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**PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN
TO THE OSCE**

OSCE Permanent Council 1390

**Statement by the Delegation of Tajikistan on
“On the continued provocative and aggressive military actions by the Kyrgyz
Republic against the Republic of Tajikistan”.**
(23 September 2022)

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

We start with reiterating that Tajikistan strongly adheres to the principles of peaceful settlement of all disputes at the border areas. During the whole period of these unfortunate clashes at the border, Tajikistan has been demonstrating strong political will to solve all border-related issues through negotiations and on the basis of the previously reached agreements.

However, I would like to emphasize that our neighbor – Kyrgyzstan – continues its provocative actions through heavy military deployment at the border areas even after the reached ceasefire agreement, even after assurances of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic given to the President of Tajikistan on the sidelines of the SCO Summit on September 16 in Samarqand, and even after the Protocol No. 41 on the settlement of the situation on the border was signed on September 19 by co-chairs of the Tajik-Kyrgyz Intergovernmental Commission.

Mr. Chair,

The Tajik side has been recording a number of provocative actions by the Kyrgyz side increasing tension on the border even after the abovementioned agreements were reached.

The Kyrgyz side creates a false appearance of withdrawal of troops and heavy military equipment from the line of contact hiding them in the border settlements of the Lailak and Chon-Alai districts of the Batken province of Kyrgyzstan.

On September 18, masked heavy military equipment consisting of four units – armored personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles, armored reconnaissance

vehicles and anti-aircraft installation of the Armed Forces of Kyrgyzstan – have been observed near the Tajik frontier post "Sarhadchi" in the Lakhsh district of Tajikistan.

On September 19, the location of 12 units of sheltered military equipment of the Armed Forces of Kyrgyzstan was revealed in the immediate vicinity of Lohuti settlement in Konibodom districts of Tajikistan.

On the same day, the presence of Special Forces of Kyrgyzstan numbering 70 armed personnel was observed in a short distance from the border post of "Nurobod" in Devashtich district of Tajikistan.

Furthermore, the Tajik side continues to record numerous violations of the airspace of the Republic of Tajikistan by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) flying from the territory of Kyrgyzstan. On September 19 and 20, the Kyrgyz UAVs were observed flying over the city of Isfara, the districts of Devashtich, Bobojon Gafurov, Jabbor Rasulov and Rasht of Tajikistan, the Tajik frontier posts of "Sarhadchi" and "Shirinchashma" in the Lakhsh district, "Rosrovut" and "Muryak" in the Devashtich district, as well as over the military units of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Mr. Chair,

Between 2010 and 2022 alone, about 230 conflict cases occurred on the border between Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, including with the use of weapons. If one looks at the chronology of the events of these years, the joint investigations, which have now come to naught, have always revealed that the conflicts with the use of weapons were always started by the Kyrgyz side. At the same time, exceptionally Tajik citizens became the victims of those clashes.

Therefore, the delegation of Tajikistan notes with extreme concern the cases of harassment, intimidation, discrimination and persecution of Tajik citizens and ethnic Tajiks residing in Kyrgyzstan in recent days. Just a few examples:

On September 14 the local authorities of the Kadamzhai district of the Batken province of Kyrgyzstan closed commercial shops of ethnic Tajiks living in the area. The citizens of Kyrgyzstan evacuated from the border areas were purposefully placed in the houses of ethnic Tajiks in that district.

On September 18 the staff of the State Committee for National Security of the Leninsky district of Bishkek, under the pretext of a scheduled inspection of documents, seized the passports of Negmatovs family, citizens of Tajikistan, with a view of forcibly deporting them from Kyrgyzstan.

On September 18 strangers broke the windows and painted the body of a car belonging to Mr. A. Khamdamov, a citizen of the Republic of Tajikistan temporarily residing in Bishkek.

On September 19 four Tajik students studying at the Institute of Aviation of Kyrgyzstan, after being interrogated by the officers of the State Committee for National Security of Kyrgyzstan, were forcibly deported through the Ak Zhol – Kordai checkpoint of the Kyrgyz-Kazakh border.

