



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

136 EAST 67TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10021
Tel. (212) 744-2196, Fax (212) 472-7645

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STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Sirodjidin Aslov,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the UN

on the occasion of the Ministerial Dialogue “Making a Difference” in
the High-Level Segment of CSD

New York, 11 May 2006

**Distinguished Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the organizers of this event and express hope that CSD-14 will enhance the efforts of the international community at the implementation of the decisions made by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The issues on today's agenda are those of top priority for Tajikistan. Tajikistan does not explore hydrocarbon deposits because 93 percent of our territory are covered with mountains, and exploration of hydrocarbon deposits deep in bowels of earth would be very costly. But my country is an upper watersheds zone for the Aral Sea basin and is rich in water resources such as glaciers, lakes and rivers, which are vital for sustaining the climate and environmental balance of our region, and also allow to generate vast amounts of cost effective and environmentally sound hydropower energy. The potential generating capacity of Tajikistan exceeds 500 billion KWh per year.

The development of hydropower engineering can serve not only as a powerful impetus for Tajikistan's economic development. It will allow to address such major issues faced by the country as creation of extra jobs, reduction of labor migration and population's poverty level.

Currently the Republic of Tajikistan generates 17,1 billion KWh per year.

The Government of Tajikistan undertakes considerable efforts to explore the country's enormous hydropower resources, which makes it possible for the country not only to meet its own needs but also increase the volume of hydropower exports.

Within these efforts recently there have been commissioned the hydropower station "Pamir 1" and 26 small hydropower stations. In compliance with the investment agreements signed with various companies from Russia and Iran we started construction of large-scale hydropower projects, among them the Rogun, Sangtuda-1 and Sangtuda-2 hydropower stations.

After the commissioning of new hydropower stations and modernization of the existing ones and implementation of the National Strategy for development of hydropower engineering the production of electric power will, accordingly reach
26,4 billion KWh. by 2010,
35 billion KWh by the year 2015.
80 billion KWh per year by 2025

Measures are being undertaken to create the relevant infrastructure for hydropower transportation within the country and for its exports to the region's states. To this end the construction of the transmission line "South-North" has been started, and the investment projects for the construction of the transmission lines of Rogun-

Kabul- Ghirat - Meshkhed and Rogun – Kabul - Islamabad are being currently developed.

The construction of the above transmission lines is of great importance for the region.

Given the above and taking into account the ever increasing need in electric power, Tajikistan could export its electric power to the Central Asian states neighboring Tajikistan, as well as to the Russian Federation, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, India and China.

We are convinced that cooperation of the states of our region in the exploration of unique water and hydropower resources of Tajikistan is going to become one of the major sources for providing them with energy in the near future.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to briefly comment on some aspects of the Aral Sea environmental crises faced by our region, which involves numerous issues of social and economic and sustainable development of the region's states, and which, because of its nature and magnitude, has already acquired a global dimension. In order to halt the expanding crises thirteen years ago Heads of state of the region established the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea. The Fund comprises two Commissions, one of them is the Commission on Sustainable development. The states of the region have approved of the "Program of actions on social and economic and environmental rehabilitation of the Aral Sea Basin through the year 2010". However, because of the shortage of investments the Program cannot be properly implemented. Realizing the scope of the Aral Sea disaster the President of the Fund, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Emomali Rakhmonov, called on the international community to nominate this region as a pilot project region for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, since environmental and water economy problems resulted in serious social and economic problems, the solution of which requires the involvement of the world community and international organizations. I am taking this opportunity to address the Commission on Sustainable Development and other international institutions participating in this session with a request to pay more attention to the issue of dealing with the Aral Sea crises.

Given the above and the implementation of the International Decade of Action "Water for Life, 2005-2015" we propose to develop and implement new approaches towards rational usage of water and hydropower resources and use them as one of the major instruments for addressing such global issues as poverty reduction, electric power supply, sustaining of the climate, and improvement of environment for future generations.

Thank you for attention.