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**STATEMENT BY MR. KADYRBEK SARBAEV,
STATE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, AT THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Athens, 1 and 2 December 2009

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me for myself and on behalf of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic to express thanks to the Greek Chairmanship for the successful leadership of our Organization and the excellent organization of the concluding meeting.

This year has seen some serious tests of political will for our Organization in resolving politico-military and general humanitarian challenges, but it has also been a year of security dialogue, initiated by the Greek Chairmanship. The Kazakh Chairmanship will need to develop this dialogue and, if possible, crown it with the adoption of a new and updated Treaty on European Security. The Kyrgyz Republic firmly supports the holding of an OSCE summit meeting in Kazakhstan in 2010.

For Kyrgyzstan, as an equal partner in the Eurasian geopolitical process, combating international terrorism, extremism, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, organized crime and trafficking in human beings is of paramount importance and we shall make every effort to effectively counter these challenges to security.

The OSCE today unites the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian communities. The Eurasian dimension of the present geopolitical system makes it imperative for us to reconsider the work of the OSCE institutions created by us.

We are interested in enhancing the role of the OSCE in the creation of a Eurasian security architecture. At present, the system of security and co-operation may be regarded as European or Asian. However, in view of the dynamic development in the post-Helsinki era, we regard Europe and Asia, which are connected by a great number of historical, economic and cultural links, as a single geographical and political space.

In developing the Corfu Process, the fundamental importance of a comprehensive, universal and indivisible approach to security should be confirmed. There is also a need to refine politico-military dialogue and to elaborate confidence- and security-building measures together.

Kyrgyzstan supports the fundamental norms and principles contained in the new draft Treaty on European Security. Its scope needs to be extended, since Central Asia is an inseparable part of the integration process, which also has an impact on regional security.

The situation in Afghanistan gives rise to particular concern. Our work next year should include the elaboration of effective mechanisms to strengthen regional security and stability. We regard the exploitation of the additional potential offered by the OSCE as an effective supplementary instrument for co-ordinating our joint activities in dealing with the threats emanating from Afghanistan.

In this context, I should like to say something about the role played by Madrid. In his endorsement of the decisions adopted at the meeting in Madrid, President Bakiyev announced the “Bishkek initiative”, offering the Kyrgyz capital as a venue for the opposing sides in Afghanistan to hold talks. The achievement and establishment of inter-ethnic agreement and consensus in neighbouring Afghanistan, and peaceful renewal and democratization of that country are of fundamental importance for Kyrgyzstan and the entire region.

We also believe that the “Bishkek initiative” could serve as a mechanism for further refining and entering into a new qualitative level of co-operation and for improving the effectiveness of collaboration with all international and regional organizations and States concerned.

A training centre for customs services has been opened in the Kyrgyz Republic with the assistance of the OSCE for the training of Afghan customs officials. I should like to take this opportunity to draw attention in this regard to the financial support in implementing this project provided by Japan, Norway and Luxembourg.

Kyrgyzstan attaches great importance to the OSCE’s economic strategy and to strengthening the practical impact of the Economic and Environmental Forum, particularly with regard to the creation of fair conditions for trade and economic co-operation in the OSCE region with account taken of the interests of all participating States.

Strengthening the economic dimension in the OSCE’s work would offer an important stimulus for the development of the Organization that would permit it to concentrate its joint efforts on the creation of an economic system that would take full account of equality and partnership among the OSCE participating States.

This is particularly important in the light of the world economic crisis, which impacts in the first instance on the socially vulnerable strata of the population. We believe that it would be timely for the OSCE to work on modernizing the global system of financial security and to elaborate a financial security strategy providing for mechanisms to prevent and eliminate of the consequences, should such situations arise again.

There is also a need to increase collective responsibility for the environment. The Kyrgyz Republic has repeatedly drawn attention to the difficult situation regarding uranium tailings storage facilities in our country. Some measures have already been initiated in this regard but Kyrgyzstan nevertheless requires the support of our partners in the OSCE to resolve the problem of storing tailings, which could have negative consequences for the countries in the region.

With a view to improving confidence in international election monitoring, we believe that the organization of international monitoring by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights is in need of radical reform and should be carried out in keeping with the rules adopted by all of the OSCE participating States. We firmly believe in the need for the elaboration of clear criteria and a single method of assessing election processes throughout the OSCE area.

I hope that the Republic of Kazakhstan, which will be assuming the OSCE Chairmanship, will take the necessary steps to further strengthen the generally recognized principles of equal co-operation within the Organization and will elaborate an effective mechanism for dealing with the tasks facing us so as to give new stimulus to the development of the OSCE.

In conclusion, I should like to wish Kazakhstan every success in leading our Organization and to emphasize the willingness of the Kyrgyz Republic to participate actively and fully in all aspects of the work of the Organization in all the dimensions in line with the policies of the President of the Republic, which are based on democratic values and the principle of partnership with the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.