

UZBEKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



STATEMENT

**by the Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the UN
at the 45th Session of Commission on Population and Development
on “Adolescents and Youth”**

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Uzbekistan is the most populated country in Central Asia, with about 10 million young people under 16 years old (about 33% of the total population). In this respect, development of harmoniously developed generation is one of the key directions of the state policy. At the same time, a very important role played by non-governmental youth organizations and movements.

The Fund Forum is the largest youth public organization in the region, which one of the major areas of activity is providing all-round support for the youth in Uzbekistan through a series of far-reaching projects in culture, arts, science, education and sports as well as social initiatives and charitable activities.

The Fund accords significant attention to the uniting of efforts by diplomatic and public bodies to set up socio-humanitarian and universal ties among countries and diverse national entities.

Since its establishment, the Fund Forum has been working actively to support and implement youth-oriented projects in Uzbekistan aimed at achieving the goals set forth by the UN World Program of Action for Youth as well as the Millennium Development Goals. Also the Fund Forum has participated in the implementation of events under the nationwide program in 2010, which was announced a Year of Harmoniously Developed Generation in Uzbekistan.

This can be exemplified by the following major projects overseen by the Fund Forum in this area.

1. Talented youth contest “Kelajak ovozi” (Voice of the future) is the largest contest not only in Uzbekistan, but also in the region of Central Asia. Over the past 6 years the contest has shown impressive results, and as of 2011 about 100,000 young people from across the country submitted applications to the contest. In August 2010 the United Nation Information Center and UNFPA had recognized the contest as the best youth-oriented project in Uzbekistan. On the basis of this initiative, “Voice of the future” Youth Initiatives Center was created. Today, the Center has branches across the country, with thousands of boys and girls participating in its activities. The YIC projects play an important role in the life of Uzbek youth.

2. Young Entrepreneurs School. Participants from all over the country are selected to participate in the School, whose curriculum includes important disciplines such as legislative foundations of business, business psychology and management. The School involves leading local trainers as well as international professionals from developed countries. Those who emerge as winners are provided with concessional credits and grants to enable them to set up and expand their business. Thus far, over 60,000 USD has been provided in credits for the young winners.

3. Sport grants. Foundation annually provides grants for promising young athletes from all parts of the country. Since March 2006, 192 young athletes have been awarded grants. This helps to successfully advocate healthy lifestyles along with other projects of the Foundation. For example, HIV/AIDS fighting campaigns organized in collaboration with the USAID and the Social Initiatives Support Fund covered over 20,000 young people across Uzbekistan.

4. Youth Employment Center. Assistance the youth with professional orientation, temporary and permanent jobs, adaptation to a new work environment, career growth, internships, volunteering opportunities as well as creating opportunities for the youth to bring out their professional potential are one of the most critical issues in the global agenda. And this is exactly what the Youth Employment Center does. For instance in 2010, twenty eight jobs fairs were organized throughout the country under the aegis of the Fund Forum. The fairs were attended by 550,000 people, with over 4,000 having been provided with jobs by the Youth Employment Center.

5. Educational Grants Program. This Program is a merit-based opportunity for talented students to have their tuition fees paid for by the Foundation and to receive special scholarships from the Foundation. Annually, over a hundred students, mostly from low-income families in the Republic, have their tuition fee covered in this way. Another competition-based program sees over a 100 students in the final year of study, receive monthly stipends provided by the Fund Forum.

In general, all these projects devised and overseen by the Fund Forum contribute to the upbringing of a modern developed Uzbek generation.

In 2010 the Fund Forum became the first Uzbek nongovernmental organization that have been granted Consultative Status with the ECOSOC and started its activity on promoting youth interests at the United Nations. The Fund participated in the events within the UN International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding 2010-2011, General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Youth and others. It is expecting the participation of the Foundation in youth side-events during the UN Conference for Sustainable Development Rio+20 in June, 2012.

Dear distinguished delegations,

I would like to note that the situation of young people in the world remains one of the pressing issues of modernity. We should show a keen interest in solutions that have practical, social and applied implications, which will help not only to better understand the role of the youth in social processes and development but also to build youth policies based on dialog and constructive actions.

The UN member countries recognize that the young generation across the world makes up the primary human resource for sustainable development, for positive social change and for technological innovation. In their turn, goal-oriented and active young people are contributing to the re-orientation and re-organization of ways of developing the human community in this globally interconnected world.

Thank you.

