



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT

by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan
Academician Talbak NAZAROV
at the 59-th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

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New York

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Mr. President,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

We all pinned great hopes on the advent of the 21st century with regard to a more stable and secure world, sustainable development of humanity. We all were eager to expand the positive achievements of the 20th century that witnessed rapid technological and social progress, the beginning of space era, advancement of democracy and globalization of the planet. And we all wanted to leave behind the destructive impact on human history of two world wars, continued bloody conflicts, millions of refugees, poverty and the destitution common in most countries of the world.

Just at this junction of centuries and millennia humanity seemed to start again discovering and more profoundly appreciating the values of a world without wars and violence, the significance of solidarity and mutual understanding, of true human rights and respect of the views of others. Now it has become obvious that it is impossible to comprehend the dialectic of global development, nor to find adequate answers to modern challenges without the United Nations, as a leader.

The impression was that in the new century our civilization would embark on the mad of establishing a global society where harmony would prevail over hatred, stability would put an end to suspicion, where the coordinated rules of conduct laid down in international law and binding for all, would put an obstacle to isolationism and separatism, where all issues of international life, including the most urgent ones, would be resolved at the negotiating table, and the use of force would not be a rule but rather an exception sanctioned by collective decisions of the capable and representative Security Council of the United Nations.

Unfortunately, *the 21st century has brought more new menacing challenges*

than solutions to the already accumulated problems faced by mankind .The number of wars and military conflicts on the planet has not diminished, but rather has increased. The peaceful resolution of the inter-Tajik conflict achieved under the UN auspices is rather an exception than a rule among peaceful efforts undertaken by the UN.

The world has an ever increasingly feeling that it finds itself in a state of permanent war rather than development. Every day we hear about the dangers of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and a struggle against international terrorism. These are the urgent problems and we cannot but be concerned over them since the weapons of mass destruction are capable of destroying tens and hundreds of thousands of human lives, while acts of terror are capable of destabilizing whole countries. Realizing the above, we are full of firm resolution to transform Central Asia into a region free of nuclear weapon.

The recent tragic events in the town of Beslan, the Russian Federation, testify to the fact that the forces of the international terrorism, day from day, are becoming more impudent and keep throwing down a challenge to the whole mankind. Tajikistan resolutely condemns the act of violence performed against the defenseless children and women in North Ossetia and appeals to the international community to undertake urgent collective measures to combat this "scourge of the 21 century".

It is comforting that the international solidarity demonstrated in the struggle against such a blood-thirsty and treacherous enemy as terrorism is gaining in strength. Tajikistan, in various formats on the regional and international levels, has been active in waging a struggle against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. At the same time, *in order to completely put an end to terrorism it is very important to reach a universal understanding of its substance and manifestation* , to do away with "obstructions" on the way to the development and adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

If, not without reason, we can be proud of creating within a short period of time a united antiterrorist coalition of states, we, unfortunately, can not say that we reached the same level of solidarity in the front of fighting poverty and destitution. For decades the states with low levels of income can not free themselves from destructive debts and enjoy the advantages of civilization.

For instance, Tajikistan that lived through a civil conflict, continues to face

urgent economic and social problems, despite certain economic progress. Eighty per cent of the Tajikistan population still live below the poverty line. Because of the lack of access to the sea many regions of our country are actually cut off from the external world, which results in our paying higher prices for imported goods and increased transit fees. Forty per cent of all budget revenues are channeled to serve the external debt that objectively restricts the Government capacity to meet the urgent needs of the population.

Writing off a part of the accumulated debts would make it possible to make investments in education, healthcare and environment protection, and in the case of Tajikistan, could be helpful for rehabilitation of the social sphere that suffered as a result of the civil conflict and natural disasters. But ***the idea of exchanging debts for sustainable development does not find solid support on the part of creditors as yet.*** In this area we still encounter the inert mentality and lack of political will.

For us it is obvious that the resolution of political issues, including those related to international security, to much extent, depends on progress in social and economic development and achieving by all countries the Millennium Goals at the beginning of a new millennium. ***Under globalization the achievement of the Millennium Goals requires utmost solidarity and interaction of the whole international community, with the UN as a leading coordinator, in its capacity of the most universal and representative international organization.***

The key to success is developing a common comprehensive approach towards addressing poverty issues, improving available and searching for innovative ways for financing of development, ensuring equitable international finance and trade system, dealing with natural disasters aftermath. ***Otherwise the situation will remain the same, namely: a quarter of the earth's population will continue to prosper using more than half of all world resources, while the most part of the world's population, finding themselves marginalized, will be acting as observers of the world economic development.***

The ever increasing severity of the above problems turn them into global threats to international peace and security. Just for this reason we support the Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his efforts to restore the balance of priorities on the agenda of the international community.

