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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 December 2011

Regarding the events in the west of Kazakhstan

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian delegation is grateful to the delegation of Kazakhstan for the information it has presented. We deeply sympathize with the families of those who perished. The Russian Federation views the events in the Mangistau region as an internal affair of Kazakhstan. We are convinced that the authorities of that republic are capable of carrying out a careful investigation on their own and of tracking down those guilty of inciting the mass unrest that resulted in the loss of human lives. In that connection, we urge that no hasty conclusions or assessments as to what happened be expressed until the investigations have been completed.

Thank you for your attention.