



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

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STATEMENT

by

**H.E. Mr. Emomali RAKHMONOV,
President of the Republic of Tajikistan,
at the High-Level Plenary Meeting
of the General Assembly**

**September 14, 2005
United Nations Headquarters**

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Mr. Chairman,

1. Five years ago in this General Assembly hall the Heads of State and Government of the UN member states reiterated their commitment to the values of peace, freedom and equality and pledged to eradicate poverty and ensure development all over the world. This determination is laid down in the Millennium Declaration.

Over these years much has been done for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), but it is obvious that the progress made is not quite sufficient. Over one billion people in the world live in extreme poverty, dozens of thousands of children die every day from hunger and diseases, environmental and other challenges are becoming increasingly urgent.

2. Among the most urgent global challenges and threats are terrorism, drug trafficking and modern slave trade. It is necessary to build up joint efforts at eradicating these ignominious phenomena. **It is especially important to find out the causes of the upsurge of terrorist violence in the world, avoiding far reaching simplifications and generalizations, or pinning ideological or confessional tags.**

Persistent attempts of certain circles to impart into people's minds the idea of a direct link between terror and the holy religion of ISLAM can lead to a clash among civilizations. There are one billion and four hundred million Muslims the world over, but those who have been involved in terrorist activities are few in number.

When judging, from political and legal perspective, the actions aimed at intimidating and frightening the civil population one should avoid double standards: there is no such a thing as *our* and *foreign* terrorists, nor are there *moderate* or *non-moderate* ones. The international community must apply common criteria and standards while combating any forms and manifestations of terrorism.

3. A similar approach is required for preventing illegal drug trafficking, which has become a breeding ground for terrorism and international crime. In this

context, establishing, under the UN auspices, an efficient global antinarcotics partnership is becoming more crucial.

Mr. Chairman,

4. We, the participants in SUMMIT-2005, bear a special responsibility. **The international community is faced with the necessity to give a new powerful impetus to social and economic progress and get all countries to meet the MDGs.** Today it is not sufficient only to reiterate the already undertaken commitments. The main thing is to take realistically achievable measures for their joint implementation that would account for the lessons drawn over the last five years.

This is to be done based on the principle of shared responsibility by the countries, on the basis of the Monterrey Consensus and Johannesburg Plan for Action.

5. **Tajikistan is a vivid and positive proof of how intertwined security and development are.**

As a result of the inter-Tajik conflict the transitional economy of Tajikistan was severely damaged during the first years of independence. But due to successful process of peace building we managed to deal with those difficulties. We regard successful social and economic development of the country as the key to avoiding the reoccurrence of the previous situation. Establishment of a developed socially-oriented market economy, based on a dialogue and accord, is the priority target of the social and economic policy pursued by the President and Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

6. **Tajikistan has become the first country in the world that, assisted by the UN, generated an estimation of the overall costs and resources required to meet the MDGs.**

The Millennium Development Goals Needs Assessment identified fundamental structural and institutional reforms needed in Tajikistan for creating an enabling environment for achieving the MDGs, policy priorities in respective sectors and financial schemes for financing development of rural areas, health, water supply and sanitation, and environment. The above document serves as a basis for the elaboration of *The National Development Strategy for 2006 through 2015* and a detailed *Strategy for Poverty Reduction for 2006 through 2008*.

7. The leaders of Tajikistan are fully aware of their responsibility for addressing social and economic challenges. However, it is known that Tajikistan is

one of those states, whose social and economic development also depends on external assistance. Like many other countries that have lived through the conflict and completed the peace building stage of their development Tajikistan is entitled to relevant international support.

We expect the international donor community, at a minimum, to double the amount of aid currently provided to Tajikistan. Such consolidated support should complement the national efforts at attaining the MDGs and envisage an increased overall amount of official international aid for development, reduction of debt burden and removal of external obstacles during the integration into world economy.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The burden of our foreign debt is one of the most serious obstacles on the way to achieving progress. Our country has to spend many millions of dollars for the repayment and service of external debt. These resources could be channeled to combating poverty, achieving sustainable development, and addressing the vitally important challenges of water supply and sanitation.

