the OSCE. We understand that there are some reservations and suggestions for enhancements on the part of the Kyrgyz Ministry of the Interior, and therefore we welcome the intense consultations underway here in Vienna, which we hope will alleviate these concerns and address their suggestions.

We hope the remaining issues can be quickly resolved so that, as we called for in our collective statement last week, we might see an early deployment of a Police Task Force – or Police Advisory Group, as it is now being called – to help resolve the current situation, prevent the spillover of tensions in the region, and promote post-conflict rehabilitation.

The deployment of an OSCE Advisory Group or Task Force would demonstrate implementation of OSCE commitments to strengthen regional stability and protect individual rights.

Mr. Chairman, we all know that serious inter-ethnic problems remain in Kyrgyzstan. We all know that ethnic Uzbeks represent up to 15% of Kyrgyzstan's population, but they are scarcely represented in the police or military forces of Kyrgyzstan. We all know that the OSCE has a demonstrated capacity for helping countries to develop a multi-ethnic police force.

Moreover, at the High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination held in Astana last week President Nazarbayev himself referred to Central Asia as a region of complicated ethnic patterns. He stated "The bitterest consequence of the conflict in Kyrgyzstan is that the seeds of mistrust can be sown between other peoples of the region." He continued that "this represents a significant challenge to the stability in the region and a threat to all OSCE participating States."

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, it would be ironic, and indeed sad, if the Government of Kyrgyzstan does not call on the OSCE's capacity to help in the very area where so much needs to be done to prevent future inter-ethnic conflict in Kyrgyzstan itself, and to prevent destabilization of the region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.