

**Speech of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Mr. Erlan Abdyldaev
on the 20th session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers
of the OSCE Member States
(5 December, 2013, Kyiv)**

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Dear colleagues,**

I also would like to express my gratitude to the acting Chairman of OSCE, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, my colleague Mr. Leonid Kozhara and his team for the excellent organization of the final Ministerial meeting. We highly appreciate all the efforts and work of the Ukrainian chairmanship during the whole year of 2013.

Dear colleagues,

The outgoing year has reconfirmed the propriety of our decision to choose the parliamentary-presidential system in our country. Kyrgyzstan is experiencing important changes in its public, political, and economic spheres of life. Despite the challenges to a democratic transition, especially after the tragic events of 2010, Kyrgyzstan has been able to clearly define its goals for further development. For now they are all reflected in the National Strategy of Sustainable Development for 2013-2017, which outlines the main directions of political, economic, and social development of the country for the upcoming years. To implement and achieve the goals declared in this Strategy the Government has adopted a Programme and a Transition Plan to sustainable development based on democratic principles, including the right to ethnic diversity, rule of law, strengthening of state identity and creating a civic one, economic integration into the global community, and further development of multilingualism.

We consider that the most significant impetus for all branches of government has been the establishment of a genuinely constitutional state by strengthening its electoral system. The main indicator of the success of these endeavors will be seen in the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections in 2015 and 2017 respectively. Fair elections are an important precondition for further enhancement of stability and security. For that, we need adequate international financial, technical, and expert support.

Today, we are already speaking of economic sustainable development, thinking of future perspectives, and having a clear vision of what we want. To this end, we are undertaking all necessary measures on our social and economic development and providing the most attractive conditions for investors. The emphasis is on the development of the mine industry, energy, tourism, agriculture, transportation, the financial sector, businesses based on new and environment-friendly technologies. The fight against corruption is the key factor for our economic and social transformation.

Dear colleagues,

Strengthening overall cooperation with our neighboring countries is a necessary tool for stable development and security enhancement.

Currently, integration is the key factor of development. In this regard, I would like to emphasize that this year Bishkek became a platform for discussion of and decision-making on regional issues. The Kyrgyz capital hosted a number of significant events in the framework of Collective Security Treaty Organization, Shanghai Cooperation Organization and other forms. We believe that this work has notably responded to contemporary threats and challenges and framed further plans on development of trade and economic interactions.

However, it must be noted that not all problems in the region are being successfully resolved, specifically the building just and mutually beneficial trade and economic relations. Attempts on liberalization of trade rules, harmonization of national legislations, enhancing free transit on transnational routes are still not dynamic enough.

The issue of joint water management is also on the agenda in inter-state relations in Central Asian region. In this regard, I would like to note that Kyrgyzstan seeks to focus on development of its own hydropower potential in the course of its development. This is fully echoed with the initiative of the UN Secretary General, according to which the year of 2012 was announced as the international year of sustainable energy for all by the UN. Free access to contemporary cheap energy saving services in developing states bears an extremely important meaning for achieving developmental goals, including those of the Millennium Declaration. No doubt, the issue of accessible energy will be also reflected in the new UN global programme after 2015 (Post-2015).

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Obviously, the situation in the Central Asian region plays a decisive role in security matters, which manifests in securing sustainable development for the whole territory of OSCE.

Central Asian states and Kyrgyzstan particularly still remain exposed to threats to peace, stability, and security. The greatest external risk for Central Asia is emanating from the Afghan factor, including terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking.

Soon we will be witnessing the commencement of the withdrawal of International Security Assistance Force troops from Afghanistan and the transfer of responsibility to Afghan national security forces. We consider that the transfer of responsibility for security should be undertaken gradually and consistently, keeping the overall stability. It should not be allowed that withdrawal of the coalition forces would open up the way for destructive elements and penetration of various extremist and terroristic groups into the neighboring countries. As reported, the most important task is to prevent new threats: public radicalization and triggers of interfaith and religious tensions.

In this regard, we consider extremely important the continuing attempts on improving the systematic approach in fighting terrorism, decreasing terrorism's attractiveness and solving social and economic problems.

Illicit drug trafficking also raises concerns over regional security. Drug business of international character became one of the key factors of instability in Central Asia. The process of integration of organized drug communities into an international system of drug trade is gaining more strength.

Kyrgyzstan is greatly influenced by the Afghan drug trafficking. In the last years drug-expansion has become more aggressive, being the main source of danger to the gene

pool, contributing to transnational organized crime, terrorism, and extremism. Porous borders, weak equipment of the respective agencies, lack of human resources, and insufficient anti-drug propaganda affect the fight against illicit drug trafficking.

Today the problem of border management and lack of border infrastructure remain a big problem. This negatively affects social and economic development of borderline territories; increases illicit drug trafficking and blocks the progress of regional cooperation.

