

**Speech of the Chairman of the Committee Mr. Sheralizoda Bahodur Ahmadjon
at side-event on “Strengthening Climate Action in landlocked developing countries: Experiences on
adaptation and mitigation”**

November 9, 2022, 3:30 pm, Tajikistan Pavilion

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to welcome you all at the first Tajikistan Pavilion in the history of UNFCCC Conference of Parties, which has been officially opened by the President of Tajikistan HE Mr. Emomali Rahmon on November 7th.

The landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) are among the most vulnerable to climate change, and current global economic challenges are limiting their ability to invest in adaptation and mitigation.

Many of the 32 LLDCs have large portion of their land located in dryland regions and many have a large proportion of their land as mountainous.

Tajikistan, with 93% of its territory with mountainous, forms about 60% of the water resources of Central Asia, and is the main location of regions’ glaciers, where the bulk of the region's water resources are formed, thus playing an important role in ensuring sustainable development in the entire Central Asian region.

Desertification, recurrent droughts, biodiversity loss, melting glaciers, flooding and other climate related disasters are imposing profound economic and social costs, human and infrastructure losses and destruction in LLDCs.

We face severe loss in agricultural production due to climate change extreme weather disasters and water scarcity.

Along with this, for the Republic of Tajikistan, located at the source of the main transboundary rivers of the Central Asian region, issues related to the prevention of natural disasters related to water, as well as the elimination of their consequences, are of great importance.

It should be noted that more than 80% of natural disasters in Tajikistan are related to climate change. Over the past 20 years, there have been over 4,000 natural disasters, meaning there has been an average of 1 natural disaster every 2 days.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Considering the importance for LLDCs to their improved connectivity, and the fact that they still lag behind in transport infrastructure (in terms of quantity, quality, and funding), we require support in building climate-resilient and sustainable infrastructure in order to reduce the direct losses of disruptions caused by climate change. A dedicated infrastructure funding facility for climate-resilient infrastructure for LLDCs will help our group.

We also need climate resilient infrastructure for the other sectors including water, hospitals, and schools which can withstand the impact of climate change related disasters.

I also wish to point out that for LLDCs the impacts of climate change can be transboundary also affecting the transport or water infrastructure of our neighboring transit countries that we depend on.

We need international support to strengthen regional cooperation to support transboundary adaptation, mitigation and resilience building efforts.

Strong early warning systems can help our preparedness to climate change disasters – we therefore need support in strengthening our early warning systems.

Furthermore, sharing of experiences, best practices and solutions between LLDCs at national, regional and global levels is very important.

It is important that our partners help us build a network that will promote sharing of this information on a regular basis.

Adaptation is of critical importance to LLDCs and is a top priority for us. Climate change has reduced total agricultural productivity growth in our countries.

Better adaptation particularly in the agricultural sector will help LLDCs achieve food security. Financing must scale up significantly to support our adaptation needs.

Loss and damage have become a key concern. Finance to address loss and damage is urgently needed for LLDCs.

Mitigation is important to support our transition to sustainable practices. LLDCs are not amongst the large emitters.

The contribution of our country in terms of GHG emissions is minimal. Nevertheless, Tajikistan in its updated version of the Nationally Determined Contribution undertook enhanced commitment to reduce GHG emissions within 60-70%, and within 50-60% with significant attraction of international assistance.

LLDCs need capacity building support in order to make progress on climate action.

Financial support and technical support are of paramount importance to the LLDCs for implementing climate actions in our countries.

It will be good for the LLDCs to come together and strategize on negotiating on some of these key issues that I have highlighted.

Tajikistan looks forward to working with LLDCs and our development partners to address urgent and long-term issues in a collaborative manner to achieve concrete and tangible results.

Thank you!