

UZBEKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Alisher Vohidov
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations
at the general debates of the 60th Session
of the UN General Assembly

New York, September 23, 2005

**Dear Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

First of all, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of this high position and wish you every success in the work of the session. I would also like to thank your predecessor, Mr. Jean Ping, for his able leadership as the President of the previous General Assembly session.

Mr. President,

It is obvious, that the continuing process of reorganization of entire system of international relations, in particular reforming the United Nations, was unreasonably delayed. In this connection the UN Summit - 2005 became an important stage in exploring acceptable for all formulas and defining the goals realization of which will lead us to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Decisions taken at the Summit carry both final and intermediate character. Nevertheless, our primary task, obviously, is to ensure their full implementation, not to allow any inertness in accomplishing them, as it has been the case in the process of realization of the MDGs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Strengthening the potential of the United Nations in achieving the goals in three directions - development, security and human rights – requires appropriate and active adaptation of entire UN system. In this connection we consider it important to note the following:

First. Regardless of the scope of necessity to reform and modernize the UN there is no alternative to the Organisation at present.

Second. Further inertness in reforming the most important bodies of the Organization will negatively affect on its role and place in the modern world. There is a real danger that if the UN continues to be passive its coordinating role will gradually pass to other international structures which do not have such a wide representation of nations as the United Nations.

Third. The reform of three main bodies of the United Nations – General Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC should provide a balance in their work. Strengthening the intergovernmental bodies and administrative structures of the United Nations by ensuring their coordination and eliminating all the duplication will contribute for transforming the UN into a more effective international mechanism.

In our view, the Security Council reform should not be delayed and it is in the interest of all of us. It should be carried out during the main part of the current session, i.e. until the end of this year.

Fourth, regional approach should be given paramount attention in dealing with development, security and human rights issues. The exercise of the rule "from regional to global" has proved its efficiency in many occasions.

Only the renovated UN with its resources and potential is capable of consolidating collective efforts in solving urgent problems of the present day, in particular, in tackling new threats and challenges. In this context we support the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission with the purpose of taking necessary measures in preventing and eliminating the roots of expansion of conflict zones in the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The role of the United Nations should be strengthened in addressing the global problems of development, creating common approaches to tackle the issues of poverty, diseases, environmental stability and equal access for all countries to the advantages of globalization.

For this purpose it is necessary to strengthen, first of all, the UN institutes, its funds and specialized agencies so that they could effectively cooperate with the member-states in overcoming the basic obstacles in ensuring sustainable development.

At present Uzbekistan is implementing its national goals in ensuring economic development, carrying out necessary economic reforms and taking measures to strengthen the regional economic cooperation. We deem that national actions should be supported by multilateral economic structures.

It is necessary that the international donors rendered comprehensive support to regional cooperation, and all interested developing countries, in their turn, should make such a cooperation indispensable part of their national strategy.

We consider it important that the regional commissions of the UN - the European Economic Commission and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific – strengthened their work to assist economic development in Central Asia with a view of involving the countries of the region in the international economic relations and investment cooperation.

We are of the view that the international community, including the UN, should pay serious attention to the question of creating Central Asian Common Market that would be capable of ensuring rational and effective utilization of rich potential and resources of the region.

Uzbekistan supports all the efforts to ensure sustainable environment. The member-countries should consolidate their endeavors to tackle the problems of environmental degradation, shortage of clean water resources, deterioration of ecological conditions in cities and industrial zones. Problems of desertification, biodiversity and climate change are also the big issues in connection to which urgent decisions should be taken.

Uzbekistan calls for strengthening the role of multilateral mechanisms of the UN on disarmament and non-proliferation. Standing for the earliest entry of the Convention on nuclear terrorism into force we support strengthening the regime within the framework of the UN Security Council resolution 1540 on suppression of terrorists' access to WMD and its technologies.

