

TURKMENISTAN



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STATEMENT

**by the delegation of Turkmenistan at
the General Debates of the 71st session**

of the UN General Assembly

(22 September, 2016, New York)

STATEMENT

at the meeting of the 71-st Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

(New York, September 22, 2016)

Esteemed Mr. President,

Esteemed Heads of the Delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I have the honour to convey the words of greetings and wishes of peace and prosperity to the peoples of your countries from Turkmenistan's President, His Excellence Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

I would like to congratulate esteemed Mr. Peter Thompson on his election to the post of the President of the 71-st Session of the UN General Assembly and wish him success in his future responsible work.

I would also like to express appreciation to esteemed Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70-th session, for his effective work on this post.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The current state of global realities, the nature and direction of political, economic and social processes objectively require increasingly closer and more coordinated interaction of states and major international organizations for the sake of achieving the main common goal - ensuring international peace and security, preserving the legal and institutional frameworks that form the foundation of today's world order. The degrees of such interaction and attainment of a reasonable balance between national interests and those of the entire international community will also determine the degree of success in solving other no less important global problems in the spheres of environment, energy, food security and fight against terrorism, drug trafficking and other challenges.

Unfortunately, today we witness complex processes, which undermine global cooperation in those areas. First of all, we mean the expansion of areas fraught with conflict generating potential and the spread of tension hotbeds in the world.

We witness escalation of conflicts in different regions of the planet. Furthermore, the parties involved in those conflicts increasingly resort to the use of force and military means. We witness brazen disrespect and at times deliberate disregard of the rules of international law.

In view of this situation, Turkmenistan calls on member states to give a clear and unambiguous assessment of those phenomena and jointly support strict and scrupulous adherence to the rules and principles of the United Nations Charter, major international conventions and agreements aimed at resolving the conflicts.

We call on member states to launch broad-based consultations with a view to the elaboration of uniform conceptual approaches to conflict de-escalation based on the rules of the international law under the auspices of the United Nations as the universal mechanism for overcoming existing differences. We believe that it is advisable to hold within the framework of the 71-st session a special meeting of the General Assembly that will be devoted to the strengthening of international law as the basis for the maintenance of global peace and security.

Today there is the objectively growing role of the peace-building instruments that the international community has at its disposal. In particular, we mean the potential of neutrality and its conceptual foundations for the strengthening of universal stability and security.

It was specifically emphasized at the High-level International Conference dedicated to the 20-th anniversary of Turkmenistan's status of neutrality, which was held in Ashgabat in December of 2015. Availing of this opportunity, we express our profound gratitude to the UN member states that took part in the work of that forum and made their contribution to its success.

It is well known, that the Final Document of the Conference reflects the United Nations readiness to consider Turkmenistan's proposal on proclaiming an International Day of Neutrality. At present our country has prepared a draft of the corresponding resolution of the General Assembly. We call on the UN member states to initiate the discussion of this document at the current session.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The civilized world is facing a threat that goes beyond national borders, political and ideological doctrines. Terrorism is a phenomenon that falls outside of the notions of human morality, that is fraught with the threat of undermining the entire system of world order, its principles, values and foundations.

It is precisely for this reason that the fight against it must be carried out universally at the global, regional and national levels taking into account the prevailing situation and specific aspects of the political and social realities. As regards the states of our region, effectiveness and coordination of efforts aimed at the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia have a decisive importance. Recently the work in this area has been significantly intensified and multilateral cooperation in various spheres has been strengthened. Major international forums on this issue conducted at Turkmenistan's initiative have helped to establish the necessary, clearly defined and substantive context for our joint work.

Important documents adopted on this issue – The Ashgabat Declaration and Plan of Actions on countering terrorism in Central Asia – serve as the road map in this area. We believe that those documents make a contribution to multilateral efforts for repelling the terrorist threat and their practical implementation will greatly contribute to our common success in this endeavor. We look forward to more active international cooperation, including that of the UN Regional Center for preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

Esteemed Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Exactly one year ago the World Summit adopted within these walls the long-term UN global strategy on Sustainable Development Goals. They are our common achievement as well as our common responsibility. In this context I would like to specifically emphasize that the need for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals on the basis of national programmes and plans of all UN member states. Turkmenistan responsibly and constructively approaches fulfillment of this task. At present Turkmenistan has developed jointly with the UNDP and other UN structures appropriate indicators that will be used for the elaboration of Turkmenistan's national programmes. Just a few days ago those indicators were officially adopted by the Government of Turkmenistan.

