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PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF
TAJIKISTAN
TO THE OSCE

**Statement by Ambassador Nuriddin Shamsov, Permanent
Representative of Tajikistan to the OSCE at the 796th Permanent
Council Meeting
(Vienna, 4 March 2010)**

*In response to the statements of Delegation of
Spain/EU, USA, Canada and OSCE PA on Tajikistan's
Parliamentarian Elections - 2010*

Mr. Chairman,

We have listened with great attention to the statements of Delegation of Spain/EU, United States of America, Canada and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on Tajikistan's parliamentarian elections to Majlisi Namoyandagon Majlisi Oli (Lower Chamber of Parliament) of the Republic of Tajikistan and local representative bodies held on February 28, 2010 and, shall notify Dushanbe on the matter. The elections have been latest and most landmark event in current sustainable development of Tajikistan toward build-up of civil democratic statehood based on internationally recognized norms and standards as well as fundamental human rights principles and freedoms.

Delegation of Tajikistan regrets the lack of impartial assessment of final results of recent Tajik parliamentarian elections concluded in a preliminary statement launched on March 1, 2010 in Dushanbe by the OSCE/ODIHR and PA election observation mission.

We note the recent election campaign was the freest, transparent and open since independence of Tajikistan. Eight political parties have competed in the peaceful environment and atmosphere of pluralism for the electorate votes. Electoral bodies and authorities of Tajikistan have provided equal opportunities, favorable conditions and competitive environment for all political parties to ensure free and legitimate elections in line with national law and international commitments within global and regional multilateral organizations. During election campaign up to date Tajik courts have

examined more than 35 complaints and lawsuits submitted by political parties and candidates.

According to the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda (CCER) Press-Release issued on March 1st, 2010, turnout in February 28th elections to the Parliament and local representative bodies has been recorded at the level of 87,1percent or 3,154,422 citizens. Altogether, eight political parties participated in the elections and as many as 217 candidates were competing for 63 seats in the legislative chamber of the national parliament, which is elected every five years.

Unprecedented total 537 number of international observers, including the OSCE, SCO, CIS and 25,000 local observers monitored the voting process throughout the territory of Tajikistan. The OSCE election observation mission comprised a total 261 observers from 42 countries, including 200 long-term and short-term observers deployed by the OSCE/ODIHR, as well as 49 parliamentarians and staff from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and 12 from European Parliament.

The CCER stated five political parties won seats in Parliament's Lower Chamber through a proportional party list system a single nationwide constituency, namely the People Democratic Party, the Islamic Revival Party, Communist Party, Agrarian Party and Party of Economic Reforms. Seventy three list candidates were registered to contest the 22 seats the nationwide constituency. The final results of parliamentary elections of Tajikistan will be announced by CCER on March 10, 2010.

The victory of People Democratic Party with 71.69% of votes in an open, fair and competitive contest is an expression of real civil willingness of the citizens of Tajikistan.

According to Mr. Lebedev, CIS Secretary- General and representatives of SCO election observation missions, the election campaign held in full compliance with Tajikistan's election legislation and appropriate international rules and standards, despite episodic shortcomings. Another representative of well-known NGO "For Fair Elections" said that last Tajik parliamentary elections have met more higher international standards. So-called "family voting is a typical for all post-soviet states and did not affect the final results"-stated Head of CIS observation mission.

We emphasize there is no ideal elections at all and, even in the history of states with an advanced political and democratic tradition it is problematic to find ideal examples. President Emomali Rahmon called the elections an important political event to promote furthering economic and social development.

My Delegation appreciates the OSCE international election observation mission's assistance to Tajikistan, in particular personal efforts made by Ms. Pia Christmas-Møller, the OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Coordinator of the OSCE short-term observers and Artis Pabriks, Head of the OSCE/ODIHR long-term election observation mission.

Simultaneously, we note that appropriate recommendations will be duly studied and taken into consideration. Tajikistan stands ready to continue constructive and fruitful dialogue with the OSCE and its relevant institutions on further cooperation and improvement of electoral system.

Thank You Chairman,