

STATEMENT

by

**MR. SIRODJIDIN. ASLOV, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
IN THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 62ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Distinguished Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to join the sincere congratulations on your election as the President of the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly and to wish you every success at this lofty office. I would also like to avail myself of this opportunity to express gratitude to his predecessor, H.E. Ms. Haya Rashed Al Khalif, for her selfless and efficient work during the 61st GA session.

Tajikistan welcomes the continued reforms of the UN structure, and enhancement of its activities aimed at strengthening peace and international security, further promotion of human rights, expansion of humanitarian mission, placing the problem of climate change among issues of top priority and addressing other challenges of today. We believe that further progress in dealing with the above issues of global importance is dependent on joint concerted and consecutive actions of the entire international community.

Tajikistan attaches primary importance to further strengthening of the disarmament process, nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, enhancement of the negotiation process on enforcement of a Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty and establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones. In cooperation with other Central Asia states Tajikistan took a very active part in the elaboration of the Treaty on Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, which was signed on September 8, 2006 in Semipalatinsk, and in the drafting of the relevant GA Resolution adopted last year.

Mr. President,

It is common knowledge that international terrorism, transnational organized crime and illicit drug trafficking become a serious obstacle on the way towards sustainable development, inflicting much suffering and causing much trouble to humanity. The international community should intensify its efforts aimed at counteracting instigation of acts of terror, proliferation of ideology of terrorism, extremism and separatism, inter religious and interethnic intolerance and hostility, and should enhance its struggle against financial terrorism.

The global system of combating terrorism, which is currently taking shape, can not be established without the involvement of regional and subregional organizations. In our region Commonwealth of Independent States, Collective Security Treaty Organization, and Shanghai Cooperation Organization are serving this purpose.

We believe that long-term success in combating terrorism and religious extremism depends on dealing with the root causes of these negative phenomena associated with social and

economic problems within society. It is essential to jointly search for ways of addressing poverty issues, overcoming negative consequences of globalization, and for the ways of resolving internal and regional conflicts. Power actions alone will not be able to uproot terrorism.

Regrettably, today we witness the merging of terrorism with transnational organized crime and drug business, which gives rise to our common and justified concern. Prevention of illicit drug trafficking, which to a certain extent, is the breeding ground for terrorism and international crime should become part and parcel of our common struggle against terrorism. In this regard, I would like to reiterate the willingness of Tajikistan to continue a constructive dialogue and cooperation with the aim of establishing an efficient global partnership for counteracting narcotics threat.

Mr. President,

The International Conference dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the signing of the *General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan* was held, in cooperation with the UN, in Dushanbe in June 2007. Almost simultaneously the UN Tajikistan Office of Peace Building successfully completed its activities. Meanwhile, for the first time, the citizens of my country joined the international UN Peacekeeping operations. These events have become a convincing proof that the UN is in position and has the capacity to assist in reaching stable peace and ensuring further sustainable development in the country that had lived through a serious internal conflict.

For Tajikistan, like for most UN member states, achievement of sustainable development is a goal of top priority. Within the UN framework, much has been accomplished the world over in order to promote sustainable development, alleviate poverty, epidemics, famine and illiteracy. Meanwhile, the implementation of a large scale program on achievement of Millennium Development Goals will require not only extra efforts but also additional resources. Tajikistan's intention is to gain ultimate progress in the implementation of MDGs. The main purpose of the National Strategy for Development of the Republic of Tajikistan up to 2015, and the Strategy for Poverty Reduction in Tajikistan for the years 2007-2009 is to ensure stable economic development and provide improved living standards of the country's population.

It is also obvious that the achievement of MDGs, to a larger extent, depends on the attitude of the international community to the issue of rendering assistance to developing countries. With this regard, Tajikistan joins the appeal addressed to the donor community, at least to double the amount of assistance targeted for development. The proposal to pardon the debts incurred by the developing countries in exchange for implementation of national projects aimed at sustainable development remains equally important. In this connection, we attach much significance to the unification of efforts aimed at supporting sustainable financial development, first and foremost, in the interests of attaining MDGs. We are in favor of a joint search for effective and feasible financing mechanisms. Partial signing off the debts could be equally important, since it would make it possible to invest liberated funds into education, environment protection, struggle against HIV/AIDS and other MDGs.

