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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN  
TO THE OSCE

## **Press Conference of the Prime-Minister of Tajikistan on Millennium Development Goals Award**

**23.03.10. New-York.** The Prime Minister of Tajikistan, Oqil Oqilov, visiting UN Head-Quarter, stated that the Government was determined to overcome its problems and gradually utilize the entire potential of the country for achieving the global development goals on a timely basis.

Accepting a Millennium Development Goals Award on behalf of his President Emomali Rahmon, who was being honoured for his commitment to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal for drinking water, Mr. Oqilov said that Tajikistan believed that the Goals were achievable and, to that end, the international community needed to consolidate and enhance its efforts, with the United Nations acting as the central and coordinating body in those efforts.

The Prime Minister said it was imperative to work out a complex approach towards addressing the issues of eliminating poverty; improving the existing methods of financing for development; ensuring predictability and stability of the official assistance for development; resolving demographic problems; mitigating the climate change impact; and reducing natural disaster risk. Assistance in the implementation of national development strategies needed to be made a major priority when rendering assistance and support to the developing countries, he stated.

Expressing appreciation to the Millennium Development Goals Award Committee for presenting the Tajik leader with the Millennium Development Goals Special Achievement Award, the Prime Minister said that it was refreshing to know that the leadership of the President on water and power resource management had been recognized at the international level. He said he was also thankful to the South-South news company for its worthy contribution to the achievement of the MDGs and use of information and communications technology as a means towards development.

He noted that Tajikistan was one of the first to have developed, in cooperation with United Nations agencies, its own national development strategy based on the Goals, thus making Tajikistan a pilot country for achieving the Goals. Implementation of the strategic document that set out the State's development priorities remained a key issue that topped the Government's agenda.

Zachary Muburi-Muita, Permanent Representative of Kenya and President of the United Nations High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation, who was also at the ceremony, lauded President Rahmon for being the recipient of the Millennium Development Goals Award, saying the role of South-South cooperation in economic development of countries of the South had been underlined in the various South-South outcomes, including the Buenos Aires Plan of Action

adopted in 1978, and the Havana programme of action adopted by the first South-South summit in April 2000. The High-level conference on South-South cooperation held in Marrakesh, Morocco, in 2003 and the Outcome of the Second South Summit in Doha, Qatar, in June 2005 further reiterated the contribution of South-South cooperation as a development blueprint for countries of the south.

He said the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation that met in Nairobi, Kenya, in December last year, adopted the Nairobi Outcome Document, which spelled out how countries of the South could promote development through South-South and triangular cooperation. In all, they reinforced the significance of South-South cooperation in the economic, commercial, industrial and environmental sectors in order to meet their developmental targets and fulfil the needs of their peoples. They also acknowledged that South-South cooperation was not an option, but an imperative complement to the traditional North-South engagements.

In his view, globalization and liberalization had presented both opportunities and challenges. Countries of the South still experiencing enormous development challenges needed each other in all fields of socio-economic advancement, including trade, finance, education, communication and technologies, as well as health and research. In that regard, South-South cooperation was more needed today than ever before. “No single country, not even the most advanced among developing countries can prosper individually and thus achieve both its growth and developmental targets,” he said, explaining that the growing political and economic ties among developing countries was key, as countries of the South had assumed leading roles in handling global issues ranging from economic recovery to food security, as well as climate change.

Concluding, he said regional cooperation and integration proved to be a fast-track development tool through which countries of the South had raised their competitiveness at the global level. Additionally, intra-regional cooperation had also been critical in raising the economic development of those countries; just as solidarity among the countries of the South had contributed in influencing the outcomes of the international agenda. The collective voice had had more impact than if countries had chosen to go it individually, he said, adding that the participation of the private sector in South-South initiatives and programmes was also significant.