



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

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**STATEMENT**

**By**

**Academician TALBAK NAZAROV,  
Foreign Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan,  
at the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly**

New York, 20 September 2005

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Mr. Chairman,

**The recently convened GA plenary meeting at the level of Heads of State and Governments can rightfully be referred to as the major historical event of the beginning of the new millennium.** It is important that at the SUMMIT the international community not only reiterated the previously undertaken commitments but also made new concrete decisions for their practical implementation. **The main thing is that the world leaders clearly stated that there is no alternative to the United Nations as the international Organization that can unite efforts at addressing challenges faced by humanity.**

By the united political will of the world leaders there has been provided a unique opportunity for expanding joint efforts for the purpose of peaceful and sustainable social and economic development and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), advancement towards eradication of poverty and diseases, overcoming humanitarian crises, providing a better world for today's and future generations. **We have no right to miss this chance.**

Further progress depends on united concerted and consistent actions of the whole international community. **There is no doubt that it is the UN that must play the key role in mobilization and coordination of these efforts,** as the most universal and legitimate international organization, which enjoys recognition and support the world over and is capable of ensuring international consensus on key development issues, as well as develop and introduce new approaches and instruments for addressing them. **We share the view that it is necessary to strengthen the Organization and its specialized agencies, including through the urgent reform of the Secretariat and other UN divisions.**

**Tajikistan welcomes the outcome of the September Summit and is prepared to meet all the commitments and implement all the decisions outlined in its Final documents. We regard them as a pledge by the international community to pay relevant attention to challenges of human development and for this purpose to channel additional financial resources to the countries in extreme need like Tajikistan.**

**The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) must remain the focus of our further efforts.** At the moment nobody has any doubts that at the national level the pace and priorities of the MDGs implementation **must be adjusted to specific conditions of the countries, each of which follows its own way and has its own distinguishable features.**

Tajikistan is willing to achieve ultimate progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Despite the available difficulties we have made real progress in the attainment of a number of MDSs. Thus, according to the World Bank, **noticeable positive changes have occurred in poverty reduction:** in recent years the number of people living below the poverty line has decreased by 16 per cent.

**It is obvious that certain progress has been made in ensuring food security,** which is among the key priorities in Tajikistan. The Government has as its target the development of agriculture and creation within it a viable private sector and, at a minimum, a three-fold increase in the rural households income.

We fully agree with the conclusion made in the report entitled *The Millennium Development Goals Needs Assessment* that was submitted to the UN Secretary-General by a team of experts under Jeffrey Sacks, which states that **Tajikistan has a unique opportunity to reach the Millennium Development Goals on major parameters by 2015.** Successful achievement of the envisaged targets will allow Tajikistan to become in Central Asia an example of an emerging democracy of equality and prosperity.

**At the moment Tajikistan finds itself at the turning point of its development.** The armed conflict was resolved within a short period of time, and the complex stage of peace building, which is being successfully implemented with the UN support, is approaching its conclusion. Over the last five years, with the involvement of the Office of the UN Secretary-General in Tajikistan, the country has successfully traveled a difficult road of national reconciliation and stability strengthening, establishing democratic institutions, improving lawfulness and assertion of human rights.

Stability and implementation of the reforms of the first generation brought about a speedy increase in GDP, with the annual increase of 9,3 % over the last five years. The country's economy has been moving along the road of rehabilitation and progress. At the same time the Republic's authorities have a clear idea of the scale and complexity of the problems the country is faced with and are fully aware of their responsibility for addressing social and economic problems, and undertake all feasible measures for their resolution.

**Tajikistan has become one of the first countries in the world that, with the assistance of the United Nations, generated an estimation of the overall costs and resources required for the implementation of 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, education, health, water supply and sanitation and environment.**

**According to *The Millennium Development Goals Needs Assessment* Tajikistan will need about thirteen billion Am. dollars in the next ten years to achieve the required progress in the implementation of MDGs.**

*The Millennium Development Goals Needs Assessment* is only the first concrete measure. Based on this document *The National Strategy for Development for 2006-2008* and a more detailed *Strategy for Poverty Reduction for 2006-2008* are being elaborated in Tajikistan now. These measures undertaken by the Tajikistan government are in full accord with the decisions of the Summit on elaboration of national strategies for development.

**Meanwhile, it is obvious that Tajikistan is one of those states, whose social and economic development depends largely on the chosen by the international community approach towards addressing challenges of poverty eradication, development financing, providing an equitable world trade system, eliminating natural disasters, resolving demographic problems.** That is why the decisions made by the Summit on such a crucial issue as financing of development is of ultimate importance for Tajikistan.

Allow me to briefly dwell on some of the key issues.

**Official assistance for development needs.** In cooperation with the UN experts we assessed our needs in this area in a detailed and transparent manner.