In Central Asia the question of demilitarization of the region has been obtaining crucial significance. The countries of the region are united in their efforts to establish in the near future Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia.

Distinguished delegates,

The acts of terrorism occurred in many regions of the world, including Central Asia, have once again reminded of the necessity of a critical judgement on the practice of international cooperation, including that of within the UN, to counter the "plague of XXI century" - terrorism that threatens both rich and poor states. It is inadmissible to delay taking appropriate measures against those international centers of terrorism and extremism which disguise themselves with universal human values while in fact develop and distribute an ideology of fanaticism.

In this connection we welcome the new resolution of Security Council 1624 (2005) of 14 September 2005 on suppression of inciting terrorist acts. At the same time we consider it crucially important not to allow application of "double standards" in realization of this document. It also concerns the process of developing the project of the universal Convention on international terrorism.

The international community should consolidate its efforts against terrorism by using the wide normative basis strengthened recently by the corresponding resolutions of the Security Council (1540, 1566) and also the Convention against acts of nuclear terrorism opened for signing on 14 September 2005 here in New York.

The powerful incentive of the international terrorism is drug trafficking. Unfortunately no actual progress is seen in reducing the production of narcotics in Afghanistan. In this question there is urgent need to move from statements to real work. In this context we expect that the international community would render its firm support to the initiative of Uzbekistan on creating in Central Asia the Regional Information and Coordination Center on fight against the trans-boundary crimes related to drug trafficking.

Along with the vital issues of development and security there is another important subject – human rights which deserves our high attention and plays crucially important role in shaping new international relations and reforming of the United Nations, in particular. In his report "In larger freedom" UN Secretary

General Mr. Kofi Annan notes that international treaties adopted for the past six decades have formed an impressive normative basis that ensures the full protection of human rights and freedoms. No doubt that protection of human rights should be one of the central tasks for the UN.

Uzbekistan participates in all the main international documents in the sphere of human rights and is steadily moving towards democracy and formation of a civil society. One of the important steps in this direction was, in particular, the decision of Uzbek Government to abolish the death penalty in the country.

We are convinced that reform of the UN Human Right System should be carried out step-by-step taking into account the interests of all parties. Alongside with the political rights it is necessary to strengthen other human rights, including social, economic and ecological rights.

We reiterate our position on inadmissibility of politization and the principle of selectivity in the issue of human rights. Totally unacceptable is also the use of UN bodies and mechanisms for the sake of such purposes.

Dear delegates,

The establishment of strong and long-term peace in Afghanistan carries a strategic value for Uzbekistan. In this context we welcome the parliamentary elections that were held in Afghanistan on September 18. This event has become another important step to restore the Afghan statehood.

Uzbekistan supports the efforts aimed at ensuring the stabilization of the situation in Afghan land as soon as possible. We consider Afghanistan as part of the Central Asian region and thus encourage its participation in regional integration processes. Uzbekistan is rendering every support to Afghan people and also corresponding structures of the UN as well as other international organizations in restoration process of Afghanistan.

Apart from security issues in Afghanistan the UN should also devote steadfast attention to the projects directed on radical structural transformations in the Afghan economy and wide involvement of the population of the country into peacebuilding process. In this regard it would be also important to use the potential of the Central Asian states in restoring Afghanistan, its reintegration into the international system through the regional cooperation.

Mr. President,

Today, five years after the Millennium Summit during which the member-countries have adopted a historical decision to reform and renovate the mechanisms of the UN, we have a unique opportunity to carry out more far-reaching reforms on adapting the Organisation to the present day realities. The purpose of these reforms is to ensure well-being and prosperity of our peoples.

A vital moment for decision and action has come. Any sluggishness in this process can paralyze the system of international relations, further advance the threats and challenges and lead to a situation when the international community could be unable to take timely and adequate measures.

In conclusion would like to reiterate the readiness of Uzbekistan for active cooperation with other states in creating more effective and fair United Nations.

Thank you for your attention.