One of the main focuses of the current General Assembly session is the desire of the UN member states to continue the wide-ranging dialogue on the issue of the climate change as the most important element of the UN comprehensive strategy for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. In our view, today combination and complementarity of the global, regional and national instruments for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals has become the main priority at the institutional level. And here it will be appropriate to recall the words of Turkmenistan's President which he said in his statement at the Rio+20 Summit to the effect that progress cannot be selective and development will not be really sustainable and long-lasting unless it is made comprehensive as an undeniable right and heritage of all, without exception, nations, states, regions and continents. Turkmenistan proceeds precisely from this tenet in its principled approaches to the global environmental agenda.

Our country has begun with a sense of full responsibility the implementation of the national development plans that correspond to the proclaimed Sustainable Development Goals. It has adopted at the legislative level the National Climate Change Strategy which actually signifies gradual transition of major spheres of industrial activity of the state to the environmental safety standards. The Strategy envisages priority development of high-technology industries and creation of conditions for the development of the "green economy" as the fundamental element for the functioning of the entire infrastructure for country's life.

In the framework of the participation of Turkmen delegation in the work of the current session of the General Assembly our country will sign the Paris Agreement. We regard this step as a landmark event in its full scale involvement in the mainstream processes in the implementation of the tasks and goals in the sphere of environment.

In this connection we believe that it is high time to intensify on the basis of the Paris consensus the UN efforts aimed at developing new international law rules relating to the climate change and environment protection. It is necessary to simultaneously initiate the preparation of specific regional plans, designed primarily for the near and middle term timeframe. In this connection we suggest that it is high time to start thinking about the convening next year of special conference under the UN auspices that will be dedicated to the measures for improving environmental situation in Central Asia.

This year Turkmenistan will assume the chairmanship of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea. We plan to begin shortly extensive consultations with the regional states and specialised entities of the United Nations with a view to developing the general policy and specific plans of our joint work for the forthcoming period.

Due to objective reasons water issues in Central Asia have turned into the most important and at times the determining factor in the development of regional process that exert substantial influence on the general situation, implementation of social and economic development plans and solution of serious environmental problems. Under those conditions it has become highly necessary for the states of the region to design a unified strategy on the issues relating to the preservation and use of the water resources.

Therefore our country considers as a top priority its cooperation with the United Nations. In this context we consider it advisable to intensify the efforts aimed at fulfilling the decisions of the Seventh World Water Forum that was held in the city of Tegu (The Republic of Korea) in 2015.

We view international cooperation in fighting desertification and land degradation as important areas of work. In 2014 Turkmenistan hosted the Interregional Conference on Desertification and Land Degradation that was organized jointly by the Government and the United Nations. Delegations from many states of the world and a number of international organizations. The outcome document of this conference defines the areas of future work on those issues which in our view deserve the most scrupulous attention and assessment at the level of the United Nations.

Today an effective model of international cooperation is highly necessary also for the reduction of natural disaster risks. Turkmenistan is a staunch believer in that the efforts aimed at reducing the risk of disasters should be integrated systematically in future sustainable development plans and programmes relying on close cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels. We call on the member states to intensify their efforts in this area on the basis of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 that was adopted at the Sendai World Conference.

Esteemed Mr. President,

Today due to various circumstances the world faces the most acute problem of migrants, refugees and stateless persons. It is apparent that there are no uniform recipes for solving this problem. Nonetheless, in our view it is high time to search for targeted schemes of international cooperation tailored to each specific situation. The key role in this matter should be played by the specialized entities of the United Nations, including the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as the International Migration Organization, the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies and other organizations. We stand ready to provide them with our utmost assistance. Our country has accumulated positive experience of such work.

Thus, in May of 2012 Turkmenistan jointly with the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation hosted International Ministerial Conference on Refugees in the Muslim World at the ministerial level.

In June of 2014 the Government of Turkmenistan jointly with the International Migration Organization and UNHCR organized an International Conference on migration and statelessness in the city of Ashgabat.

We call on the member states to intensify their efforts aimed at implementing the main provisions of outcome documents of those international forums. We also reaffirm our desire and readiness to develop further close cooperation with the United Nations, member states and all interested parties in solving this acute problem of our times.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today comprehensive attainment of the Sustainable development Goals must be viewed as the main pillar of the United Nations global strategy acting not only as the political, social and economic but also as the moral framework of the modern world order. A lot has been done in this area and in this connection it is necessary to specifically mention the role of the UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon, his determination, political will and persistence thanks to which we have managed to jointly achieve certain results.

Notwithstanding the diversity of tasks facing each individual country we are brought together by our common hopes, common concerns and threats. Turkmenistan stands ready to search together with its partners for new approaches and ways to overcome the challenges facing mankind.

We reaffirm our firm commitment to cooperation with the United Nations, active involvement in and support for its political and diplomatic efforts aimed at preserving and strengthening the existing architecture of global security and implementing its plans and programmes in the economic, social, environmental, humanitarian and other areas.

Turkmenistan regards partnership with the United Nations as its strategic priority and conceptual and practical foundation of our entire endeavors in the international arena.

Thank you.