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STATEMENT
by
Prime Minister
of the Republic of Tajikistan
H.E. Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda
at
the General Debates of the 69th session
of the UN General Assembly
(26 September, 2014, New York)

**Distinguished Mr. President,
Distinguished Mr. Secretary-General,
Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my great pleasure to join the cordial congratulations extended to distinguished Mr. Sam Kutesa on the occasion of his election as the President of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly. There is no doubt, distinguished Mr. President, that your extensive diplomatic experience and talent will contribute to successful work of the current UNGA session, which faces extremely important issues.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend appreciation to your predecessor, Mr. John Ashe, for his considerable contribution as the President of the 68th session of the UN General Assembly.

Distinguished Mr. President,

My delegation supports your resoluteness to work for eradication of hunger and poverty, and to advance progress in the development of the post 2015 development agenda. The current UNGA session is called upon to reinforce the progress attained during the intergovernmental negotiations of the previous UNGA sessions and to develop clear, just, universal and realistic framework and goals for achieving sustainable development.

In our view, the post 2015 development agenda must be based on the foundation laid down by the development goals formulated in the Millennium Declaration and envisage ways and means of responding to the challenges of a new generation. The main goal of the post 2015 development agenda should become eradication of poverty and inequality with the purpose to promote the achievement of sustainable development, coupled with a balanced consideration of social, economic and ecological aspects.

The sustainable development goals aimed at integration of the three components of sustainable development, with due consideration to the Rio-de-Janeiro principles and national specific features and priorities, must become the key part of the post 2015 development agenda.

In this regard, we support the recommendations of the United Nations General Assembly *Open Working Group* on Sustainable Development Goals.

Experience proves that a goal can be achieved only if specific plans are complemented with development of effective mechanisms for their reviewing and realization.

The High-level Political Forum on sustainable development is capable of establishing an efficient and universal platform for promoting the implementation of a program of action on sustainable development. Our hope is that this Forum will become an important venue for an ongoing dialogue and review of the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

Addressing issues of financing of sustainable development is equally important for achieving sustainable development. Global partnership for development based on the Millennium Declaration to a certain extent contributed to the achievement of a number of MDGs. However, the current gaps and flaws of the Global partnership still cause additional difficulties on the road to a full and timely implementation of the MDGs. We consider it important, in every possible way, to strengthen and expand global partnership, in accordance with the previous commitments. On this basis there should be established a new global partnership for the benefit of sustainable development, which will become the key element of the global system of promoting and advancing of sustainable development. In this regard, of key importance are becoming the activities of the Intergovernmental commission of experts on financing of sustainable development and intergovernmental process for discussing options for setting up a UN mechanism for promoting development and transfer of technology.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tajikistan has been consistently increasing its efforts to maximize its capacity for achieving the MDGs. Extra measures have been undertaken for creating a favorable climate for investments, balanced budget policy, diversification of the economy and employment. The National Development Strategy

(NDS) of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2015 is “a road map” for the Government in attaining sustainable economic development, providing access of population to basic social services, and poverty reduction. As a result of the undertaken measures for ensuring economic growth, in recent years we managed to considerably reduce the poverty in the country.

As a “pilot” country in the UN for achieving the development goals Tajikistan plans in 2015 to carry out a comprehensive review of the MDGs implementation. The lessons learned during the MDGs implementation are going to be taken into account during the development of a new program of sustainable development for the period up to 2030. We are willing to cooperate in a close and transparent manner with the UN agencies and programs, partner countries and other interested organizations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you might be aware, on March 22, 2005 here, in New York, there was launched the International Decade for Action “*Water for Life*”, 2005-2015, which promoted the implementation of the MDGs. The International Decade gave a powerful impetus to various initiatives and efforts at different levels aimed at promoting of access to fresh drinking water and sanitation, introduction of integrated management of water resources, strengthening and expanding of water cooperation, increasing awareness of water-related challenges.

Meanwhile, global climate change, ever increasing growth of economics and population, degradation of water sources and deterioration of quality of water resources pose additional and comprehensive tasks before the international community. Reduction of fresh water resources caused by climate change can create new obstacles on the way to the achievement of sustainable development and aggravate the situation, first of all, in the arid and semi-arid regions that continue to experience the highest level of water stress.

