

PC.DEL/685/09
3 September 2009

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of Kyrgyzstan

**STATEMENT BY MS. LYDIA IMANALIEVA,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC,
AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 September 2009

Madam Chairperson,

I should like to once again draw attention to the preliminary findings and conclusions of the OSCE mission to monitor the presidential elections in the Kyrgyz Republic on 24 July 2009.

The Central Election and Referendum Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic carefully studied the conclusions contained in the report by the mission of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and issued a statement that was sent to the Office in Warsaw and published in the information media in Kyrgyzstan.

In line with that statement we consider it necessary to pool the efforts of the mission and of the national Central Election Commission in preparing a final report by the OSCE mission charged with monitoring the presidential elections held in our country on 23 July 2009 for the purpose of ensuring the objectivity, reliability and impartiality of that report and also of properly implementing the mission's basic objective, namely to promote the development of democracy in the OSCE participating States. This may serve as a good example of how one should observe one of the fundamental principles of the Copenhagen agreement, namely the principle of fairness.

It is clear that the conclusions and findings previously arrived at by the mission – which in our view are not entirely justified and occasionally unfounded – can and must be reviewed in the light of all the documents available to the Central Election Commission, and that if the assessment is disregarded or rejected, this fact can serve as proof of bias on the part of individual members of the mission and may cast doubt on the latter's competence, leading to an unwillingness to be guided by their recommendations in the future.

As you are aware, the results of the presidential elections in the Kyrgyz Republic have been recognized by all the participants in the electoral process, a fact made eloquently and reliably clear by their failure to contest the final decision of the Central Election Commission on the outcome of the election and by the Kyrgyz Constitutional Court's recognition of the presidential elections on 23 July as being in conformity with the country's constitution.

The elected president of the country has received and is continuing to receive messages of congratulations not only from heads of State but also from the senior officials of different international organizations, among them the United Nations and the OSCE.

It should be noted that the irregularities detected during the elections by the observers were not of a systemic nature but were for the most part associated with technical and subjective causes that, generally speaking, could not essentially affect the outcome of the elections, in the preparations for and conduct of which the Kyrgyz Government demonstrated maximum openness and transparency.

It needs also to be noted that in line with international experience there is not a single country in which elections are held without irregularities and shortcomings, and it seems to us therefore that the ODIHR should pay particular attention to the training of professional and qualified observers able to perform their work in an impartial and objective manner.

We are in favour of rules that are clear-cut, transparent and understandable to all. What this means therefore is, first of all, respect for the sovereignty of the State; secondly, a uniform approach to all countries conducting elections; thirdly, transparency in the decisions taken to dispatch international monitoring missions to observe elections; fourthly, impartiality in conducting the monitoring and freedom from political motivation; and fifthly, the aim of providing genuine help.

We should particularly like to underscore the fact that any preliminary or final conclusions on a monitoring operation essentially represent a multifaceted and many-sided report on the work performed by the mission and also an analysis of the material it has collected. Frequently, however, such reports more than anything else represent a unilateral, politically motivated assessment.

For these reasons, it would make sense to recall once again our collective proposals on the reform of our Organization and its institutions. As long as we do not collectively harmonize the standards to govern international election monitoring in the OSCE participating States, including the relevant legal status, this issue must remain one of the key topics on the agenda of our Organization.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.