

НАМОЯНДАГИИ ДОИМИИ  
ҶУМҲУРИИ ТОҶИКИСТОН  
ДАР НАЗДИ САҲА



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN  
TO THE OSCE

**STATEMENT by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan EMOMALI RAHMON at  
the UN Summit on Climate Change  
(New-York, September 22, 2009)**

**Distinguished Co-Chairs**

**Distinguished Heads of Delegations,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the organizers of such an important event for providing an opportunity to participate and deliver a statement. Power engineering is one of the major components of modern economy and, for this reason, any changes that are taking place in this sector of the economy are definitely going to affect other aspects of life.

It is apparent that under the influence of global climate change certain transformations will occur in the power engineering as well. The increased number of extreme weather phenomena, which, according to the forecast made by the Intergovernmental panel of experts, can be expected as a result of climate change, will cause certain transformations in energy consumption.

Based on this assumption identification of needs, adaptation measures and achievement of sustainability in the energy sector, with due consideration to climate change, should be regarded by the international community as priority issues for the achievement of sustainable development.

**Distinguished Participants to the Summit,**

At the 3rd World Climate Conference in Geneva the UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki-moon called upon the states to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and take the steps towards “*green economy*”.

As it is known, the main contributors to emission of greenhouse gases are industries and power engineering that utilizes fuel resources in order to meet consumers’ needs. In this regard, we believe that time has come to undertake urgent measures for development and use of renewable energy sources and efficient energy technologies that diminish dependency on other conventional types of energy that cause enormous damage to the environment. In Central Asia, like in many other regions of the world, the major part of generated energy falls on thermal power stations (about 70 percent) that annually emit millions of tons of greenhouse gases.

This is happening at the moment when the region has a huge hydro power capacity, out of which currently only 10 percent is being used. In Tajikistan alone, annual hydropower capacity is estimated at 527 billion kVt/hour, which is three times more than needed currently in all of the Central Asian states. Utilization of this hydropower capacity will not only make it possible to reduce the volume of carbon dioxide emissions but, will also allow to generate ecologically sound and cost effective electrical energy that, in turn, makes us eligible for a “carbon loan”, as per the Kyoto protocol. In this case, Tajikistan can be an example, since it emits the least amount of gases as compared to all other Central Asian states.

Given the above, the Government of Tajikistan has taken the cause towards consistent utilization of the available hydropower potential, which will not only allow to meet the ever increasing needs of our own country, but also the needs of the neighboring states that are largely using mineral fuel as a major source for generating electrical energy. It should be noted that utilization of this unique hydro potential will eventually yield certain advantages, and will also promote adaptation of the region to the consequences of climate change.

The results of the conducted survey proves that during the period from 1956 to 1990 the volume of the glaciers in Central Asia has reduced by more than one third, and this process is far from ending. In particular, within the last century the Tajikistan glaciers that are the major source of water discharge into the rivers of the Central Asian region have degraded by more than one third.

Due to global warming, water reservoirs constructed at the hydropower stations are gaining significance

Against the background of increasing shortage of water resources in Central Asia caused by diminished water flow, due to climate change and increase in water consumption, water reservoirs are beginning to play a significant role in ensuring water security in the region. The outcome of the demographic survey is not favorable either, showing the population growth from 20 million in 1956 to 63 million people, as of today. Such a demographic burst led to a rapid reclamation of irrigated land, the total area of which increased to 9 million hectares by the end of the 20th century, whereas it was only 2.5 million hectares in early 20th century. Given the increase in water consumption, such tendencies that are not mostly conducive, can not help but give rise to a concern.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This Summit is taking place at the moment when experts and scholars are engaged in elaborating a new global agreement on climate change that is expected to be endorsed by the 15th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009. I presume this meeting is going to become another essential phase in the preparation for the important event, where, as we expect, the agreement will be reached on all aspects of a consolidated and coordinated response to climate change and its impact, which is becoming increasingly apparent.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the developing countries, to a greater extent than others, are faced with serious negative consequences of climate change, and that could result in lower standards of living, reduced means of subsistence, delay in economic development and enhanced vulnerability of people.

For this reason, it is essential to comprehensively develop effective cooperation between the developed and developing countries on the implementation of specific measures in this area. The major components of such cooperation should be increase in financial assistance and other types of support, as well as wider opportunities for rehabilitation and helping the affected population.

Thank you for your attention.