

## JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Chingiz Aidarbekov paid an official visit to Norway on 15 January 2019. Bilateral talks were held with Norway's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Ine Eriksen Søreide. There was also a meeting with the Minister of Justice, Public Security and Immigration, Mr Tor Mikkjel Wara. Moreover, Foreign Minister Aidarbekov met with members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Norwegian Parliament, the Storting. The programme also included meetings with Norwegian institutions engaged in project cooperation in the Kyrgyz Republic, such as the Norwegian Radiation Protection Agency, Statistics Norway and the Norwegian Mapping Authority.

– It is a pleasure to host my Kyrgyz colleague in Oslo, says Foreign Minister Ine Eriksen Søreide.

– We have had constructive talks on a range of bilateral and international issues of mutual interest. This provides a good basis for further developing our political relations as well as business cooperation. The Kyrgyz Republic is an important partner for Norway in Central Asia, says Foreign Minister Eriksen Søreide.

– I am very pleased to visit Norway upon the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway, Ms Ine Eriksen Søreide. The meetings were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere. We discussed the Kyrgyz-Norwegian bilateral and multilateral cooperation issues in details. There was also an exchange of views on current international issues. Cooperation with Norway is important for the Kyrgyz Republic. We welcome the development of political, trade-economic and inter-parliamentary cooperation with Norway, as well as the enlargement of contacts in all areas of mutual interest. Project cooperation in the field of statistics and mapping is being successfully implemented between our countries. I would like to emphasize the fruitful cooperation in a multilateral format, including within the framework of the UN and the OSCE. However, our bilateral relations have significant potential. In this regard, we hope that bilateral relations with Norway will be strengthen, including the arrangement of mutual visits at the high and the highest levels. Today, all efforts are being made in the Kyrgyz Republic to further develop the processes of forming a parliamentary form of government and democratic infrastructure, he says, which are supported by national legislation in accordance with international law. Reforms of the judicial and law enforcement systems are underway, which will contribute to ensuring transparency in the country's judicial and law enforcement agencies, says Foreign Minister Chingiz Aidarbekov.

– Being committed to the main goals of the UN Charter, the rule of law, protection of human rights and democratic principles, the Kyrgyz Republic is actively working in the field of human rights at the international level, FM Aidarbekov states.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic expressed gratitude to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway and kindly invites Ms Ine Eriksen Søreide to visit Kyrgyzstan at any appropriate period of time.