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STATEMENT

by

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic

His Excellency Mr. Erlan Abdyldaev

**at the General Debate of the 68th Session
of the United Nations General Assembly**

(28 September 2013)

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, let me congratulate His Excellency Mr. John Ashe on his election as President of the 68th Session of the General Assembly and wish him every success in this very responsible mission.

It gives me a great pleasure to express sincere appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremić for his successful and fruitful leadership during the previous Session of the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

Thirteen years have passed since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration. 2015 - the established deadline to achieve the Development Goals - rapidly approaches. The world has changed since then and we anticipate that in the 15 years ahead, it will change a great deal more. In this context, the main theme of the General Debate, "The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage" is obviously very appropriate and relevant. We are convinced that the new Development Agenda will have a clear vision of our development after 2015. It should be formulated in the best spirit of the Millennium Development Goals with special attention to the issues of poverty eradication, education and healthcare, economy and employment, governance, agriculture and food availability, energy, peace and security.

The need for a common agenda is unquestionable. It is necessary that all countries enthusiastically embark on the path of sustainable development. The global tasks can be reached effectively, if they are included in each country's developmental strategy as the core priorities. Kyrgyzstan has taken its part. This is reflected in the National Sustainable Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2013-2017, which identifies the five-year targets and plans for transition to sustainable development culminating in 2017. Our vision is to form a stable country where human rights, freedom and security are guaranteed, where a multiethnic society is governed with equal adherence to the rule of law, where all prerequisites for sustainable economic growth and a decent standard of life are the norm. Kyrgyzstan faces a complex of difficult tasks that we believe should be addressed in partnership with the United Nations and the international community.

Mr. President,

The main strategic resource for the green economic growth of Kyrgyzstan is water. The role of water increases significantly due to the major challenges of sustainable development –

global climate change which is already affecting our region negatively. First and foremost, the state of water resources. Due to global warming Kyrgyzstan's glaciers have shrunk by 30%. According to preliminary expert forecasts, unless urgent measures are taken, there will be practically no glaciers and snowfields on the country's territory by the year 2100; and these melting waters are the primary source of the rivers of Central Asia.

This continued negative trend may well lead to a substantial reduction of river flow in Kyrgyzstan and, subsequently to the social and economic tensions in the region as a whole. It is necessary to continue our work in the Conferences with the Parties of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is important that the international financial and ecological organizations continue to assist the countries of Central Asia in addressing this problem. This is particularly important in the transition to a sustainable use of both water and natural ecosystems resources.

The development of hydroenergy is strategically important for the sustainable socio-economic development of the region. We are confident that this will contribute to an integrated solution of many current and future challenges. We believe that the construction of large hydroelectric power facilities should be considered as one of the clean development mechanisms. The hydropower potential of the upstream countries should be considered as a low-carbon development, and water resources - as the core model of "green development" in the economic progress of the region. We are ready to participate in the exchange of the best practices in water management, use of water and construction of irrigation systems.

More than 90% of Kyrgyzstan is mountains, which play an equally important role in the accumulation of water. In this regard, we support the further promotion of the developmental goals of the mountainous regions in accordance with the decisions taken at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20. I am confident that a resolution on this issue, to be tabled at this General Assembly session with the co-sponsorship of Kyrgyzstan, will receive adequate support of the UN membership.

A few mountainous landlocked countries have special needs for development. High levels of poverty, isolation, the burden of transportation costs and a large amount of debt - all these are the basic range of problems that many mountainous countries face. In such conditions, it is difficult to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to fulfil the commitments laid down in the UN documents on sustainable development. We hope that the special needs, problems and challenges of the mountain countries and communities will be properly reflected in the post 2015 development programs.

It is well known that mountain ranges provide valuable ecosystem services and serve as important environmental support systems. One of the support systems that provides for the living conditions of wildlife, is the snow leopard, representative of the rare, endangered highland animals; and symbolic of the immediate needs. Kyrgyzstan has developed and approved the National Strategy for conservation of this rare species of animals for the next 10 years. We wish to invite you to the World Forum on the Snow Leopard to be held on 22-23 October 2013 in Kyrgyzstan. I am confident that this Forum will be a powerful impetus for deepening multilateral cooperation in the field of environmental protection and reinforcing our joint efforts aimed at saving this valuable natural endowment of the Eurasian highlands.

