



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Uzbekistan: Closure of Open Society Institute

As delivered by Deputy Representative Douglas Davidson
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 6, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States is disappointed by the recent decision of the Government of Uzbekistan not to renew the registration of the Open Society Institute, a non-governmental organization active in democratization programs, to continue U.S.-funded and other work in Uzbekistan.

The Open Society Institute receives funding from the United States and has spent close to 22 million dollars in Uzbekistan to help build a vibrant civil society.

This decision by the Government of Uzbekistan jeopardizes valuable assistance programs: they include a 16.7 million dollar Drug Demand Reduction program and a 12 million dollar Basic Education program.

In the 2002 Strategic Partnership Framework, the Government of Uzbekistan and the United States of America pledged to work together to strengthen democratic institutions in Uzbekistan. The work of the Open Society Institute supports these goals.

Thank you.