



16th anniversary of the state independence of Tajikistan

Press release

On September 9th, 2007 Tajikistan celebrates 16th anniversary of its state independence which is inseparably connected with the process of formation of governance tradition and national consciousness, as well as realization of centuries-old dreams and anticipation of the Tajik people for independence. This day in 1991 at the extraordinary session of the tenth convocation of the Supreme Council of the Republic Tajikistan the Declaration on the State Independence of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Decision of the Supreme Council of the country «On Declaration of the State Independence of the Republic of Tajikistan» have been adopted.

Having passed short but an uneasy historical path of development during these 16 years Tajikistan continues to strengthen democratic and secular statehood based on principles of socially focused economy, strengthening of the foundation of civil society and provision of basic freedoms and human rights.

During this period political and the economic reforms conducted on initiatives of the President Emomali Rahmon and the Government have radically changed the image of Tajikistan. It is worth mentioning that these reforms were carried out by direct involvement of international financial institutions thanks to which the bases for market economy have been established.

In November 1994 through a national referendum the Constitution of Tajikistan had been adopted which became a second constitutional law in the CIS countries. In the framework of the Constitution the mechanism of application of human rights and freedoms has been defined and legislative bodies as a separate branch of the state have been strengthened. Conducted in 1999 and 2003 national referenda on adoption of amendments to the Constitution have important political value and confirm constitutional bases of development of the newest state system.

In the first years of independence overshadowed by consequences of civil confrontation economic situation in the country became very complicated. Social and economic problems inherited from the Soviet era had become more aggravated. However thanks to the will of the people and peaceful efforts of the Government of Tajikistan led by President Emomali Rahmon a peace process had

been initiated as a result of which on June 27, 1997 the Agreements on Peace and the National Accord was signed. In this regard Tajikistan represents a unique not only in the region but also in the world a case of settlements of civil conflict and successful post-conflict rehabilitation.

Today Tajikistan is a Motherland for 7 million people half of which are young people under 18 years of age. Efforts of the Government for achievement of sustainable economic development are gradually realized by carrying out purposeful programs for liberalization of economy, normalization of macroeconomic conditions and development of economic structures. Land reform and distribution of land to peasants for the organization of farms have been successfully conducted. Results of these steps led to stabilization of economy and revival of overwhelming part of it. At present the Government of Tajikistan with a view of further development of market economy and taking into account the Millennium Development Goals continues to carry out Development Strategy of the Republic Tajikistan for the period till 2015 and the Poverty Reduction Strategy for 2007-2009.

Economic growth in 2006 and first half of 2007 remains high, at the level of more than 7%. Today in Tajikistan a favorable climate for economic growth is created. It is caused by a new role of the region and, in particular, Tajikistan as a link on the way of goods, transport and power transit from Europe to Asia.

The volume of investments in 2006 in comparison with 2005 has increased more than twice. At present in Tajikistan more than 51 large projects in various spheres of economy for total sum of 1 billion 258 million US dollars are carried out 89.6 % of which are foreign investments.

Development of hydro-power engineering and transport communications is considered by the Government as a priority direction of activities in forthcoming years. Tajikistan occupies the eighth place in the world in reserves of hydro resources tremendous volume of which, unfortunately, remains unused. Building of new hydroelectric power stations and transformation of electric power into the main item of export for Tajikistan possessing no hydrocarbonic resources are considered by the Government as necessary conditions for economic development in next years. Development of these spheres of economy also becomes a push for economic growth in Afghanistan, especially in its northern provinces.

Education sphere is also proclaimed as priority within the framework of social policy of the Government of Tajikistan. During 16 years of independence 25 new universities and educational institutions have been established in which 123 thousand students are being trained. The number of high schools has increased to 590 which cover 1 million 700 thousand pupils.

Throughout the period of independence Tajikistan repeatedly underlined the necessity of promoting stability and democracy based on the conventional principles and norms of international law. A strategic target of the foreign policy of sovereign Tajikistan is maintenance of security, political and economic stability and creation of favorable conditions for sustainable development in the country. Numerous regional and international initiatives of the Republic Tajikistan are examples of timely nature of these interests – announcement of 2003 as a Year of Fresh Water, realization of the international program “Water for Life 2005-2015”, appeals of the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon for strengthening of regional cooperation in establishment of hydro-power consortia, collective water resources management, combating drug trafficking, as well as assistance to Afghanistan with a view of its economic rehabilitation and stability.

Up to present Tajikistan has established diplomatic relations with 111 countries of the world and is a member of more than 50 international organizations and continues to carry out open and constructive policy for solution of regional and world threats and purposefully puts into practice the strategy of sustainable development of the region.

Within 16 years of independence Tajikistan has been making intensive efforts for strengthening of cooperation with regional and international organizations, first of all, with the United Nations and OSCE in solution of actual and urgent problems in the region and in the world. The foreign policy of Tajikistan is an “open doors” policy aimed at wide-ranging and mutually beneficial cooperation with all peaceful countries and international organizations.

With a view of strengthening of the civil society Tajikistan continues to ensure rights and freedoms of its citizens, development of political parties and movements providing them with opportunity to take part in political and social life of the society. In this regard it is necessary to note that Tajikistan remains the only country not only in Central Asia but also among CIS countries where an Islamic party legally functions.

Today Tajikistan eagerly continues to strengthen the foundation of its state independence. The people of Tajikistan are confident that they will overcome the complexities of the transition period thanks to their unity and aspiration to freedom.