



STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon,

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at

the High Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly

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1. Ten years ago in this Hall we adopted the Millennium Declaration, the fundamental document that identified the major directions of the efforts the international community was to make at the dawn of a new century. The key importance of the Declaration lies in the fact that it defined a set of practical objectives and goals aimed at development of each individual, and at meeting the needs of the most vulnerable population, in particular, children, to whom the future belongs.

2. Today, ten years later, it is of extreme importance not only to discuss the achieved progress and identify the drawbacks in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals laid down in the Millennium Declaration, but also to work out specific measures for further acceleration and strengthening of the efforts towards a timely and complete achievement of the MDGs. It is especially important at the current stage when the unsustainable and irregular progress is being undermined by the food, energy and financial and economic crises.

Climate change and its adverse impact, which is apparently gaining momentum today, confront us with additional complex tasks, which are impossible to address without concerted efforts of the entire international community. Given these new challenges and increasing interconnection and interdependence we deem it essential to accelerate the implementation of the commitments made at the beginning of the new Millennium.

3. Tajikistan is one of the eight pilot countries that were identified for the implementation of the MDGs. With the consideration to the above, the country adopted *The National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan till 2015 (NDS)*. As the major strategic document of the country the NSD identifies priorities and major directions of the government policy aimed at achieving sustainable economic growth, easing access of the population to basic social services, and poverty reduction. The document provides a principally new approach towards ensuring of development, takes into account the world experience in elaboration and implementation of similar strategic documents, lessons and conclusions with regard to the previous stages of the country's development, and addresses the current realities and prospects for development.

Moreover, the NDS serves as a basis for all existing and developing concepts for the government and economic sectors, for strategies and programs for the country's development, for activities of all bodies of government management, including the 3rd Midterm Strategy for Poverty Reduction for 2010-2012. As a result of the implementation of the measures envisaged by the NDS we already managed to considerably reduce poverty.

4. Currently, about half of the government budget of the country is channeled to the social sector, predominantly to education and healthcare. At the same time, I would like to note that the potential of the government financing of the social sector is restricted by the rate of growth of country's real economy, which has slowed down in recent years, due to the impact of global financial and economic crisis, natural disasters and artificially created barriers to a normal functioning of the transport corridors. Today the Government of Tajikistan is undertaking extra measures with the aim to mitigate its negative impact and not to allow the funding of the social sector to be reduced, and also in order to engage, on a complex basis, its own potential for economic growth. These measures will expand the possibility of funding the social sector providing access to basic social services, and eventually, will ensure the achievement of all MDGs. As a result of such measures, for instance, the number of children attending elementary and high schools has increased, and the quality of social services granted to the population has improved.

5. Among the key factors that contribute to acceleration of progress in the MDGs implementation, in addition to mobilization of internal resources, one should note the creation of international environment favorable for attaining sustainable development. It is especially important at the current stage when the consequences of global financial and economic crisis have not been completely dealt with, and the necessity to accelerate the reform of the international finance system is still relevant. It is essential that the reform of the international finance system would not only strengthen it but would also contribute to giving extra impetus to reactivation of world trade and investments, which are the driving force behind the world economic development and increased employment. The undertaken measures must be focused on creating favorable external conditions and strengthening of global partnership, which promote timely and complete achievement of the MDGs. These measures must not aggravate the burden of the countries' external debts, which remain one of the most serious obstacles to progress.

6. Ensuring access to energy for everyone can become the key prerequisite for acceleration of progress in the MDGs implementation. We believe that this issue should be given priority alongside with the MDGs. In this regard, we support the initiative to provide universal access to modern energy services by 2030.

The major challenge of today is how to ensure access to energy simultaneously giving due consideration to the on-going growth of population of Earth and to the reduction of the anthropogenic impact on climate. In our view, these goals do not make us face a dilemma; on the contrary, they provide opportunities for new cooperation. In this regard, we consider it essential that reliable and stable access to energy should be accompanied by advocating an increased share of renewable energy on the global level, transfer of new and advanced technologies, and

enhanced energy efficiency. Comprehensive development of the hydropower engineering coupled with use of the potential of renewable energy of other types, such as solar and wind, makes it possible for us not only to provide access to energy but also contributes to stability and efficiency of energy systems and considerable decrease of detrimental emissions into the air, with the latter three being the key objectives for the MDGs implementation and mitigation of climate change impact.

Today Tajikistan, which has enormous hydro potential, is continuously increasing efforts towards a comprehensive development of hydro power engineering. Currently a number of small-, medium- and large scale hydropower stations are under construction in the country. They are meant not only for generating energy but also for irrigation purposes, which is of importance for the entire region of Central Asia. Our opinion is that effective development of hydro energy potential of the country is an important factor capable of producing multiplicative effect on the enhancement of progress and ensuring of success.

7. Water is a vitally important resource that unites all MDGs. The current growth of water scarcity and climate change, which affects water resources, make the issues of water delivery to populations and water- dependent economic sectors an increasingly urgent issue. Lack of access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, human deaths caused by water-born diseases and insanitary conditions, droughts and desertification threaten the source of life subsistence for a huge number of people on our planet. The total range of these and other problems related to water resources were in the focus of attention and discussion among the participants of the International Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the International Decade for Action “Water for Life, 2005-2015”, held at the initiative of Tajikistan in the city of Dushanbe on June 8-10, 2010. The Dushanbe Declaration on Water, the Outcome document of the Conference, approved by the representatives of over 75 countries of the world comprises a number of recommendations, among them:

- to develop adequate policy and allocate sufficient funds for the water sector;
- to introduce gradually and sequentially integrated management of water resources at the river basin level;
- to pay greater attention to the issues related to ensuring access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation;
- to take measures for adaptation to the on-going global changes, including climate change;
- to improve the system of monitoring of glaciers and freshwater resources;
- more concerted actions by all stakeholders at all levels with the aim to incorporate the water issue in the national plans and programs for development;
- to increase involvement of women in a decision-making process on water resources;

- to increase financing and strengthen cooperation, including development of water diplomacy.

We are convinced that the above recommendations will be a worthy contribution to the implementation of the Action Agenda for Achieving the MDGs by 2015.

8. It is necessary to note that the new challenges emerging in today's world demand the undivided attention of the international community. For instance, during the last years the disparity in the development of the economies of the developed and developing countries has significantly increased, which hampers the process of integration. For this reason, it is necessary to take measures for strengthening a global partnership with the aim to consolidate efforts of all members of the international community, without exception.

9. In conclusion, I would like to note that ten years ago the goals laid down in the Millennium Declaration became a powerful incentive for all of us. Today, on the eve of the last 5 years left for the achievement of these goals, I am convinced that the MDGs can be achieved, and to this end we must urgently make all effective and comprehensive efforts.

Thank you for attention.