The International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013 that was successfully implemented within the framework of promoting the International Decade of Action “*Water for Life*”, 2005-2015, helped to realize that water resources management should be regulated on the basis of the principle of co-development, which sets up a broad framework for harmonization of interests and strengthening of mutual trust in addressing water issues. Based on the principle of co-development, water resources management could become a guarantee for achieving sustainable management of water resources, which are the key component of sustainable development.

In this regard, we propose to do a comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade of Action “*Water for Life*”, 2005-2015 and to jointly develop specific recommendations aimed at strengthening and renewal of the UN water agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We regard access to modern and affordable energy services as a priority issue, which is key to achieving sustainable development. Tajikistan has been developing its energy potential in a consistent and planned manner, with a focus on integrated development of renewable sources. In addition to the construction of small- and medium scale hydropower stations, large-scale projects of larger scale of regional significance are being developed, the opportunities for use of wind and solar energy are being explored, which is going to become an important practical contribution of Tajikistan to reduction of detrimental emissions and establishment of a solid foundation for sustainable development. I would like to use this opportunity to underscore that all these projects have been implemented on a transparent basis, with due consideration to social, economic and ecological aspects of sustainable development of the country and region.

Tajikistan supports convening on 3-5 November 2014 in Vienna the Conference on comprehensive review of the implementation of the *Almaty Program of Action*. We believe that the new program of action for the LLDCs will provide additional opportunities for their further integration into the world economy. One should support and encourage in every possible way the efforts of this group of countries aimed at expanding and improving of transportation and energy infrastructure, diversification of economy, streamlining of regional and interregional connectivity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Transformation of the agenda of the Organization does not only provide unique opportunities, unfortunately, it also entails negative tendencies of strengthening interrelationship between threats and challenges of modern times. It is in the common interests of member states to consistently implement the UN Global antiterrorist strategy, to effectively counteract any forms and manifestations of terrorism, including use of Internet for the purpose of terror.

Illicit drug production and illicit drug trafficking cause serious problems in the world. In recent decades Tajikistan has acquired extensive experience in combating the drug trafficking. The Drug Control Agency under the President of Tajikistan has been successfully functioning for 15 years. Antidrug interaction with the neighboring states, including within the regional organization, has been efficiently developing. By the initiative of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon the regional antinarcotics conference is going to be convened in the city of Dushanbe in 2015, a year before the UN General Assembly Special session on drugs. The proposals of the Conference participants will become a joint contribution to the development of modern international policy on combating drugs. We do count on the support of this Conference on the part of the UN, interested states and international organizations. In this regard, we attach enormous significance to the coordination of joint efforts with Afghanistan in the drug and other areas.

Friendly Islamic state of Afghanistan is facing new challenges and expects targeted support from the international community. We are convinced that fraternal Afghan people, with the support of community of nations, will be able to successfully address the upcoming difficulties. We act on the premise that under the circumstances the UN role as a coordinator is especially important for coordination of international efforts at Afghan settlement.

Tajikistan considers it absolutely necessary to fully include Afghanistan in the multifaceted regional cooperation processes. Involvement of the neighbouring countries in the development of Afghanistan and due consideration to the regional context in the post-conflict rehabilitation of this country are key to the success of the ongoing efforts of the world community.

In our view, strengthening of peace and stability in the conflict and post-conflict situations requires actual assistance in addressing economic and social issues, support of efforts at rehabilitation of efficient government institutions and sustainable basis for long-term development.

It is essential to get involved the regional multilateral structures in addressing the issues of strengthening of security and stability, implementation of large-scale infrastructure projects and programs, and expanding of constructive and practical cooperation and interaction.

In early September, 2014 the capital of Tajikistan hosted the Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The Heads of the SCO member states called for strengthening of regional cooperation, joint development and co-prosperity. They have approved of the course for liberalization of trade and investments, improvement of transport and logistics systems, ensuring food and energy security, addressing other urgent issues of the region, which meet the root interests of people.

Distinguished Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to underscore that it is impossible to resolve the issues faced by the GA without strengthening and reforming, rationalizing and renewing the entire UN system. The comprehensive reform of the UN should contribute to its strengthening and enhancement of its capacity to respond to the latest developments in the world in a timely and adequate manner, and to meet modern challenges and counteract modern threats. The current UNGA session provides a unique opportunity for the search of joint and coordinated ways of addressing urgent issues, and we should take advantage of it.

Thank you for attention.