

Statement by
Mr. Hamidullokhon Faqerov, First Deputy Minister of Economic
Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan at the 19th Session
of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development
(New York, May 13, 2011)

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development for the kind invitation to share our views and ideas on issues of sustainable development at present stage.

At present situation, when the modern world faces too many negative factors such as climate change, frequent natural disasters, environmental disasters and economic crises, decline of the world energy resources, provoking greater vulnerability of the global economy, improving the mechanisms for cooperation and joint decision-making become more urgent. In this context, we support the statement made by Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 + China. At the same time, we would like to express some particular features of the process of sustainable development in the Republic of Tajikistan. Despite the continuing negative impact to the environment, the modern world needs to develop industry in order to meet the progressively increasing need of the population in means of subsistence. This is particularly true for the developing countries, particularly Tajikistan. Consequently, the international community should take measures to develop and implement mechanisms for sustainable development through the use of balance of natural resources, production and consumption, and purposeful use of renewable energy sources in order to ensure minimal damage to the environment and prevent adverse environmental impacts.

On the global scale there is a tendency of crisis that have predominantly social ground as employment and elimination of unemployment. Therefore, in conditions of irregular dynamics of population growth in the world development and effective use of human resources and human potential in regional and global scales is becoming an important factor contributing to sustainable development. Correct and consistent use of human resources through regional partnership would allow solving such pressing social issues as employment and elimination of unemployment, prevention and stabilization of demographic crises at the regional level.

In order to ensure economic stability and sustainable development, the Republic of Tajikistan on the basis of the Millennium Development Goals developed a number of key strategic documents such as the National Development Strategy and the Poverty Reduction Strategy, which identify needs and priorities of the country, as well as goals for development of national economy in the long and medium terms.

The country has consistently carried out economic, as well as institutional and structural reforms. All these changes led to qualitative changes in the economy and its fairly rapid development. Measures taken in the country to ensure macroeconomic stability have allowed to overcome the negative impact of the global economic crisis.

Measures taken by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan include development of the national economy through modernization and diversification, the development of high technology and energy industries, technological and institutional renewal of production in order to improve its competitiveness. For this purpose, the State Program of Innovative Development of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2020 was adopted, which takes into account all principles of sustainable development.

The Government intends to continue active solution of basic strategic goals for achieving energy and food security.

It is known that Tajikistan is a predominantly agrarian country. In this context, addressing issues of ensuring the country's food supply, increase of production and reduction of losses of agricultural production through intensification of production and introduction of new technologies, development of industries for processing agricultural products are the main spheres of cooperation with our development partners. This will ensure food security in the country taking into account environmental security standards of the country.

The process of reforms of the agricultural sector with participation of international experts and development partners include fundamental transformation of production relations of agricultural producers, land management, improvement of irrigation systems and water management, organizational and legal forms of business entities and their economic self-sufficiency, improving local governance and improvement of rural areas.

It should be noted that Tajikistan is a major center of glaciation in Central Asia and the glaciers on its territory are not only repositories of water, but also regulators of river flow and climate.

Currently, due to global warming, degradation of glaciers is increasing; this process causes certain risks associated with natural disasters, degradation of irrigated land and thus provokes decline in economic growth and undermine food security.

In this regard, the Government of Tajikistan has adopted the State Program for Study and Preservation of Glaciers of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030, which includes measures to improve monitoring and study of glaciers in Tajikistan. This step demonstrates responsibility for future generations to preserve a balance between the main elements of sustainable development: economic, environmental and social issues. At the same time, Tajikistan is an open country for regional and international cooperation in research, monitoring and prediction of possible environmental changes and reduction of possible risks. Under these conditions, formation, use and management of water resources in the region will require development of a new mechanism, taking into account realities of today.

In conclusion, I would like to note that the issues covered by the program of the Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development are very relevant and reflect the real situation of the global economy. The Republic of Tajikistan supports the idea of acceleration of integration processes in this area and will actively participate in preparations for Rio+20 Conference.

Thank you.