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STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

24 June 2010

Regarding the situation in Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia is continuing to carefully study the draft Concept Paper by the Kazakh Chairmanship concerning the launch of an OSCE police operation in Kyrgyzstan. In that connection, we take into account the position of the Kyrgyz delegation, which officially declared the partial approval by the Kyrgyz Interim Government of the Concept Paper proposed by the Kazakh Chairmanship for OSCE measures of assistance in the Kyrgyz Republic.

In principle, we have nothing against the deployment of an OSCE police operation in Kyrgyzstan but, at the same time, we believe that it is first necessary to clarify the organizational, procedural and financial aspects of this problem, which, in our view, should be worked out by the collective bodies on the basis of consensus agreements.

It stands to reason that we need to wait for the OSCE assessment mission to return from Bishkek. The aim of that mission was to study the real needs of the Kyrgyz authorities and provide the participating States with exhaustive information on all aspects of the proposed police operation, including information on questions concerned with ensuring the safety of its participants.

Once we have studied that report, we shall have to organize the procedural aspects for the launch of a police operation exclusively on the basis of a Permanent Council decision, since we are dealing with a specific area of activity and a considerable expansion of the monitoring component of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek.

We should like in this connection to stress that any proposals to introduce changes to the existing mandate of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek without the agreement of the participating States is unacceptable to us. As far as the financial aspects of the proposed operation are concerned, a particular question is whether this project would be funded from the budget or extrabudgetary, or a combination of both. All these questions must be the subject of thorough discussion within the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance.

As for the situation in Kyrgyzstan, the essence of the problem lies, in our view, in the fact that the Kyrgyz authorities must stabilize the situation independently; any external assistance must be limited to those forms that are acceptable to the Kyrgyz authorities themselves.

In terms of immediate steps, we are convinced that we need to do everything so that the Kyrgyz authorities can conduct an honest, fair and transparent referendum on 27 June. This will be a first and very important step towards returning the situation to a legal framework, and then on the basis of the results of the referendum it will be possible to prepare for the elections to be held in the autumn of this year.

Thank you for your attention.