



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Statement on Presidential Elections in Kyrgyzstan**

As delivered by Christopher Robinson, Political Counselor  
to the Permanent Council, November 3, 2011

The United States would like to congratulate the people and government of the Kyrgyz Republic for demonstrating their commitment to democracy and for the large turnout during the presidential election on October 30. The voters of Kyrgyzstan made clear their support of an orderly and open transition of power.

Election observers have reported shortcomings in the voting process, particularly on voting day, which must be investigated thoroughly and corrected. Yet the election also demonstrated important and positive attributes of a genuine democracy: candidate registration was inclusive, the electoral campaign was open, fundamental freedoms were respected, the media environment has improved, and domestic and international observers freely monitored the voting process on Election Day.

Elections, however, are only one instrument of democratic governance. Serious challenges remain, including priorities already identified by Kyrgyz government leaders, in reforming the judiciary and the rule of law, tackling corruption, and pursuing national reconciliation. The United States takes this opportunity to renew our commitment to help the courageous people of Kyrgyzstan consolidate their democracy, improve their economy, and maintain peace and security.

We also take this opportunity to thank the members of the long- and short-term international election observation missions that helped to protect the integrity of the elections. We extend our gratitude to ODIHR, to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and to the European Parliament. Above all, we want to note the courageous work of the hundreds of domestic observers who demonstrated their commitment to democracy.

We look forward to ODIHR's final report which will contain important recommendations for the conduct of future elections in Kyrgyzstan. We urge the Government of Kyrgyzstan to study the recommendations carefully and to work with ODIHR and other participating States on their timely follow-up.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.