



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN KYRGYZSTAN

As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
24 June 2010

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me first express a vote of thanks to the Chairmanship, as well as to the Secretary-General and OSCE officials, both in Vienna and in the region, for their all their hard work and dedicated efforts over the last days and weeks.

Thanks also to our Kyrgyz colleague for her informative update and clear messages about the urgent needs for international assistance, notably from the OSCE.

We welcome the reports about improvements in the security situation, which inter alia has allowed some refugees to return to their homes. We urge the Interim Government to maintain and increase its effort to restore law and order and to protect vulnerable groups against further violence.

I would like to pay tribute to the government and people of Uzbekistan for their efforts to assist refugees, and encourage them to continue to provide relief, hopefully with the assistance of the international community.

We remain very concerned about the fragility of the situation and the still precarious position of the affected populations and note that there are still enormous needs for humanitarian assistance.

The Norwegian Government has decided to allocate 10 million NOK, corresponding to about 1,3 million euro for this purpose, to be channeled through UNICEF, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. We urge all the instances concerned to ensure free access for humanitarian relief.

There is also an urgent need to further stabilize the situation and start the process towards normality, restoring and building confidence between ethnic groups. The OSCE, with all its relevant experience and knowledge of the region, must play its full part in these efforts. The High Commissioner on National Minorities and ODIHR will have vital roles to play, as soon as circumstances permit.

We welcome and support and support, as a first step, the proposals towards a plan of action contained in the Chairmanship's draft concept paper, in response to repeated Kyrgyz requests for assistance. We would have welcomed a more comprehensive plan of action, and look forward to further proposals, which we will consider in a positive spirit. In this regard, we welcome the dispatching of a Needs Assessment Mission, which will help to identify areas where the OSCE can make a difference.

Mr. Chairperson,

A crisis is also an opportunity. The OSCE, under the leadership of the Kazakh Chair, ably assisted by the Secretariat and the Centre in Bishkek, and in very close cooperation with other key international players, was able to play a significant and constructive role in the situation which arose in Kyrgyzstan in April.

The present situation presents new and different challenges that represent a new test for the OSCE, to echo the words of our Kyrgyz colleague. Time is of the essence, and if we want our assistance to a participating State in a still precarious position to be effective, there is no time to loose on bickering and micro-management.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson