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PC.DEL/1509/21
30 September 2021

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. VLADIMIR ZHEGLOV,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1337th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 September 2021

**In response to the address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic,
Mr. Ruslan Kazakbaev**

Distinguished Minister, dear Ruslan Aitbaevich,

We highly value the strategic partnership between the Russian Federation and the Kyrgyz Republic and the time-honoured ties of friendship and mutual understanding. We note the large number of high- and top-level visits, in fact President Japarov has already visited Russia twice this year. There is sustained interaction between our countries in political, trade and economic, cultural and humanitarian, military and military-technical fields.

Consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, meetings of the Russian-Kyrgyz Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Humanitarian Co-operation, interregional conferences, and interparliamentary and multilateral events are held on a regular basis. The Days of Russian Spiritual Culture were held in Kyrgyzstan in August to coincide with the “cross-year” of the two countries.

Russia is Kyrgyzstan’s main trading partner. There are around 700 joint ventures operating successfully in the Republic, and the Russian-Kyrgyz Development Fund and Business Council is also active.

We see a mutual interest in further expanding promising long-term forms of economic co-operation and intensifying production co-operation in various fields in order to increase capital investment and bilateral trade. The opening of the Talas gold mining complex at the Jerooy deposit in March, which was attended by the Presidents of Kyrgyzstan and Russia, is a typical example of this co-operation. We are confident that this very large investment project (more than 600 million US dollars) will give a strong impetus to the country’s economic development.

Russia and its Kyrgyz allies support the strengthening of mutually reinforcing alliances through the development of integration processes within the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. In particular, a face-to-face meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council was held in Cholpon-Ata on 19 and 20 August with the participation of the Heads of Government of the EEU countries.

We intend to continue close interaction within the OSCE and the United Nations, including joint initiatives on a number of relevant topics. We welcome Kyrgyzstan's traditional participation in the joint statements on victory in the Second World War and its co-sponsorship of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions on combating the glorification of Nazism.

We note the close co-ordination with the host authorities of the project work of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek in line with the political, economic and social reforms being carried out in Kyrgyzstan and the promotion of regional security issues, not least in the light of the changing situation in Afghanistan.

We are aware of the scale of the Afghan problem. Russia is constructively engaged in promoting a settlement through the Extended Troika and the Moscow Format. We view the OSCE's role in responding to challenges emanating from this country's territory as complementary to the efforts of other States and organizations. OSCE projects with an Afghan component should focus primarily on countering the spread of terrorism and drug trafficking in order to ensure regional stability and to address the legitimate concerns and interests of neighbouring countries.

We share the focus of our Kyrgyz allies on reforming national electoral legislation and holding parliamentary elections on 28 November in line with generally recognized international standards.

We intend to further improve these standards together and have already taken initiatives to that end in the OSCE. I would remind you that along with a number of other participating States, including Kyrgyzstan, we have repeatedly spoken about the need to develop within the OSCE a rule book agreed by consensus for election observation. At the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Madrid in 2007, for example, Kyrgyzstan and Russia, along with Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, submitted a joint proposal for a draft ministerial decision on OSCE/ODIHR observation of national elections (PC.DEL/898/07). It still remains relevant today, especially in view of the evident inconsistency and politicization of the electoral methodology of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). There are a number of questions for the ODIHR on this topic, some of which we voiced at the Permanent Council meeting on 23 September.

We are confident that the forthcoming elections to the Jogorku Kenesh will be democratic, transparent and legitimate, reflecting the full range of political forces in the Kyrgyz Republic.

In conclusion, we should like to wish all the people of Kyrgyzstan and you personally, dear Ruslan Aitbaevich, health and prosperity.

Thank you for your attention.