



Statement
of H.E. Mr. Sirodjidin Aslov, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations
at
55th Session of the Commission on Status of Women
New York, 28 February 2011

Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, allow me, on behalf of the delegation of my country, to welcome the delegates of the 55th Session of the Commission on Status of Women. This session is of special importance because it is the first one, which is being held after the establishment of the new UN Entity on gender equality and empowerment of women *UN Women*. We are confident that *UN Women* will succeed in ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women in the entire world. Tajikistan alliances itself with the statement made on behalf of the Group 77 and China.

Since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with regard to gender equality on the global level certain progress has been achieved. However, it is necessary to keep making efforts at the implementation of all critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. My country also makes its contribution into the advancement of women's rights.

Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology are among the priorities of the government policy of Tajikistan. Much has been accomplished in the field of education. In particular, the reforms are aimed at increased integration into the world education system; the patterns of financing are being changed; on the basis of the State Committee on Women and Family Affairs there has been set up a system of training of emerging leaders among women involved in the system of government management; the mandatory subject entitled "Basics of demography and gender policy" has been included into the curriculum of the higher educational establishments; there has been created and continues to operate the mechanism of "The Presidential quota" for girls from

remote regions, which enables them to receive high education; the NGO's dealing with educational issues, are increasingly enhancing their activities, in particular with regard to education of women; the year 2010 was proclaimed in Tajikistan as the Year of education and technological knowledge.

Article 41 of the Constitution of Tajikistan declares the rights of each citizen for education. In compliance with this legal norm, in 2004 the Law on Education was adopted in Tajikistan, in which legal, organizational, and socio-economic fundamental bases for development of education in the country, and mandatory general basic education and general access to secondary education were identified as the main principles of the state policy of the Republic of Tajikistan in education.

The new draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on education, which addresses the issues of access to education on a broader basis, has been developed, with due consideration to the current challenges. Moreover, starting 2014 the national educational system will be transformed into a 12-year system, which will allow to dramatically reduce the number of girls in the country without general secondary education. With the view to ensure that the quality of education meets the international standards, the new National Education Strategy till 2020 is being developed by the Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the World Bank experts.

Thus, during the years of its independence Tajikistan has substantially reconsidered its state policy with regard to equal rights and opportunities for women and men. The state program, which ensures basis for equal opportunities for women and men in politics, economics, science and technology, is being implemented. However, specific and practical measures and instruments are required to ensure the implementation of the commitments of the Government. To achieve the real equality between men and women it is necessary to overcome a number of economic, political, cultural and other obstacles.

In this regard, Tajikistan needs the support of the international community, within the framework of international projects on ensuring equal opportunities for women and girls in all spheres of life, and first and foremost, in education.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Republic of Tajikistan to a full and effective implementation of the international standards on the issues of gender equality and empowerment of women, and wish every success to the current session of the Commission on Status of Women.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman