



**Statement**  
**by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic**  
**His Excellency Mr. Erlan Abdyldaev**  
**at the General Debate of the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly**  
*(New York, 29 September 2014)*

**Mr. President,**  
**Mr. Secretary General,**  
**Your Excellencies,**

First of all, I would like to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa on his election as the President of the 69th session of the United Nations' General Assembly and wish him every success in carrying out this important mission.

It is also a great pleasure to express my gratitude to His Excellency Mr. John Ashe for his successful and fruitful guidance of the previous session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

**Mr. President,**

The current situation in the world vividly demonstrates that the perpetual instability, increasing disputes among the leading world powers, and the absence of a clear and comprehensible vision for the future of the world-order have become part of our everyday life. Wars, conflicts, disinclination to listen to one another, and unilateral actions are pushing the international community ever closer to the precipice. Such developments undermine our efforts to work together effectively in addressing modern challenges and threats. It is no surprise that the terrorist and extremist groups are cunningly taking advantage of the present political vacuum and fierce opposition between world and regional powers in order to not only insinuate their presence, but also to show their ability to directly influence the world situation.

Therefore, the role of the United Nations as a platform for comprehensive dialogue is becoming ever more important. Kyrgyzstan has consistently advocated the further strengthening of the coordinating role of the UN in international affairs in order to maintain peace, security and stability, promoting common sustainable and constructive development, and encouraging broad international cooperation.

We believe that the ongoing and emerging new sources of global instability necessitate strengthening the role of UN in every possible way. The relevance of political and diplomatic conflict resolution is re-confirmed by the situation in Afghanistan, the Sahel, East and West Africa, Ukraine, Syria.

In order to overcome the threats and challenges to peace, prosperity and creative development we should firmly and resolutely move forward by uniting the efforts of the entire international community, combining the political will of the entire international community for a comprehensive endeavor. Kyrgyzstan expresses its full readiness for such a constructive and effective international cooperative.

Amid negative global political development, further strengthening of human rights principles and the rule of law based on constructive approaches and cooperation are becoming all the more relevant. For

Kyrgyzstan, these principles are an integral part of political development. The upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan, in 2015 and 2017, will be an important step in strengthening the democratic foundations of our country. We hope that the international community will provide effective assistance to Kyrgyzstan in the implementation of its far-reaching goals. In line with our commitment to democratic principles and the desire to make further contribution to the global democratic dialogue, Kyrgyzstan announced its candidacy for the Human Rights Council for the period of 2016-2018. We count on your support in this matter.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The modern world is undergoing a difficult period marked by increasing instability, both regional and international. All nations, regardless of their geographical location, face similar security challenges. Our region, in this regard, is not exceptional.

It is obvious that the most serious external challenge to Central Asia remains the situation in Afghanistan as well as the threats of terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking emanating from this country.

Continuously, the illegal drug trafficking appears as one of the key problems of the entire region as a direct consequence of situation in Afghanistan. The strong link between terrorism and illegal Afghan drugs, which undermine the achievements of Afghanistan's security and its ability to ensure law and order in the country, is of particular concern. In this regard, it is necessary to joint with the United Nations in promoting the security and stability of Afghanistan.

In order to effectively curb these threats we call for a more proactive international contribution, in order to strengthen the capacity of regional law enforcement agencies and to promote regional cooperation. We attach particular importance to the "Istanbul Process" as an important dialogue in improving regional cooperation on Afghan Issues. We count on the active participation of all parties in achieving practical results.

We hope that the establishment of the new Government of Afghanistan by Dr. Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah will be the starting point for the future stabilization in this war-weary country.

Amid the turmoil sweeping through the Middle East, it is especially important to turn our attention to the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, which we believe is the major destabilizing factor in the region and around the world. The use of force leads only to bloodshed, destruction, and even more hatred, and does not solve problems. In order to revive mutual trust, it is necessary to resolve the conflict exclusively by political and diplomatic means on the basis of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

It appears that another important factor of regional instability is the unresolved border issues in Central Asia. Undoubtedly, a successful solution is in the best interests of all regional states. The solution would greatly contribute to the enhancement of the regional transit potential of our countries, the development of cross-border infrastructure, the improvement of the economic situation, and the decreasing of social tension. In this regard, I would like to call on the all Central Asian states to support the recent initiative of the President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambayev on the development and subsequent signing of bilateral agreements on confidence-building concerning borders, as voiced at the Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Dushanbe. I am confident that the successful

implementation of this initiative will let us make an historic step in the development of regional economic and trade relations, as well as jointly maintaining regional stability.

