

*Check against delivery*

**STATEMENT**  
**by**  
**H.E. Mr. Qohir RASULZODA**  
**Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan**  
**at**  
**the General Debates of the 74<sup>th</sup> UNGA session**

*(New York, 27 September 2019)*

**Distinguished Mr. President,**  
**Distinguished Mr. Secretary-General,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to join the heartfelt congratulations extended to Professor Tijjani Muhammad Bande on his election as the President of the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly.

I would also like to express my appreciation to H.E. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces for her excellent performance as the President of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly.

**Distinguished Colleagues,**

For almost 75 years the United Nations has been a universal venue for discussing and resolving current urgent issues.

However, the world we live in is changing rapidly.

Instability in modern world, in the conditions of growing geo-political and geo-economic competition, increasing number of global threats and challenges, demands that we act in an effective and consistent manner.

We consider it essential to make more effective use of the tools the Organization has at its disposal and improve our joint activities. There is also a need to strengthen the commitment to maintain the rule-based order, with the efficiently functioning United Nations as a key entity.

In this regard, Tajikistan supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General with regard to the Organization comprehensive reform aimed at strengthening and enhancing its capacity to meet today's challenges and threats in a timely and efficient manner.

**Mr. President,**

Terrorism and extremism, alongside with transnational organized crime and illicit drug trafficking, undermine international peace and security, aggravate the conflicts and destabilize whole regions.

They undermine our efforts at advancing and protecting human rights and sustainable development.

Today Tajikistan makes everything in its capacity to combat terrorism and extremism, transnational organized crime and illicit drug trafficking.

Given an experience gained over many years by our country in peace building, prevention of terrorism and countering it, as well as combatting illicit drug trafficking, we hosted in Dushanbe on May 16-17 2019 the High-level Conference “International and Regional Cooperation on Countering Terrorism and Its Financing Through Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime”.

The Dushanbe Conference was the first in the series of regional initiatives, within the framework of the follow-up process to the High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter Terrorism Agencies of UN Member States, which was convened by UN Secretary-General on 28-29 June 2018 in New York.

We are confident that the Dushanbe Conference will serve as an important platform for comprehensive dialogue, exchanging of good practices and experiences among all interested parties.

The issues of terrorism and extremism were also on the agenda of the 5<sup>th</sup> Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held in Dushanbe on June 15, 2019. As the current Chair of CICA Tajikistan considers it important to advance efforts of the countries at promoting peace, stability and security in Asia.

The efforts should be focused on dismantling military infrastructure of the international terrorism, denying it any political, military or financial support, countering misuse of Internet for radicalization of minds, recruiting and propaganda of extremism and violence.

Illicit drug trafficking is one of the primary sources of financing terrorism.

Being on the front line of combatting this evil, our country, during the years of its independence has done a lot to address this issue.

In 1999 the Drug Control Agency (National Drug Enforcement Agency) under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan was established with the support of the United Nations.

In 2013 Tajikistan adopted the National Counter-Narcotics Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2013-2020.

We consider as important and timely the proposal of the President of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon on the need to establish, with the support of the UN, a special group that will include representatives of law enforcement agencies from the countries of the so called “Northern Route” and will involve experts to research a problem of illicit drug trafficking. Our hope is that the UN member states will render support to this initiative.

Security and stability in the Central-Asian region are interlinked with the development of the situation in Afghanistan.

As a country that has the longest border with Afghanistan, Tajikistan, since the first days of its independence has constantly been making efforts to promote the establishment of stable peace and stability in this friendly country.

We also are making a practical contribution to the social and economic development of our neighborly country through connecting the transport arteries of our two countries, by creating an “energy bridge” CASA-1000 and providing the Afghan population with electric power and essential commodities, and also by training specialists.

One of the important areas, in this regard is involvement of Afghanistan in the process of multilateral regional cooperation and creation of favorable conditions for use of transit potential of the country and region.

