



**КЫРГЫЗ РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫН
ЖЕНЕВА ШААРЫНДАГЫ
ТУРУКТУУ ӨКҮЛЧҮЛҮГҮ**

**ПОСТОЯННОЕ
ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
КЫРГЫЗСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ В
ЖЕНЕВЕ**

**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC IN GENEVA**

№ 194/064/71

The Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations Office in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to transmit the response of the Kyrgyz Republic to the joint communication of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change; the Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders dated 17 March 2025.

The Permanent Mission avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: as stated.

Geneva, April 14, 2025

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Geneva**



Translated from Russian

Reply of Kyrgyzstan to the communication from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, the Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders regarding the cancellation of public transport (trolleybus) service in Bishkek

Information on the transfer of trolleybuses from the municipal ownership of the Bishkek Mayor's Office to the municipal ownership of the Osh City Mayor's Office and public participation in the decision to cancel public transport (trolleybus) service in Bishkek

The process of transferring trolleybuses from the municipal ownership of Bishkek Mayor's Office to the municipal ownership of Osh Mayor's Office was carried out in compliance with national law (the Municipal Ownership of Property Act, Bishkek Municipal Council Decision No. 152 of 29 August 2024 on granting consent to the free transfer of passenger trolleybuses to State ownership and Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 738 of 6 December 2024 on issues relating to the transfer of trolleybuses to the municipal ownership of Osh).

The contact system of the trolleybus network is being dismantled as part of an approved plan for modernizing transport in the city. Thus far, 95 km of contact lines that were in a state of disrepair have been dismantled. All dismantled components are being stored in the warehouse of Bishkek City Transport, a municipal enterprise, and are subject to further use as provided for by law.

The cancellation of trolleybus service will not have a negative environmental impact on the city because the trolleybuses will be replaced with electric and gas-fuelled buses that comply with high environmental standards. The electric buses are equipped with modern batteries and the gas-fuelled buses produce significantly lower emissions than their diesel-fuelled counterparts. All these measures are contributing to improving environmental conditions and reducing air pollution in the city.

As part of the implementation of the "Bishkek 2026: A Green and Well-Designed Capital" programme, approved by Bishkek Municipal Council Decision No. 30 of 26 May 2022, the public transport system is being modernized with a view to reducing air pollution in Bishkek by transitioning to environmentally sound modes of transport. At present, municipal public transport runs on compressed gas, an environmentally safe fuel. There are plans to purchase 120 modern electric buses in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which will significantly reduce harmful emissions to the atmosphere. There are plans to convert the remainder of the trolleybuses in the city from trolley-type to self-propelled buses. The technical and economic aspects of this process are currently being studied by experts. This measure will also expand the fleet of environmentally sound passenger transport.

Since the draft decision was posted on the Bishkek Municipal Council website for public discussion, the Bishkek Mayor's Office has been making efforts to publicly explain the decision to transfer the trolleybuses through the media and to respond to citizens' enquiries, with the goal of ensuring openness and providing accessible information. The Bishkek Mayor's Office has also actively made use of the media to inform the public about the decision.

Information on steps taken to comply with international environmental standards and on national plans, laws and monitoring activities aimed at regulating air quality and mitigating the effects of climate change

Kyrgyzstan is taking various steps to comply with international environmental standards and human rights. One of the key documents comprising Kyrgyz climate policy sets out the nationally determined contribution, which was developed in 2021 as part of the implementation of the Paris Agreement. In its contribution for 2021, the section on energy in annex 1 on mitigation measures for the period up to 2030 aimed at reducing greenhouse gases sets out the following measures for reducing emissions in the transport sector: 1.2. Replacement of passenger vehicles powered by internal combustion engines with electric vehicles (with international support); 1.3. Improvement of traffic management and development of bicycle infrastructure (with own resources); 1.6. Replacement of buses powered by internal combustion engines with buses powered by gas-fuelled engines in Bishkek (with own resources); 1.8 Replacement of buses powered by internal combustion engines with buses powered by gas-fuelled engines in Osh (with international support); and 1.10 Replacement of buses powered by internal combustion engines with buses powered by gas-fuelled engines on suburban routes in Bishkek (with international support).