**Mr. President,**

The current topic of the general debate, "Presentation and Implementation of the Transformative Development Agenda Beyond 2015", is timely and relevant. Next year, during the 70th anniversary session of the General Assembly we need to formulate and adopt new goals for the next 15 years.

The evolving situation today illustrates that many countries, including Kyrgyzstan, are unlikely to achieve all the objectives proposed in the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals for the next year.

We believe that the unachieved goals should be refined in the light of gained experience; And they should find proper reflection in the post-2015 goals for sustainable development. We advocate including countries with special development needs to the agenda of the post-2015. Kyrgyzstan is in this category. Our country is a developing, land-locked, and mountainous state that ~~is carrying a heavy debt burden and~~ is highly vulnerable to climate change.

Extreme poverty in Kyrgyzstan has many reasons; the foremost being a geographically disadvantaged location. More than 70% of our territory is mountainous. The country lies five thousand meters above sea level, with approximately one-third of its total area lying four hundred meters above sea level. Such states are characterized by remoteness, inaccessibility, informational isolation, severe geo-climatic conditions, and high cost life maintenance.

For Kyrgyzstan, the absence of access to the sea is one of the factors which has a restrictive effect on our economic development. Remoteness from major international transport networks and high transportation costs hinder the development of multi-vector and diversified international economic relations and the implementation of the country's large-scale investment projects. We believe that the establishment of an International Development Fund to provide support and assistance for the economies of developing landlocked countries would contribute to their sustainable economic development. This is especially important in the run-up to the Second United Nations Conference on developing land-locked countries, where a planned a new program of action for the next decade should be adopted.

**Mr. President,**

2015 will be a landmark year in many ways for the entire world community. In addition to the adoption of the POST-2015 agenda, we anticipate the adoption of an international and legally-binding instrument on climate change. At the recent United Nations Summit on Climate Change, states outlined their vision for the solution of adaptation and the mitigation of climate change.

For Kyrgyzstan, as for all mountainous countries, these issues are of priority on the national agenda, as its ecosystems are highly sensitive to the climate change. Rapidly melting glaciers, rising temperature, land degradation, landslides, mudflows, and floods cause significant economic damage and serve as vivid reminders of mountain ecosystem vulnerability. According to reliable forecasts, in 2025, the ice cover in Kyrgyzstan would be reduced by a 40% average, with a one third reduction of region all water availability. ~~Under the most probable combination of temperature, precipitation, and man-made factors, in 2100, the territory of the Kyrgyz glaciers and snowfields may virtually disappear.~~

Realizing the indubitable interconnection among environment, climate change, and sustainable development goals, we believe that it is necessary to adequately and justly reflect the interests of vulnerable countries on further global actions.

While speaking of Central Asian regional problems, I consider it necessary to note that the key factor to prosperity - amidst global challenges such as the climate change, the threat of an energy crisis, and population growth - is water resources. In this regard, our fundamental position is that water resources and energy are inseparable.

It is understood that hydropower development is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development. This is in complete compliance with the initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, according to which the period between 2014 and 2024 is announced as the "Sustainable Energy for All" decade. It is clear that access to modern, affordable, and environmentally friendly energy services in developing countries is essential in achieving global development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. There is no doubt that the problem of affordable energy should find worthy reflection in the United Nations' new global program for the post-2015 period.

The restoration and security of uranium tailings located in Kyrgyzstan remains a serious transboundary problem in Central Asia. Most of tailings are concentrated in the densely populated areas of the country, and after the closure of industrial enterprises and production facilities, their condition has deteriorated in the last decade. Moreover, many of the tailings are exposed to the threat of landslides and floods, as they are located in seismically active regions near the coast of the major transboundary rivers in Central Asia.

Despite the efforts made by the Kyrgyzstan government on the national level and the support from international programs and projects, serious social, economic, and environmental problems remain. Regarding these issues, I would like to urge the international community to provide assistance to Kyrgyzstan in solving the problem of radioactive and toxic waste for the full rehabilitation of the contaminated territories. This is within the framework of the UN General Assembly resolution, adopted during the 68th session, on "The Role of the International Community in Prevention the Radiation Threat in Central Asia".

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that there is no one nation that can solve all the challenges it faces and maintain sustainable development in isolation. One cannot achieve the goals of sustainable development and the establishment of a global order without the consolidated efforts of the international community. And this is especially true for the countries of Central Asia. In this regard I wish to assure all that Kyrgyzstan, in its partnership with the United Nations, stands ready to contribute to the search for new opportunities to solve the challenges of our time, as well as to contribute to strengthening stability and peace in the world.

Thank you for your attention.