Tajikistan totally supports the efforts of the Afghanistan authorities to settle a peaceful negotiation process.

**Mr. President,**

The year 2019 is a very important year for summing up the results of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

The four year cycle of the High level Political forum on sustainable development has successfully completed. We have a good opportunity to enhance the efforts at the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development during the remaining eleven years because despite considerable efforts, the current pace of progress towards sustainable development goals is not adequate.

In this regard, we support the call of the UN Secretary General on the need to act urgently and purposefully in order to timely and successfully implement the 2030 Agenda.

We adopted the National Development Strategy for the period up to 2030 and the Medium-Term Development Program for the period 2016-2020 that are fully consistent with the 2030 Agenda and are key tools for adaptation of the SDGs in the country.

At the same time, there is a whole array of new problems and challenges. Among them in the first place we can name climate change, which seriously affects the achievement of sustainable development goals and targets.

Over the past 60 years, the average annual air temperature in Tajikistan has increased by 1 degree Celsius; the number of days with heavy precipitation increased, as well as frequency and intensity of natural hydro meteorological phenomena.

Only due to water-related natural disasters every year our country's economy suffers the damage worth of hundreds of millions US dollars. Often natural disasters claim human lives.

The negative impact of climate change on quantity and quality of freshwater resources becomes more obvious.

Over the past decades Tajikistan registered a significant decrease in the area of glaciers which are of vital importance for the entire Central Asia.

In this context, we consider it necessary to strengthen cooperation among the countries in addressing the consequences of natural disasters through development of preventive measures and establishment of relevant funds for rendering assistance to the countries in need.

It is also essential to enhance monitoring of glaciers, snow and other water sources and take measures to protect them for future generations.

We consider it necessary to promote development of the "green economy", in particular, "green energy", as an essential component of sustainable development.

The wide use of renewable energy, mainly hydropower energy, contributes to the economic and social development of the country with the lowest levels of detrimental emissions into the atmosphere

Hydro power plants, which generate about 98 percent of electricity, make the basis of the country's energy sector.

The government has been taking comprehensive measures to balance energy production and energy consumption by upgrading the existing hydro power stations and increasing their production capacity, by constructing new hydropower plants, and also through introduction of modern methods of energy conservation.

**Mr. President,**

Tajikistan is one of the leaders in promoting water issues at the global level. It is widely known that over the past decades, at the initiative of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, four important global initiatives have been approved by the UN General Assembly.

In the course of their advancement and implementation these initiatives received wide support both of UN member states and international and regional organizations, financial institutions, prominent representatives of science and business communities, and representatives of civil society.

In 2018 the implementation of our fourth global initiative, the International Decade of Action, “Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028” successfully began.

The UN General Assembly resolution adopted on this issue regulates the course of the mid-term comprehensive review of the implementation of the Decade and envisages two important global events:

- for the first time in more than forty years since the first UN Conference on water in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in March 2023, in New York, there will be held the United Nations Conference on the Mid-Term Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the International Decade of Action Water for sustainable development, 2018-2028 ”; and

- in 2021 a one day High-level meeting of the UNGA to promote the implementation of the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda

In this connection, the Republic of Tajikistan, within the “Dushanbe process”, will hold in June 2020, in Dushanbe, a second conference on the implementation of the International Decade of Action entitled “ Stimulation of water related actions and partners at the local, national, regional and global levels”.

We sincerely hope that member states will again support us and will take an active part in our forthcoming Dushanbe Conference.

We are convinced that development of water cooperation and partnership will contribute to a timely adoption of necessary measures on achieving the SDGs.

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, I would like to note that today, against the background of emerging problems of global scale, we have to make enormous efforts to timely achieve the set goals. The most urgent among them are threat of global terrorism, climate change, degradation of environment, considerable shortage of resources, the growing gap between the poor and rich countries and the strata of population.

The UN remains the only one universal organization capable of coordinating and uniting efforts of the entire international community for resolving the urgent problems faced by mankind.

**Thank you for attention.**