



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
23 April 2012

Original: English

---

### Substantive session of 2012

New York, 2-27 July 2012

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**High-level segment: annual ministerial review**

### **Statement submitted by Kyrgyz Committee for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

---

\* E/2012/100.



## Statement

The unstable economic situation and the absence of any social security have led to an increase in the number of people living in poverty. According to statistics, the poverty level in Kyrgyzstan in 2011 was 36 per cent, with 7 per cent of the population living in extreme poverty (according to the 2011 report of the Ministry of Youth, Labour and Employment).

The consequence of this situation is a large number of social problems, such as:

- A high level of child labour, including children being forced to leave school to work. According to the International Labour Organization, about 120,000 Kyrgyz children currently do not attend school
- The growth of juvenile crime, including such contributing factors as the economic situation in the country, lack of educational work and unfavourable conditions in the family
- The massive migration of Kyrgyz citizens to Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and other countries, where they become victims of slavery and human trafficking. According to recent data, more than 1 million Kyrgyz people are currently working in Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and other countries

An example of a recent case is in Krasnodar, Russian Federation, where 76 Kyrgyz citizens are living in slavery. Having gone there to work on a construction site, where they had been promised a good salary, the Kyrgyz citizens had their passports taken away immediately upon arrival, then were beaten, kept in inhumane conditions and forced to work. A “slaveowner” told them that they owed him a large sum of money, since he paid the travel costs to deliver them to Russia, and that, until they worked off the debt, he would not return their passports nor pay them a salary. Among the Kyrgyz citizens are women, some pregnant, and minors.

Such cases are common throughout the Russian Federation. In 2011, 102 Kyrgyz citizens died in the Russian Federation, including 19 in the last two months of the year. The causes of death in most cases were national conflicts and injuries at the workplace.

Many Kyrgyz citizens are also living in slavery in Kazakhstan. A 24-year-old Kyrgyz man called Mirzat Osmonov, who spent four years in slavery, is one example. He went to the neighbouring country with his brother to work but was forced to work for free. His brother, who declined to be a slave, was beaten to death and Mirzat ran away. For almost a year he tried to return home.

The organization can give hundreds of such examples. Kyrgyz citizens who become victims of fraud become not only victims of forced labour but also victims of beatings, rape and even murder in other countries.

The organization is very concerned about human trafficking and issues with modern slavery in Kyrgyzstan. It calls on the Government of Kyrgyzstan to take more serious actions and not to ignore problems and unsolved issues with human trafficking.