The international community should also strive to ensure maximum coordination of actions on the global level in the monetary, finance and

international trade policies. In this connection it is important to strengthen the UN role as the key politically mobilizing force in the above areas. It requires, on the basis of the Monterey consensus, to further reinforce interaction among the UN, Breton-Woods Institutions and World Trade Organization, which Tajikistan hopes to join in the near future.

The issues of economic rehabilitation, poverty eradication, improved living standards of the population and long term sustainable development are among the top priorities for Tajikistan, as an economy in transition. The Government of Tajikistan is fully aware of its responsibility in dealing with the above tasks and is taking energetic measures in these areas.

At the same time, for a number of reasons, Tajikistan still needs international community assistance in supporting the national efforts to ensure long term sustainable development of the country. We appreciate the continued efforts of the donor countries and UN agencies, such as UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and others, to assist the vulnerable population groups of the country, as well as their support in the on-going transition to a socially oriented market economy.

Given our own historical experience, we approve of the UN priority attention to the increased efficiency of assistance rendered to the countries that lived through conflicts, and to getting feedback in the area. Undoubtedly, it is the UN that plays the key role in providing a timely and coordinated response to post-conflict situations. The UN success in this area, to a great extent, depends on a qualitative interaction with the host governments, on reinforcing the national potential, on introducing effective instruments and mechanisms for coordination and mobilization of resources, on increased interaction with Breton-Woods Institutions in joint assessments of needs and specific project activities.

In this regard, I consider it important to note that one of the lessons learned from the peaceful settlement of the inter-Tajik conflict is the necessity for donor countries to be active not only during the crisis but also in the post conflict period. ***I am convinced that strengthening of the foundation of peace and stability in the countries living through the conflict requires not only humanitarian assistance but rather actual help in addressing the economic problems and support of the countries' efforts to create a dynamic and stable economic basis. As a rule, these kinds of investments, within the framework of a peaceful process, turn out to be instrumental in reinforcing the foundation of "a young" democracy that was won in the course of the conflict.***

There is no doubt that the parliamentary elections to be held in Tajikistan in early 2005 will prove another time the "vitality" and irreversible nature of peaceful process in Tajikistan and the robustness of the democratic institutions established in the country.

Mr. President,

Achieving ecologically sustainable development on the global, regional and national levels invariably remains an issue of top priority. Tajikistan intends to continue contributing to implementation of relevant decisions of Johannesburg and other international forums. The International Decade of Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015, initiated by our country, which will be launched on 22 March 2005, is expected to combine the efforts undertaken by governments, the UN and international organizations, as well as by civil society and private sector.

These efforts are aimed at identifying effective ways of addressing the internationally agreed goals in the field of freshwater resources, developing strategies, programs and laws to protect the water environment, increasing investments and voluntary donor contributions to activities associated with ensuring access to freshwater to all needy.

We ask the governments of all countries, as well as the UN agencies, to enforce practical activities within the Decade. This is the key to success, which will require a lot of work

Mr. President,

In some regions of the world the international community is faced not only by the problem of conflicts and wars that interfere with long term development but also by the illicit drug trafficking that poses a threat to civil society. We cannot help being concerned with the fact that global demand for prohibited drugs is not decreasing. For instance, the volume of criminal transit of narcotics via Tajikistan constitutes a serious threat to social, political and economic stability, and to security of the region as a whole. Afghanistan remains a major supplier of narcotics: their production this year has set a record.

The President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rakhmonov, regards the struggle against illicit drugs as one of the top priorities for the country. Thanks to the

cooperation with the UN over the last five years Tajikistan has become one of the leading world countries in terms of narcotics interdiction. Over this period the law enforcement bodies of Tajikistan and Russian border guards have confiscated about 40 ton of narcotics, with heroin constituting most of it.

As a result, dozens of millions of dollars have been excluded from circulation, hundreds of thousands of people the world over have been saved from narcotics dependency. According to Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, *"Tajikistan sets a good example for other countries as to how one can successfully struggle against drugs"*.

The achievements of Tajikistan in the area are considered to be a good basis for building up forces for the struggle against the narcotics threat. But we are struggling only against the consequences rather than against the roots of the problem.

The threat caused by illicit cultivation of opium poppies, as well as illicit production and trafficking of opium, subject to a serious trial the security and stability in Afghanistan itself, in its neighboring countries and the Central Asia region, and constitutes a menace for regions far beyond its borders.

Mr. President,

In autumn 2005 in this General Assembly Hall the Heads of State and Governments will meet to discuss progress in achieving the Millennium Declaration goals. We attach to this event, which coincides with the 60th anniversary of the United Nations, great importance. We expect this forthcoming event to give the necessary political impetus to the international community in its advancement towards the achievement, through combined efforts, the Millennium Goals in the interest of a more stable, just and prospering world

Thank you for attention.