In spite of the existing contradictions on the “2014-factor”, we have to take into account all risks and threats within and outside of Afghanistan that may affect stability in Central Asian region and in the OSCE region in general. It should be noted that all of this requires comprehensive and deep analysis. Therefore, we think that the planned establishment of the Research Centre for Afghanistan-Central Asian issues in Bishkek will be a fine basis for various research interests demanded in the region and allow us to unite the expert potential in this area. Therefore, We urge to support the paragraph on this in the draft Declaration on Afghanistan, where the general efforts of OSCE on this issue are reflected.

Due to the planned withdrawal of the coalition troops from Afghanistan by 2014, the need to run the Transit Centre at Manas International Airport will objectively be exhausted. Our country fully implemented its antiterrorist mission in Afghanistan in accordance with its commitments. Within the last 12 years Kyrgyzstan provided an opportunity for the supply of military and humanitarian goods to Afghanistan through this Centre. We believe that these efforts greatly contributed to the relative stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan. We hope, and we are sure, that the international community will properly evaluate our country’s contribution to the fight against terrorism and extremism.

For now, the peaceful development of Afghanistan is a priority for the international community, along with its transition to a neutral state free of regional tensions with good investment climate and conditions for international trade. We consider that Afghanistan’s integration into regional cooperation and development of its of trade and economic relations with the neighboring states are a key precondition for stable development of the country and ensuring peace and trust within the region.

Kyrgyzstan reaffirms its commitments in the framework of the Istanbul Process that laid the foundation for strengthening confidence-building measures for Afghanistan.

In the issues of economic assistance to Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan emphasizes the role of the multilateral programs. In this context, it is important to involve Afghanistan in regional economic integration by implementation of large joint social, economic, and infrastructural projects.

In this regard, Kyrgyzstan is ready to widen trade and economic relations, realization of the projects on energy export to Afghanistan in the framework of CASA-1000, establishment of tripartite agricultural consortium Kyrgyzstan- Tajikistan-Afghanistan with UN assistance. We also actively support the implementation of the project of the international railroad route Russia- Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan.

Dear Mr. Chairman!

Threats and challenges to security are constantly changing, and our organization should adopt its agenda and priorities to new conditions. In this context, the comprehensive approach of OSCE to security, including not only political and military, but also economic, ecological and humanitarian aspects, is as relevant today as it has always been. Participating states and OSCE in general should find the path to the development of this approach, noting the anniversary of Helsinki Process in 2015.

For today, some mechanisms and criteria of OSCE are being exhausted. They call for total modernization and review. It is important that next Chairmen of OSCE – Switzerland

(2014) and Serbia (2015) have to address this goal seriously and jointly. We also have to address this issue with prompt attention if we aim to bring new changes into the organization.

As we reflect, we are never allowed to narrow the functionality of OSCE or to limit it to number of obligations solely in the humanitarian and human rights sphere. I assume that only a comprehensive approach to security based on equality of all dimensions may become a distinguishing feature of OSCE and its main advantage. I think that in the framework of the actualization of the organization's agenda and its compliance with realistic contemporary demands, the primary need is to increase the roles of military-political and economic dimensions of OSCE.

Special focus should be shifted to the standards of election observations given the experience gained in this field. I consider the importance of the additional development of criteria and methodology, providing objectivity, transparency, and professionalism, and approach that enhances the same ratio to all member-states.

The significance of the "Helsinki+40" Process is obvious. It avails an opportunity to enhance the role of our organization, restore its reputation and its function of being a forum for equal interstate dialogue on security and cooperation issues. In this regard, the upcoming anniversary of the Helsinki Process becomes a unique chance for searching common responses to threats and defining the program of joint actions in the framework of OSCE.

The fight against transnational threats to security should remain one of the important and prioritized directions of the OSCE activities. In the framework of the "Helsinki+40" Process the special focus should be put on strengthening the existing instruments in fighting corruption. Work done in the sphere of the fight against terrorism, illegal drug trafficking, and organized crime is the brightest example of the OSCE's work.

We also think that more attention should be paid to economic issues and effective measures should be taken to promote activities of our organization in this sphere. Noteworthy of mention is the increasing role of economic factors in national and regional security and social-economic demands of the OSCE member-states.

To ensure the progress in these spheres we have to emphasize that a unified agenda for the challenges is the same, but responses vary. Only in this way will OSCE be able to take an adequate place in the international system and contribute to the mutual understanding among the states.

We welcome the invitation of the Chairperson-in-Office of Ukraine to the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States to the OSCE Ministerial meeting as guest. We believe that participation of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States in the work of the OSCE will contribute to the achievement of the goals shared by two organizations.

In conclusion, I would like to wish a successful chairmanship to Switzerland and reaffirm Kyrgyzstan's readiness for full and active participation in all three dimensions of the organization.

Thank you for attention!