A number of environmental laws have been adopted, including the Subsoil Act, the Environmental Protection Act, the Act on the Protection of the Atmosphere and the Environmental Assessment Act.

In 2021, a presidential decree setting out measures for ensuring the environmental security and climate resilience of Kyrgyzstan was issued. In the decree, emphasis is placed on the importance of access to information and public participation in environmental issues. Kyrgyz law includes technical regulations setting out environmental safety requirements for the planning and conduct of economic activity.

In 2023, the National Environmental Protection Strategy was developed with a view to addressing global, national and local environmental issues. It includes measures for protecting biodiversity, combating climate change and improving environmental sustainability.

Moreover, under the priority action plan for improving air quality in Bishkek approved pursuant to Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 57 of 16 February 2024, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision is coordinating steps to improve air quality that include introducing environmentally sound modes of transport such as buses that run on gaseous fuel and electric buses.

Information on human rights relating to access to information and justice in matters of environmental protection and mitigating the effects of climate change

Under the Constitution, all persons have guaranteed judicial protection of the rights and freedoms provided for in the Constitution, other laws, international treaties to which Kyrgyzstan is a Party and the generally recognized principles and rules of international law. Everyone has the right to defend his or her rights and freedoms and to seek restoration of violated rights by all available means not prohibited by law. The State ensures the development of non-judicial and pre-judicial methods, forms and means to protect human and civil rights and freedoms.

The Kyrgyz judicial system is established by the Constitution and other laws and consists of the Supreme Court and local courts. The Supreme Court and local courts constitute a unified system of courts that administer justice in civil, economic, criminal, administrative and other cases provided for by law.

On 17 October 2024, the Plenum of the Supreme Court adopted a decision on certain issues concerning the application of legislation when courts consider civil cases related to environmental protection, with a view to ensuring that courts apply laws correctly and in a uniform manner when considering civil cases on disputes related to violations of legislation in the areas of environmental conservation and management of natural resources.

The right of access to information is guaranteed by the Constitution and the procedure for the provision of information is determined by law.

The Right of Access to Information Act, which governs relations relevant to the exercise and protection of the right of all persons to have access to information, was adopted on 29 December 2023 with a view to protecting and ensuring the exercise of the right of all persons to have access to information in the possession of holders of information and achieving maximum information openness, disclosure and transparency in the activities of such persons. A request for access to information can be made orally or in written or electronic form.

The Act provides that refusals to provide information and other actions or omissions, or decisions on the part of holders of information can be challenged before a higher authority or official, the Ombudsman (Akyikatchy) or the courts under the terms provided for in the Code of Administrative Procedure.

Information concerning the measures taken to ensure that civil society and human rights defenders in Kyrgyzstan can exercise their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and carry out their peaceful and legitimate activities without fear of intimidation, harassment, undue restrictions or reprisals

The rights of freedom of expression, freedom of speech and of the press and freedom of peaceful assembly are enshrined in the Constitution. Under articles 32 and 39 of the Constitution, all persons have the right to freedom of thought and opinion and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. The procedure for the organization and conduct of such assemblies is determined by law.

Furthermore, under the Peaceful Assembly Act, the exercise of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly may not be restricted except as provided by law to protect national security, public order, public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others.

The restrictions on holding peaceful assemblies in central Bishkek have been established by court decisions. These restrictions are justified by the need to ensure public order and security near buildings of strategic importance, including the Zhogorku Kenesh, the parliament of Kyrgyzstan, the Supreme Court and the building of the Office of the President.

At the same time, an alternative location has been designated: Gorky Park, where there are no restrictions on the conduct of peaceful assemblies. The decisions in question have been communicated to the public through official resources and the media.

Under the Constitution, decisions handed down by the Kyrgyz courts which have acquired legal force are binding on all State organs, local government authorities, legal persons, voluntary associations, officials and private individuals and are enforceable throughout the country.

The procedure for appealing court decisions banning assemblies is governed by national procedural law. Appeals and cassation appeals must be considered in compliance with the established time limits and requirements. Courts that refuse to consider appeals in cases in which a procedural time limit has been exceeded without a valid reason do so in accordance with the law.