STATEMENT

of H.E. Mr. Talaibek KYNYROV, Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan

to the United Nations before the Second Committee to introduce the draft
resolution A/C.2/68/L.36 entitled "The role of the international community in
averting the radiation threat in Central Asia"

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the following co-sponsors:

First, those listed on the top of L.36 document, namely Japan, Kazakhstan,
Mongolia, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and my
own country Kyrgyzstan,

As well as those delegations who have joined the list after the submission of
the draft, namely Azerbaijan, Canada and the United States

I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.36 entitled
"The role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central
Asia". The concept note explaining the problem and the rationale behind the draft
resolution is contained in document A/68/143/Rev.1.

Mr. Chairman,

Remediation and securing the safety of uranium waste and other radioactive
and toxic materials, which today total more than 8 million cubic meters in our
territory and more than 800 million tons in the Central Asian region, remain one of
the acute problems to us. The situation is aggravated by the fact that most of the
tailings ponds are located in seismically active, mudflow-prone areas, areas prone
to flooding and with high ground water levels, as well near river banks that form
the basis of Central Asian water supply. The potential consequences of ineffective
solutions would have an impact on lives and health of millions of people in Central
Asia.

The draft resolution L.36 in its preamble part recognizes all the mentioned
facts, considers that despite the efforts made by the States of Central Asia at the
national level, and also the support of international programs and projects, a number of States continue to have serious social, economic and environmental problems associated with uranium and other radioactive and toxic tailings, expresses gratitude to donor countries and welcomes the efforts of international and regional organizations engaged in the process of remediation of radioactive tailings.

The operative part of the draft notes the importance of remediation of areas affected by former uranium extraction plants, recognizes the need to devise and promote effective programmes and projects for responsible and safe management of radioactive and toxic waste in Central Asia, and stresses the important role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central Asia. It also emphasizes the importance of adopting preventive and other measures to resolve the problem of radioactive and toxic waste and to remediate the polluted areas in accordance with the highest safety standards and best global practices, further calls on the international community to assist the States of Central Asia in resolving the problems of uranium tailings ponds and emphasizes the importance of regional cooperation in number of priority areas to prevent the radiation danger in Central Asia.

Mr. Chairman,

This draft resolution is a result of several rounds of informal consultations conducted under the chairmanship of my delegation. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the delegations for their constructive engagement during the course of negotiations and valuable inputs to the text. It is our hope that the draft resolution L.36 will be adopted today in the afternoon by consensus. We would also like to invite all the remaining delegations to co-sponsor it.

I thank you.