

Madam Chairperson and distinguished members of the minority forum. Please allow me to express my gratitude for the opportunity provided to me by MRG to participate in this minority forum and voice our challenges that my community is facing now in economic life. My name is Dildora Khamidova, Kyrgyzstani Uybek, I would like to speak on behalf of 2 NGOs, Foundation for tolerance International and Center for Multicultural & Multilingual Education.

Let me provide a brief context to the current situation in Kyrgyzstan after ethnic hostilities involving the Kyrgys a ethnic group in Kyrgyzstan and ethnic Uzbeks a minority group comprising about 15% of Kyrgyzstans population, when 450 died and approximately 2,000 were injured during the conflict and about 700, 000 residents, mainly ethnic Uzbeks have become internally displaced persons. About 80,000 Uzbeks have left the country to Russia, much a massive migration of Uzbeks has been primarily caused by social and economic hardships and ethnic, and open discrimination. Five months later, however, Kyrgyzstan is still reeling from consequences of so-called June events, which have negatively affected the economic life of ethnic groups in Kyrgyzstan. In such situations minorities are more vulnerable, big amount of minority groups are self-employed in small businesses thus government should take effective steps toward the business related reforms, making easier bureaucratic processes.

However, I would like to underline the positive dynamics of restoring peace and governmental business support interim government has indicated various programmes dedicated to meaningful and effective participation in economic and development policy making such as amendment to the Decree 1977, tax preferences to entrepreneurs. It identifies the exact damaged areas and exempts entrepreneurs from taxes, for example interim government prolonged the registration terms for effected entrepreneurs, low payment will be individually considered and terms will be extended but there are areas for improvements sign the draft recommendations number 24 such as first, lack of information of legal base and aid contribution mechanism for software entrepreneurs, second government should dedicate more resources to fully restore small businesses belonging to representatives of ethnic groups. Third, reduce bureaucratic obstacles in obtaining licences and finally promote and enhance ongoing reconciliation and peace building efforts among entrepreneurs. The government must also be encouraged to promote painful but necessary discussions among the Uzbek and Kyrgyz entrepreneurs about the causes of the violence and further steps to improve the situation.

Madam Chairperson according to the ethnic groups in Kyrgyzstan the Kyrgyz government's reluctance to address above mentioned issues could destabilisation in southern Kyrgyzstan. Several events occurred over the last weeks have contributed to raised concerns about the potential for inter-ethnic clashes due to the discrimination in economic sphere, for example seizing of lands and confiscation by government and criminal elements of the properties belonging to ethnic minorities. Madam Chairperson we hope increased political stability will greatly improve ongoing processes and implement those recommendations.

Thank you.