Mr. President,

Rehabilitation and securing the safety of uranium tailings, which today total more than 8 million cubic meters on our territory, still remain one of the acute Kyrgyzstan's problems. The situation is aggravated by the fact that most of them are located in seismically active, mudflow and flood prone areas with high ground water levels, as well near river banks that form the basis of Central Asian water supply. The potential consequences of ineffective solutions would have a negative impact on millions of people in Central Asia.

In order to raise the international community's awareness of this problem and to attract additional assistance in its solution, the Kyrgyz Delegation has included in the agenda of the 68th session of the UN General Assembly the draft resolution entitled "The Role of the International Community in the Prevention of the Radiation Threat in Central Asia". We would like to call on the UN Member States to support this resolution.

Mr. President,

It is well known that development and security are closely interrelated. The issues of maintaining security and stability, fighting against international terrorism, religious extremism, illicit drug and arms trafficking remain on the development agenda of Kyrgyzstan and the whole region. All these issues are most acute in our region because of the current situation in Afghanistan. Despite some progress in advancing the political process in Afghanistan there is still a threat to stability and security in the country. The Afghan drug production, being the highest in the world, is becoming a generator of a full range of threats and destabilizing both the political and military situation in Eurasia. These problems are more critical and significant in our region as never before, especially in view of the upcoming withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan in 2014.

Kyrgyzstan, within its commitments, has fully complied with its mission on anti-terrorism operations in Afghanistan. Over the past 12 years, we have provided an important opportunity for the supply of military-humanitarian goods to Afghanistan through the Transit Center at the International airport "Manas". We consider that the international community efforts contributed to the relative stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan and helped the Afghan authorities to assume their leadership role and responsibility in the fields of public administration and development.

We are determined to continue the strategic dialogue with partners on all issues of mutual interest. We believe that in the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking and other security challenges generating from Afghanistan, regional organizations that have proven to be effective should now be more involved. I speak in particular of the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The Chairmanship of Kyrgyzstan in these international and regional organizations has once again confirmed the need for comprehensive measures to stabilize the situation as soon as possible, both in Afghanistan and in the region as a whole.

We believe that, along with other measures to combat security challenges and threats, it is necessary to pursue a policy of industrialization and building a sustainable Afghan economy in order to achieve socio-economic growth in the country.

It is also important to involve Afghanistan in the development of regional cooperation and implementation of major joint socio-economic and infrastructural projects such as the export of electricity, creation of road and railroad communications.

In this respect Kyrgyzstan stands ready to expand its trade and economic relations and implement various infrastructural projects, including the export of electricity to Afghanistan as part of the CASA-1000 project and establishment of a tripartite agro-industrial consortium Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan with the assistance of the United Nations.

Today, we are convinced that we must take a fundamentally new approach to the solution of Afghan problems, which is based on a new philosophy and paradigm of social development - the right to development.

I invite representatives of government and academia of the UN member states to take part at the International scientific-practical conference on "Afghanistan – 2014" to be held on 10 October 2013 in the capital of Kyrgyzstan – Bishkek.

Mr. President,

We are following the developments in the Arab world with special attention. The continued two year armed conflict in Syria is of great concern. Kyrgyzstan expresses its serious concern over the numerous victims of the armed conflict, humanitarian catastrophe and further escalation of the crisis. In this regard, we call upon both sides to immediately cease fire and resolve the crisis peacefully through conducting a dialogue between all political forces of the country under UN's mediation. We support the initiative of the transfer of Syrian chemical weapons with its subsequent destruction under the international supervision, and the joining of Syria to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. We stand for the restoration of stability in the country, the preservation of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria, without military interference from the outside.

Mr. President,

Changes occurring in the modern world and increasing diversity require strengthening of the UN Organization to ensure that it continues its central role of ensuring global security and effective implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. This can be achieved through reforming the UN, which should be done in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and on the basis of a broad consensus of the UN Member States.

Considering that decisions of the UN Security Council should be strictly complied with by all UN member states, we stand for expanding its membership in order to make it more representative, transparent and democratic.

Attaching great importance to the work of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Kyrgyzstan welcomed the adoption last week of resolution 68/1, aimed at strengthening the role and enhancing effectiveness of the work of ECOSOC. We hope that the strengthened Council will become a meaningful mechanism of implementation of the global agenda for development beyond 2015 and continue to serve as an important platform for multilateral political dialogue on global social and economic issues.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the need to firmly and resolutely move forward by bringing together the efforts, uniting the political will of all countries for comprehensive cooperation in order to overcome threats and challenges to maintain peace and well-being, creative development for future generations. Kyrgyzstan expresses its full readiness for such constructive and effective international cooperation.

Thank you for your kind attention.