

STATEMENT
BY THE HEAD OF DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN
H.E. MR. MAHMADAMIN MAHMADAMINOV
AT THE 2ND SECOND UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES
(Vienna, 3-5 November 2014)

Mr. President of the Conference,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Mr. Secretary-General of the LLDC conference,

Distinguished heads of delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express sincere appreciation of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Government of Austria for hosting the Second UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and for the warm hospitality extended to all its participants.

I would like also to congratulate the President of the Conference and Members of the Bureau on their election to lead the Second UN Conference on Landlocked Developing

Countries. We sincerely hope that the Conference will become a platform for constructive and productive deliberations and exchange of views on furthering implementation of a new programme of action.

Mr. President of the Conference,

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished Representative of Bolivia, on behalf of the Group 77 and China.

The special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries have been recognized by the United Nations for a long time. They have been prominently reflected in the Almaty Programme of Action (APoA), the MDGs and the Rio+20 Outcome document “The Future we want”. Since the adoption of the APoA we have achieved considerable progress in addressing and facilitating socio-economic development and wellbeing of populations as well as the integration of LLDCs into the regional and global economic systems.

Tajikistan is committed to the decisions and recommendations of the APoA and has undertaken all measures to develop its own system of transport and transit roads and communications. Special importance is attached to the improvement and development of transport and energy infrastructure, promoting

and expanding sub-regional and regional trade. Efforts have been intensified to introduce the system entitled “*Single window*” that facilitates the simplification of customs rules and regulations. The National program on promoting trade and transportation has been successfully implementing. Currently, Tajikistan has four active free economic zones, two of which are located in its border areas.

In preparation for this Conference Tajikistan held in Dushanbe on 17-18 September 2013 the following events:

- The Tenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission of the International Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA);
- High Level International Conference on the development of transit potential of Central Asia for the period until 2023.

Based on the deliberations of both events the relevant resolutions were adopted and signed. At both events, decisions were made on creating more attractive environment for transit; improving transport safety; environmental protection; harmonization of legislations; application of a flexible tariff policy and simplification of customs procedures.

Recently, on October 27-28, 2014, the First Investment Forum on the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for cooperation with Central Asia was held in Dushanbe. With the

aim to mobilize and galvanize intra-OIC and international support for the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for Central Asia, which featured activities in such major areas as agro-industrial development; transport sector development; trade promotion; and poverty alleviation, vocational training, and capacity building, the Forum brought together more than 400 participants.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite these efforts, Tajikistan, as one of the LLDCs, continues to face adverse effect of landlockedness and emerging challenges. Lack of access to sea makes the process of development more complicated and seriously interferes with efficient integration of land locked developing countries into the multilateral system of world trade, has a negative impact on economic growth, poverty reduction and achievement of the MDGs.

We stand firm for the elimination of all artificial and economically unsubstantiated barriers and obstacles in transportation and communication, which do not contribute to streamlining and strengthening of cooperation and partnership. One should support and encourage in every possible way the efforts of LLDCs aimed at expanding and improving of

transportation and energy infrastructure, diversification of economy, streamlining of regional and interregional connectivity.

The geographical location of Tajikistan largely determines its strategy and policy development. One of the strategic objectives of Tajikistan is to find a way out from the communication deadlock. We strive to achieve this goal through the construction of tunnels, bridges, modern roads and railways, as well as land transport infrastructure and communications.

Today transport and energy sectors are considered as a priority for Tajikistan. Integrated development of hydro-energy and other types of renewable energy, allows not only to increase capacities but also promotes ensuring sustainability and increase in energy systems efficiency, considerable reduction of detrimental emissions, the major issue in addressing climate change. Tajikistan has been developing its energy potential in a consistent and planned manner based on an integrated development of renewable sources. In addition to the construction of small- and medium scale hydropower stations, the large-scale projects of regional significance are being developed, the opportunities for use of wind and solar energy are being explored. By using the above kinds of energy Tajikistan will in practice contribute to reduction of detrimental

emissions and establishment of a solid foundation for sustainable development, which is also the keystone for achieving the MDGs. All these projects have been implemented on a transparent basis, with due consideration to social, economic and ecological aspects of sustainable development of modern energy.

We believe that in order to ensure sustainable development and improve wellbeing of populations of the region the construction of power plants and high-voltage power transmission lines is of significance. In this regards, the interregional transmission line project, known as CASA-1000, aimed at promoting the export of electricity from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to Afghanistan and Pakistan, assumes importance for strengthening the economic and social development of the region. The establishment of this energy-bridge between Central Asia and South Asia will undoubtedly increase the wellbeing of populations and energy security, and will lead to an increase in industrial production and trade in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that Tajikistan welcomes the adoption of the new programme of action that will serve as a “roadmap” for addressing the special needs and challenges of LLDs for the next decade. We sincerely hope that

targets and actions in all priority areas envisaged by the new programme will be implemented fully and timely by all parties.

Thank you for attention.