According to reports, law enforcement agencies of Kyrgyzstan are planning to deport more than 500 Tajik students studying in higher educational institutions in Osh province of Kyrgyzstan.

On the evening of September 18 an unknown person, presumably aged 35, attempted to break the door of the residence of the Ambassador of Tajikistan in Kyrgyzstan, while shouting threats and obscene words against Tajikistan.

These happening in Kyrgyzstan fundamentally contradict the provisions of the Joint Statement of the Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia, in particular paragraph 25 of the document, which states “the need to ensure the protection of the rights and interests of citizens, including those engaged in temporary labor activities, to provide them with legal, social and advisory assistance ” (signed in Cholpon-Ata on July 21, 2022) by all presidents of the region.

The Tajik side regards the policy of persecution of citizens of Tajikistan and ethnic Tajiks as a direct result of the unbridled information campaign prevailing in Kyrgyzstan to create the image of an enemy in the person of Tajikistan and demands that the Kyrgyz authorities immediately take measures to prevent discrimination against ethnic Tajiks and citizens of Tajikistan who are on the territory of Kyrgyzstan.

Tajikistan also calls on Kyrgyzstan to provide adequate security for the Embassy of Tajikistan in Bishkek, its employees and their families in accordance with the commitments of the host country arising from international law.

Mr. Chair,

However, to make the tense situation even worse in the border area, as well as among peoples of both countries, official representatives of the Kyrgyz Republic continue to make baseless statements and spread unfounded allegations against the Republic of Tajikistan.

On September 19, 2022 such a provocative and misleading statement was made during the interview by the Secretary of the Security Council of Kyrgyzstan, Marat Imankulov. In connection with this interview, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan stated that “such allegations, based on falsification and distortion of facts, as well as fakes, are intended to mislead the public of the two countries. The responsibility for the consequences of such false statements, capable of inflaming the situation in these difficult times for our peoples, rest on the conscience of their authors. In this regard, the Ministry once again confirms the position of Tajikistan on the inadmissibility of the escalation of tension in the media space”.

We believe that such biased and baseless statements at the highest level could intensify the conflicts in the border area between the two countries, as well as disturb the situation in the whole Central Asian region.

Mr. Chair, distinguished colleagues,

Today, any unverified, unbalanced, and one-sided assessment of the situation at the Tajik-Kyrgyz border, and even more so – circulation of statements based on such assessments – will not serve for the benefits of the parties and may have negative consequences, “adding fuel to the fire”. An example of such an unfair, dishonest and biased statement is the one made on September 16 by Mr. Baghdad Amreyev, the Secretary General of the Organization of Turkic States on the situation at the Tajik-Kyrgyz border. The statement was strongly condemned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, emphasizing that such statement was deeply regrettable, since it was at odds with the goals declared by the organization, one of which was to make a joint contribution to ensuring peace and stability throughout the world. Such a statement impedes the efforts of the Tajik and Kyrgyz sides to resolve all bilateral issues exclusively through political and diplomatic means.

Mr. Chair,

Aggravation and escalation of the situation at the border with Kyrgyzstan has never served and will not serve, by all means, the national interests of the Republic of Tajikistan. We face enough challenges at our border with Afghanistan – the border that stretches for 1,400 kilometers – especially today, when the neighboring country is under the yoke of the Taliban and other terrorist groups. Our border troops are doing their utmost to prevent daily threats and challenges, including drug and weapon trafficking, as well as combating the threats of terrorism and extremism.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that Tajikistan strongly adheres to the principles of peaceful settlement of all disputes at the Tajik-Kyrgyz border. Tajikistan has always been committed to its obligations within the documents signed by the two countries, including the provisions of more than 100 border-related protocols signed during the last two decades and is determined to continue the negotiation process on the delimitation and demarcation of the Tajik-Kyrgyz border based on the principles of friendship and good neighborliness.

We believe that such principles would contribute to the achievement of mutually acceptable outcomes.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.