

**STATEMENT**

by

**Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda,**

at

**the UN Climate Summit**

*(September 23, 2014, New York)*

**Distinguished Mr. Chair,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, I would like to extend to the Secretary-General, appreciation for convening and organizing today's Summit on Climate Change. His tireless efforts at consolidating the actions of the international community on addressing the issues and challenges related to climate change inspire us to search for innovative and practical ways of responding to climate change. We hope that this Summit will give an extra impetus to these actions and will bring us closer to the consensus on a new global document on climate change, which will be based on the UNFCCC principles.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provides an objective and clear picture of the on-going climate change that definitely contains an anthropological component. Long-term observations of our experts also attest to the increased impact of climate change on environment and social and economic situation in the country. According to the observations, over the last 60 years the average annual temperature in Tajikistan increased by 1 degree by Celsius; the number of days with heavy precipitation also increased; natural hydro meteorological disasters became more frequent and severe. In addition, the last decades witnessed a considerable degradation of Tajikistan glaciers that are of vital importance for the entire Central Asia.

It is worth mentioning that in terms of specific amount of carbon dioxide emissions Tajikistan ranks as 150<sup>th</sup> in the group of countries with the least emissions of green house gases. In Tajikistan per capita emissions of green house gases is ten times less than the average world index, and in Central Asia our country ranks as the last in terms of detrimental emissions.

Wide use of renewal energy, predominantly hydro energy, promotes economic and social development of the country, and allows to keep detrimental emissions at the lowest level. Hydropower stations constitute the basis of the country's energy and generate about 98 percent of the entire electrical energy. Nevertheless, annually, in winter season the country experiences certain difficulties in supplying the population with energy when a part of the Tajikistan population has access to electrical energy only for 6-7 hours a day. The Government of the country has been undertaking comprehensive measures in order to balance production and consumption of energy through modernization and increasing capacity of the operating hydropower stations, construction of new hydropower stations, extensive use of solar and wind energy and introduction of advanced methods of energy conservation.

The annual hydro capacity of Tajikistan accounts for 527 billion kWt, which exceeds by 3 times the current need in hydro energy in the countries of the entire Central Asian region. As of today, only 4 percent of this huge potential has been developed. Increase in hydropower potential will allow not only to deal with the energy problems of the country itself, but will also assist in

expanding energy exchange with the neighboring countries with the aim to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the region, where 70 percent of electrical energy are produced at thermal power stations.

In our view, complex development of hydro-energy coupled with use of potential of other types of renewable energy not only contributes to increase in capacities but also promotes sustainability and enhances efficiency of energy systems, as well as to a considerable reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, which is key in addressing the climate change issue. Given the above, Tajikistan, in a consistent and planned manner, has been developing its hydro potential, on the basis of a comprehensive development of all renewable sources. Alongside with construction of small- and medium-scale hydropower stations, Tajikistan has been developing large-scale projects of hydro units that would be instrumental in ensuring water, energy and food security in the region. In addition to ensuring multiannual and seasonal regulation of river water flow, the water reservoirs of such hydro units, prevent flash floods, mud flows and flooding and mitigate the impact of droughts.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is becoming more obvious that climate change affects the quantity and quality of freshwater resources. It is common knowledge that as a result of climate change the amount of water resources stored in glaciers and snowcaps has diminished, the area of ground waters affected by salinization has increased, and precipitation have become more frequent and heavier. In its turn, a change of the hydrological cycle can have a negative impact on water, energy and food security, and also can entail extra risks of floods and extreme droughts. Under the circumstances, it is essential to reconsider the existing methods of water resources management in order to ensure a secure adaptation with due consideration not only to the climate factor but further growth of the world's population and economy.

In Central Asia, where water resources are formed on the territory of one countries and the lion's share of water is consumed by the other countries, the need to develop a comprehensive regional plan for adaptation to climate change became urgent long ago. The urgency of such a plan is also caused by a speedy degradation of glaciers in the region as a result of climate change. The research shows that from 1956 to 1990 the glaciers of the region, which are the main source of water for Central Asian rivers, got degraded by 3 times. According to approximate calculation, the Tajikistan glaciers in the last decade degraded by 30 percent. I would like to take this opportunity to once again draw the attention of the distinguished participants to the Summit to the initiative of Tajikistan to establish an international fund on saving of glaciers, which will unite the efforts of the international community at studying and monitoring the state of mountain glaciers in different regions. We hope that this proposal will find support of all interested parties.

**Distinguished Mr. Chair,**

It is obvious that all plans and programs on addressing climate change in addition to measures on considerable reduction of detrimental emissions should also include specific measures on adaptation to climate change. And all plans and programs should be reinforced by adequate financial and technical resources. Comprehensive assistance in transfer of advanced technologies and strengthening of the national potential of developing countries can be invaluable in the implementation of measures of adaptation to climate change.

Thank you for attention.