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## **PRESIDENT ZHAPAROV MEETS WITH OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE ANN LINDE**

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President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Zhaparov met on Tuesday with Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden Ann Linde, who is on a tour of Central Asian countries.

An issue of strengthening bilateral cooperation in various fields and priorities for the near future were discussed, the Kyrgyz presidents press service said.

The head of state expressed readiness for close and mutually beneficial cooperation with the OSCE, as well as with Sweden on a bilateral basis.

Sadyr Zhaparov emphasized the role of international observers in the conduct of election events in the country.

The Kyrgyz leader also focused on cooperation with OSCE, calling the organization an important platform for equal dialogue on security and cooperation.

He also emphasized the constructive work of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in projects to improve the mechanisms and tools of interethnic policy in Kyrgyzstan.

Zhaparov noted that Kyrgyzstan will remain committed to freedom, democracy and security in the OSCE area, reaffirming the country's full commitment to the Organization's principles and commitments.

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Ann Linde said that Kyrgyzstan is a very valuable partner and participating State with which the Organization intends to continue its interaction.

Noting that gender equality and the role of women in peace and stability play a major role and are a priority for the OSCE, Linde congratulated Kyrgyzstan as one of the first countries in the region to adopt an Action Plan for Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution on Women in Peace and Security and to introduce a 30% quota for women in local elections.

Besides, Ann Linde stressed that environmental issues are also a priority in the activities of the Organization and informed about the intentions to adopt this year the Ministerial Declaration on Climate and its impact on security, expressing hope for Kyrgyzstan's support of this initiative.

She drew attention to the importance of strengthening joint cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and the European Union, which is also the basis for strengthening the Kyrgyz-Swedish bilateral relations.

<http://en.kabar.kg/news/president-zhaparov-meets-with-osce-chairperson-in-office-ann-linde/>

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