



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

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STATEMENT

by

**H.E. Mr. Talbak NAZAROV,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan,
at the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**September 25, 2006
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS**

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Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

It gives me great pleasure to join the warm greetings, Madam President, upon your assumption of the office of the President of the 61st session of the General Assembly. We are confident that your extensive professional and life experience will be instrumental in addressing the issues faced by the General Assembly.

Tajikistan also welcomes the accession of Montenegro to the United Nations. On this occasion, on behalf of the Government of our country, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to the Government and people of the friendly state.

Madam President,

A year has passed since the historical Summit, which confirmed the common view of the international community on key issues of modern times, on the United Nations as the universal international organization, whose goals and objectives are focused on collective search for answers to the questions that are of concern for the entire international community. The leaders of our states declared that only strict compliance with the UN Charter, comprehensive collective approach and mutual trust can ensure international security and development. The latest developments in the Middle East once again proved the need for enhancing the coordinating role of the UN in addressing global and regional issues.

Tajikistan is in favor of the UN further strengthening, and renders overall support to the process of its consistent reforming. As for the reform of the UN Security Council, it should be performed through reaching a consensus with due consideration to the interests of all UN member states.

We believe that it was a broad consensus that made possible such major accomplishments as holding of the first session of the Human Rights Council, commencement of activities of the Democracy Fund, and establishment of the Central Emergency Response Fund. Of special importance is the establishment of the UN Peace-Building Commission, whose objective is also to sustain peace and development in post-conflict countries.

The Government of Tajikistan was one of those who actively stood for the establishment of an efficient UN body of this kind, which could get focused on issues of coordination and targeted support of countries emerging from armed conflicts. *Difficult but successful experience gained by Tajikistan during transition from civil war towards peace has convincingly proved the need in an international peace-building agency to assist the UN Security Council and other UN bodies in their efforts at accelerating rehabilitation of countries emerging from crises, and creating guarantees for non-occurrence of such conflicts.*

Today stable peace prevails in Tajikistan, and national accord and respect for political pluralism have been achieved. The complex process of establishing democracy is under way, and all political forces involved are aware of their ever increasing responsibility for the fate of our country. In compliance with the Constitution and valid legal procedures new effective government institutions are being successfully built. Law abidance is increasingly becoming a rule rather than an exception. Civil society is developing at an accelerated pace. The citizens determine their destiny by themselves through an active participation in the life of the state. The forthcoming Presidential elections, due in November 2006, will become an important milestone on the road towards peace, and will open a new page in the history of the establishment of Tajikistan statehood.

In Tajikistan, like in the majority of the UN member states, the issue of sustainable development ranks among top priorities. Today we are fully aware how instrumental the UN agenda has been in enhancing sustainable development, eradicating poverty, epidemics, famine and illiteracy the world over. Meanwhile, the implementation of a large-scale program on achieving the Millennium Development Goals will require not only extra efforts, but also considerable financing. In this regard, we expect tangible results from the Commission on Sustainable Development and the High Segment Dialogue on Financing of Development.

In this connection, we highly value the outcome of the UN High Segment Dialogue recently held in New York, which helped the states concerned with issues of migration to reach constructive mutual understanding. Migration has been an issue of vital importance for our country since the outbreak of the civil war, when a part of the Tajik population had to leave the country. In this regard, I would like to specifically emphasize a special role and capacity of the UN in strengthening international cooperation in the field of migration and development.

Under the circumstances Tajikistan is resolute to achieve ultimate progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Over recent years tangible progress has been achieved in the implementation of a number of goals, and the foundation has been laid down for enhancing efforts in this area. Meanwhile, we share the opinion that long-term stability in Central Asia in the years to come is inseparable from development of regional integration. Currently, vast opportunities are emerging in the Central Asian region for the implementation of large-scale projects in various fields of economics, for creation of a unified market of commodities and services, and for capital investments. Potential foreign investors regard Central Asia as a whole entity. They regard Central Asia, primarily, as a common market.

Economic integration is going to become a powerful factor in sustainable development of the region, and will bring about reduction of poverty and improvement of population well-being. Based on this assumption, Tajikistan will continue to stand for strengthening of ties and expanding mutually advantageous cooperation among the states of the region.

The current positive processes in Afghanistan also create favorable conditions for regional cooperation on transportation and communication projects, the implementation of which will provide the region with an access to the southern sea ports. Creation of new multioptional transport corridors, revival of the Great Silk Road routes are called upon to form a unified interconnected system of communications and to make it possible for the Central Asian states to get an access to existing markets.

It is also obvious that in many respects the attainment of the MDGs depends on assistance rendered by the international community to developing countries. Tajikistan joins the request addressed to donor countries, to at least double the amount of assistance provided for the purposes of long-term development. The proposal to exchange developing countries' debts for national projects in the field of sustainable development remains urgent.