Tajikistan wholeheartedly supports creation of a mechanism of additional measures aimed at gaining further progress in the realization of the right to development, enshrined in the *Declaration on the Right to Development*. Among the issues that should be regarded as those concerning such rights are the issues of rational usage of natural resources for the purpose of

development, provision of the population's well being, and addressing the problems of poverty and unemployment.

Given the above, Tajikistan believes it has the right to develop its hydropower branch of the economy through building water reservoirs and dams on the major rivers of the country, because sustainable development, improved living standards of the population, achievement of MDGs, and provision of reliable regulated irrigation water discharge, and increased production of electrical energy depend on the availability of hydropower resources. The implementation of hydropower projects in Tajikistan is advantageous not only for the country itself but will be able to favorably influence sustainable development of the other states of the region. For instance, the completion of the construction of the Ragun hydropower station in Tajikistan alone will make it possible to supply with water extra 3 mln. hectares of land in the neighboring Central Asian states, and ensure water supply in the years of droughts. Only integrated approach towards usage of water and energy and other natural resources of the region, based on the principles of mutual understanding, assistance and trust among the states of the region can ensure sustainable development in the region and promote resolution of the environmental problems, which closely interconnected with rational usage of those resources. Tajikistan is interested in getting support and establishing partnership with countries and international organizations in the field of usage of renewable sources of energy and energy efficient technologies, which help to reduce usage of other traditional types of energy that affect our climate and deliver enormous damage to the environment and the future of humanity

Tajikistan welcomes the High Level Event convened by the Secretary-General on Climate Change entitled *The Future is in Our Hands: Addressing the Leadership Challenge of Climate Change* recently held in New York, and the forthcoming conference on the same subject in Bali scheduled for December 2007.

Within the context of global warming, degradation of glaciers and snow covers on the territories of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, which are the upper watershed zones of Central Asia rivers, has become an ever increasing concern for the Central Asian region. According to various sources, over the last ten years the area of glaciers in Tajikistan has decreased by 30 to 35 per cent.

Though supply of population with fresh drinking water is being discussed at the top level, and numerous declarations and other international instruments have been already adopted on this issue, the situation remains urgent, and the solution of the problem requires further coordinated efforts on behalf of the countries and international organizations. This problem is not only addressed to in the Millennium Development Goals, but it is also ranked among those challenges that the world community encounters on daily basis.

For this reason, the implementation of the International Decade of Action "*Water for Life, 2005-2015*" initiated by the Republic of Tajikistan is regarded as even more timely and appropriate. Within the Decade, the Government of Tajikistan has scheduled for 2008 the International Conference entitled "*Water-Related Natural Disasters*" that will be held in cooperation with UN agencies and other international organizations. Tajikistan does hope that all UN member states will take an active part in the forthcoming conference..

From times immemorial the water originating in Tajikistan quenched the thirst of all nations of the Central Asia, and irrigated the dry steppes of the region. However, it is obvious that the region has already been experiencing water-related difficulties that can aggravate year by

year. To address this urgent problem, Tajikistan proposes to provide the Central Asian states with environmentally sound freshwater from the Lake Sarez, which is located at the height of almost 3 300 meters above the sea level and could provide freshwater. The implementation of this initiative would make it possible to eliminate a real threat of breaking the Sarez dam, which could affect millions of those people who reside in the down stream areas in the neighboring countries.

As for the development of trade and economic cooperation with other countries, the major challenge Tajikistan is faced with in this area as a landlocked country is lack of access to the sea, and other transportation and communication difficulties. For this reason, Tajikistan is committed to the decisions and recommendations outlined in the *Alma-Ata Program of Actions for Transit Transport Cooperation*, which addresses special needs of landlocked developing countries to efficiently use the available transport infrastructure and to increase the transit capacity in order to encourage development of trade and advancement of investments in Central Asia.

The rehabilitation process undergoing in Afghanistan creates favorable conditions for cooperation in the region in the field of implementation of transportation- and communication projects for getting an access to southern sea ports. Creation of new multi optional transport corridors, restoration of the routes of the Great Silk Road are called upon to establish a unified interconnected system of communications, and to provide the Central Asian states with a reliable access to promising markets. Opening of the bridge between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, which was constructed across the Pyandj River, has become one of the practical measures undertaken towards this goal.

**Distinguished Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The magnitude of the challenges faced by the international community requires further strengthening of our Organization. There is no doubt that we all must do everything within our capacity to make the UN even more efficient in addressing modern issues. For this reason, we believe that what is required of all of us is responsibility towards the UN in the interests of each and all member states.

Thank you for attention.