Unfortunately, whenever the above issue is under consideration, the countries that have overcome the conflict and humanitarian crises, particularly, in Central Asia, remain outside of the scope of attention of donor states, including those of G-8. Effective measures aimed at reducing the debt burden of the post conflict countries, including Tajikistan, would be in line with the MDG targets. **Our special interest lies in the innovative instruments for addressing debt issues, for example, such as debts cancellation in exchange for sustainable development.**

Tajikistan has specific needs common to all land-locked countries. We expect the international community to account for and support the decisions made by the Alma-Ata conference —2003.

9. Regional cooperation plays a significant role in development. It is hard to overestimate its importance for the Central Asia region. Tajikistan consistently calls for promoting and expanding regional integration, including through such mechanisms as Central Asia Cooperation (CAC), Shanghai Organization of Cooperation, and Euro-Asian Economic Cooperation.

10. Our region is specific in that sense that the establishment of the environment favorable for developing trade ties, and promotion of economic relations

on the whole, in many respects depend on the success of the processes of stabilization and peace building in neighboring Afghanistan.

And on the reverse: it is obvious that active involvement of the Central Asia states neighboring Afghanistan into its development, account for the regional context in the country's post conflict rehabilitation are the key to the success of efforts undertaken over there with the aim to establish peace and stability. We are convinced **that multifaceted regional cooperation must fully embrace Afghanistan within the concept of "Greater Central Asia", united by a common vision.**

This theme could also become one of the items to be considered by the future UN Commission on peace building, whose setting up we totally support.

11. Tajikistan invariably comes out in favor of further UN strengthening as the key international forum, whose target is to work out a common approach towards addressing development challenges in all countries and to apply it with regard to specific conditions of each of them. We expect the UN specialized agencies to render further support to our own efforts at the national level.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Provision of sustainable development and stewardship of natural resources used for human needs is one of the top priorities for global progress. Water resources are one of the major assets of our planet, and are essential both for ensuring ecological balance and economic welfare.

However, even today there is shortage of water in many parts of the world. If the current trends of water usage persist, within a short period of time two out of every three citizens on Earth will reside in the countries experiencing the so-called "water stress".

Being aware of the urgent need to address the freshwater issue, the international community made a number of important decisions in this area. **The International Year of Freshwater, 2003 became a landmark in this regard, and we extend our sincere appreciation to all those countries that rendered support to the Tajikistan initiative.**

Given the seriousness of the water challenge in the Central Asia states that are faced with one the major environmental disasters — the desiccation of the Aral Sea, I propose to establish under the UN a mechanism for coordinating

efforts by the international organizations and donors community to mitigate the aftermath of this crisis. It would be possible, through such a mechanism, on a priority basis, to implement a special regional pilot project for the Aral Sea basin along the MDGs.

March 22, 2005 marked the beginning of the International Decade for Action *Water for Life*, 2005-2015, which also was initiated by Tajikistan. The undertaken efforts are aimed at ensuring sustainable management of water resources, addressing water economy-related issues at the national, regional and international levels on the basis of support rendered by the international community and national efforts, with the leading role of the countries and sub regions that face challenges in water resources provision. Active participation of all countries, UN specialized agencies, civil society, and private sector is the key to the success of the water Decade.

I propose to convene in Dushanbe in 2010 the International Freshwater Forum for making a joint assessment of practical implementation of the coordinated *international water agenda*.

Mr. Chairman,

We must do everything possible so that today's high-level meeting will enter the records of history as a critical stage in the development of international cooperation in the interests of peace and development and as an example of realized opportunities. The rejuvenated powerful UN must become our main support and assistant in this endeavor.

Thank you.