Currently, the financial needs for sustainable development considerably exceed the available federal and external resources. Out of 930 mln. dollars, which the international donors committed to allocate to Tajikistan in 2003-2005, actually only 40 per cent were provided. **We call on the international community, at a minimum, to double the existing aid for the implementation of the MDGs.**

**Debt.** Reducing the burden of foreign debt is of special importance for us, since the released funds can be invested into development. Due to the efforts undertaken by the Government at reducing the burden of servicing the foreign debt certain progress has been achieved in restructuring of bilateral debts in recent years. However, in the near future the debt burden will remain heavy: according to the estimates, this year the debt will constitute more than 40 % of GDP and, as before, will pose a threat to macro-economic stability of the country and to plans for development.

**Trade.** Economy and trade of Tajikistan considerably depend on favorable conditions at the world market. Tajikistan stands for a successful completion of the Doha round of trade negotiations within the WTO, so that it will be able to fully realize its capacity in the field of development and advance towards an open and fair world trade system.

**Lack of access to the sea and remoteness from world markets** significantly increase transit transportation expenditures, make it harder for the country to participate in world trade and directly affect the poverty rate in the country. In this context **development of regional cooperation, primarily, with the neighboring countries,** is the key factor for the achievement of MDGs in Tajikistan.

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 quite 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.**

In this connection Tajikistan believes that it is absolutely essential that the processes of multifaceted regional cooperation fully embrace Afghanistan. We expect the leading international partners of our region to render relevant support to these processes. This theme could become one of the items to be considered by the future UN Commission on peace building.

Not in a single area should the international community loosen its attention towards Afghanistan. In this country the process of national reconciliation is under constant threat. The Taliban and advocates of Al-Quada again are raising their heads and making attempts to restore the infrastructure of terror. Their antigovernment actions become increasingly impertinent and in reality threaten peace and security both in the country and in the region. Narcotics production that defies control causes a

serious concern. Such a dangerous trend demands relevant measures on behalf of the international community.

**Both at the national level and within the framework of the Organization of the Treaty on Collective Security and Shanghai Organization, as a member of the antiterrorist coalition, who actively interacts with its partners and the Government of Khamid Karzai, Tajikistan will continue to make its contribution to peace building and rehabilitation efforts undertaken by the international community in Afghanistan.**

Mr. Chairman,

While counting on international assistance the Tajikistan Government increases its own efforts at using the country's own capacity to the full extent. **Water resources possessed by Tajikistan provide us with considerable potential advantages in terms of the MDGs implementation**, since they represent a huge hydro potential that, unfortunately, is currently used by less than 5 per cent.

Rational and fair water resources management will directly favor progress in achieving the major part of the MDGs by means of addressing the challenges of food security, employment, sanitation, reduction of deceases, expansion of school attendance, etc.

**It is not a secret that even today water often causes political tension in the relations between states. One of the key targets the international community should address in water resources management is prevention of conflicts on the basis of respect for sovereignty of bordering states, with due account for historical cultural and economic conditions of each of them.**

**Awareness of the whole range of water related problems and mobilized political will of all UN member states to deal with these challenges brought the international community to the *International Year of Freshwater, 2003*, and to the *International Decade of Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015* launched on March 22, 2005, both of which were proclaimed by the initiative of Tajikistan. We extend our sincere appreciation to all UN member states and to the UN Secretary-General for the support rendered to the *water* initiative of our country.**

Our common goal is to develop a qualitatively new pattern of water resources sustainable management and to address water economy challenges at the national, regional and international levels by uniting the international community support and national efforts and granting the leading role to the countries and sub regions faced with water supply problems.

We do hope that all countries and the UN specialized agencies will take an active part in the events within the Decade, the success of which significantly depends on joint activities and which should become a common tangible contribution to the future of mankind.

Mr. Chairman,

Achieving progress in the implementation of MDGs is of special significance for Tajikistan as the country that lived through the civil conflict. Successful social and economic development of the country is the key to avoiding reoccurrence of the previous situation.

Due to our experience, we believe that providing conditions, which can prevent resuming conflicts and strengthen the process of advancing social and economic development of the countries that lived through such conflicts, must be among the key goals of the international community. In this connection we fully share the view that **overcoming conflicts, as well as their prevention, post conflict rehabilitation and development must be in the focus of the United Nations attention.**

We do hope that the modalities of the future UN Commission on peace building will expand the capacity of the international community to respond to the needs of post conflict countries and will allow to ensure a direct link between security and development. The ECOSOC is called to play its role in this process.

In this context the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan proposes to convene in Dushanbe in 2007 an international conference dedicated to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of signing of the General Agreement on Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan. The purpose of this event is so much needed discussion of positive experience gained by the countries that overcame the conflict, and the study of mechanisms, instruments and advanced practices in the field of post crises development.

Mr. Chairman,

Tajikistan, which suffered for its independence, has firmly embarked on the democratic road of development and will not turn from it. The international community, first and foremost, the United Nations has made an enormous contribution to this, and all these years we have felt its generous assistance and selfless support.

We are convinced that the UN should remain the key center for regulating international relations in the new millennium. We operate on the assumption that the consolidating function of the UN should be enhanced, the reform of the Organization should be rational, and the renewed United Nations themselves should be strong, capable of responding to the events in the world in a fast and adequate manner, to effectively counteract numerous global challenges and risks of a new generation. Tajikistan will make its contribution in this area in order to strengthen the UN and enhance its role in modern world.

Thank you.