

# UZBEKISTAN

PEAKING MESSAGE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN  
TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



*Check against delivery*

## ADDRESS

**by H.E. Mr. Elyor Ganiev,  
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

**at the 66<sup>th</sup> Session  
of the UN General Assembly**

New York, September 26, 2011

Dear Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished heads of delegations,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to greet the participants of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly and wish a successful work.

It gives me a great pleasure to congratulate His Excellency Secretary General of the United Nations Mr. Ban Ki-moon on his reelection to this high post for a second term.

I also congratulate Mr. Naseer Abdulaziz an-Nasser on his election to the post of the Chairman of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly and wish him a fruitful work.

In 2011 Uzbekistan celebrates one of the landmark dates in its modern history – the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence.

In all 20 years passed since the time when the Republic of Uzbekistan became an independent state and joined the ranks of full-fledged members of the United Nations. Having gained the right to decide and build on its own its present and the future, for over the past period Uzbekistan traversed a considerable path in terms of building the independent statehood and developing the national economy and modernizing the country.

During these years the Republic of Uzbekistan with its lop-sided hypertrophied and raw-based economy, as well as destructive monopoly on manufacturing the raw cotton, underdeveloped industrial and social infrastructure and low per capita consumption turned into a modern country with steady developing economy.

The following facts do serve as an obvious testimony to the aforesaid: for over the 20 years of independent development Uzbekistan's economy grew to 3,5 times and the population's total incomes – 20 times. Despite the negative impact of the ongoing global financial-economic crisis Uzbekistan is retaining the steady pace of development. The last five years the GDP growth made up on average 8,5 percent and this year it is expected that the achieved level shall be preserved.

The striking achievements have been secured in implementing the goals set out in the Millennium Declaration.

During the years of independence the state expenditures for the social sphere increased to more than 5 times. Annually about 60 percent of the budget is channeled to development of the healthcare, education, communal services, social protection of population and other branches. The provision of population with pure potable water accounts for 82,5 percent and the natural gas – 83,5 percent.

I would like to especially underscore the enormous role and significance which acquire the education and growth of the level of people's consciousness in all of these changes. The annual spending for education in Uzbekistan makes up 10-12 percent of the GDP, whereas this indicator in the world practice doesn't exceed 3-5 percent. The unique National program for cadres training has been implemented in the country. Since 2009 the mandatory 12-year education has been introduced. Uzbekistan established more than 1600 modern professional colleges and academic lyceums.

These indicators, which are not often seen in the world practice, vividly confirm that a primordial goal for us is life of a man, ensuring and protecting his interests.

“The Uzbek model” of democratization of the country and transition to socially oriented market economy adopted in the early years of our independence served as a basis of these achievements.

Uzbekistan is steadily moving towards achieving the set goal, i.e. to join the ranks of modern developed and democratic states, ensure its people the high living standards and commendable place in the world community.

Today there are all conditions to assert that we have achieved the main objective, i.e. the reforming and democratization of the country acquired an irreversible and consistent nature. And the “Concept of further deepening the democratic reforms and establishing the civil society in the country” formulated by the President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov in November 2010 provides for further development and consolidation of the model of Uzbekistan’s long-term sustainable development. The Concept elaborates further democratization of state power and governance, reforming the judicial-legal system, establishing and developing civil society institutions, ensuring freedom of speech and information, developing electoral legislation, further deepening market reforms and liberalizing economy.

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Assessing the state of affairs in Central Asia, it is necessary to note that the region given its geopolitical and geostrategic significance, as well as the richest natural resources continues to remain at the focus of attention of the world community in the context of growing threats and challenges to security and stability in the world.

First, the war ongoing for more than 30 years in Afghanistan continues to be the most important destabilizing factor not only in the region, but also the entire world. And, to a greater regret, the situation remains to be tense despite all measures now being taken by the international community.

It is necessary to especially underscore that today no one has any doubts that there is no military solution to the Afghan problem.

This is indicated almost by all leaders, including those involved in tackling the Afghan problem, as well as the immediate military command of the coalition forces in Afghanistan.

It is our firm belief that the Afghan people must resolve their country's problems on their own: only through a compromise between the confronting parties, involving to this process the Afghans themselves, as well as the socio-economic revival of Afghanistan with the assistance of the international community. Only then it would be possible to find a way out of the deadlock situation which bear the problems of Afghanistan.

This was announced by the President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov yet in April 2008 in Bucharest.

We see the future of Afghanistan as a peaceful and steadily developing state which poses no threat to surrounding countries so that the people living in this region could fully enjoy the opportunities of friendly, mutually beneficial and equal relations. Uzbekistan will continue to

pursue a policy of good neighborhood and cooperation towards Afghanistan on bilateral basis proceeding from mutual national interests.

Second, the tragic events in Kyrgyzstan in June 2010 became a serious challenge to peace and stability in the Central Asian region.

A year has passed since those bloody events. However, no political and legal findings were made to date with regard to all those forces and specific individuals who ordered, organized and perpetrated the crimes. Until these investigations are not carried out up to the end and the perpetrators irrespective of their nationality, background and position are not punished, it is difficult to expect the restoration of trust and cooperation between the Uzbek community and the Kyrgyzs.

Third, the socio-economic development not only of our country but the entire Central Asian region is influenced by the environmental disaster of the Aral Sea which is practically for over the period of one generation turned from once one of the unique and most beautiful seas into a drying and disappearing pond.

Today the Aral Sea basin has faced a set of not only ecological, but also the socio-economic and demographic problems of the planetary consequences. The UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon was personally convinced of it while visiting the Aral Sea last year.

In these circumstances the attempts to implement the projects on construction of the giant hydro facilities at the upper stream of the Amudarya and Syrdarya rivers is counterproductive and dangerous. Since, they pose serious threats to public safety both in terms of environmental, social and anthropogenic risks and maintaining the volume and regime of the river flow.

In addressing the problems arising in this regard, we proceed from the fact that any action on using the resources of transboundary rivers must take into account the interests of all states located in their basin and on the basis of international law. This, in particular, the United Nations Conventions on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes of March 17, 1992 and on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses of May 21, 1997.

We do not ignore the rights of the upper stream countries to develop their hydropower sector. In our view, it would be rather rational and safer to build the cascades of small hydropower facilities with the same total capacity of power generation.

The position of our country not only fully goes in line with the international law and the rules in this area, but not least, comes out of them.

Dear Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to note that Uzbekistan, supporting the theme of general debates "The role of mediation in peaceful resolution of disputes" proposed by the President of the General Assembly, fully shares the importance of strengthening the multilateral mechanisms to ensure a stable and just world order capable to effectively respond to emerging threats to regional stability and international security.

Thank you for your attention.