One of the major assets of our planet is freshwater, which is indispensable for sustaining life on Earth. Our common goal in this respect is to develop qualitatively new patterns for sustainable management of water resources and for addressing water related economic issues at the national, regional and international levels. That can be achieved through combined relevant support on behalf of the international community and national efforts, with the leading role of the countries and regions faced with the problems in the field of water resources supply.

In this regard, Tajikistan counts on continued active involvement of the member states in events within the International Decade of Action "*Water for Life*", 2005-2015, including a successful holding of the International Freshwater Forum in Dushanbe in 2010. In order to coordinate activities in this area the Government of Tajikistan is establishing the National Water Committee, whose assignment is to monitor and develop measures for implementing goals and objectives of the "water" Decade of Action at the national, regional and global levels through interaction with countries and international organizations concerned. Our efforts in the "water" area is part and parcel of the strategic program for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

It is known that international terrorism, transnational organized crime and illegal drug trafficking obstruct sustainable development. Tajikistan believes that the UN and its Security Council provide a unique venue for development and implementation of joint measures aimed at confronting international terrorism and narcotics threat. We entirely support the report of the Secretary-General entitled *Uniting against terrorism: recommendations for a global counter-terrorism strategy*, and regard the outlined principles for confronting new challenges and risks as major instruments for counteracting these threats.

The response of the international community to the complex strategic threat of terrorism must also be comprehensive. The community of nations should intensify its efforts aimed at both counteracting the instigation of acts of terror, spreading the ideology of terrorism, extremism and separatism, inter-religious and inter-ethnic intolerance and hostility, and financing terrorism. Establishing a universal, perfect antiterrorist international legal framework remains an urgent issue. A speedy approval of draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism will serve the interests of all countries and peoples of the UN community. Tajikistan will continue to support strengthening the UN as the core institution in this area.

The global system for counteracting terrorism, which is currently being shaped, can not be established without involvement of regional and sub-regional organizations. This should be taken into account when adopting measures aimed at combating any manifestations of extremism and violence at the regional and global levels. We regard participation of regional structures in this process as one of the major prerequisites for ensuring collective security. Among the structures of this nature in our region are the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Organization for Cooperation, etc.

We believe that a long-term success in combating terrorism and religious extremism depends on the elimination of in-depth causes of these negative phenomena, generated by social and economic problems in the society.

Prevention of illegal drug trafficking, which, to a certain extent, serves as a breeding ground for terrorism and international crime must become part and parcel of common struggle against terrorism.

In this connection I would like to reiterate that Tajikistan is prepared to continue a constructive dialogue and cooperation with the aim of establishing an efficient global partnership to counteract narcotics threat.

One has to admit that the currently undertaken efforts at counteracting the narcotics threat are not sufficiently effective. For this reason, we believe that financial and technical assistance to Afghanistan, to be rendered within targeted programs, and creation of an up-to-date efficient and capable Afghan border service to safeguard the external borders, including the Afghan-Tajik border, would be a worthy application of efforts of the international community in this area. Besides, within the anti-narcotics partnership, we suggest enhanced interaction with the Afghan structures with the purpose of adopting joint measures that would prevent drug-trafficking across the Afghan-Tajik border. We are convinced that these measures could serve as a basis for implementing the initiative of establishing the first section of the security belt around Afghanistan.

Involvement of the countries neighboring Afghanistan into a constructive process, accounting for the regional context in the post-conflict rehabilitation of this country can become a key to success of the efforts undertaken by the international community.

Today the regional dimension becomes one of the key factors of long-term development. At present a broad-scale and constructive regional economic cooperation in Central Asia, which possesses considerable natural resources, acquires a significant importance. We believe that the attainment of the above goal could actually turn Central Asia into dynamically developing region of the world, self-sufficient in terms of power engineering, fuel and food supply.

Given the above, we believe that the achievement of the MDGs should take a relevant place in the new structure of global security, which is currently being shaped, and become one of the tools for addressing new challenges and threats. Today, like never before, it is becoming increasingly obvious that policy of security needs to be integrated into development.

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The scope of tasks faced by the international community dictates the necessity to further strengthen our Organization. There is no doubt that we must do everything we can to make the UN more efficient in dealing with issues of international security. Collective approach should keep us from making emotional decisions since we are dealing with the Organization responsible for collective security, sustainable development and protection of human rights. It is with the UN, despite some of its imperfections, that humanity associates its hope for peaceful and just world order, for specific achievements in the field of combating poverty and natural disasters. A responsible attitude towards the UN is in interests of all and each member states.

Thank you for attention.