

Statement

by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Erlan Abdyldaev

at the UN Climate Summit

(New York, 23 September 2014)

Dear co-chairs,

Let me greet the participants of the Summit and express my deep gratitude to the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the organization of such an important meeting for all of us.

Today we are all united in the opinion that the problem of climate change has become a global threat. The Central Asian region, and particularly Kyrgyzstan, is not an exception. In this connection, we welcome and support the initiative of the UN Secretary-General on the declaration of 2014 as the Year of the fight against climate change. Sustainable development, under the conditions of our region, and particularly Kyrgyzstan, largely depends on a solution of the global challenges, which the entire world community faces. It is well known that climate change has the most negative effect on developing states. For us, the situation is more serious in as much as **mountainous countries, such as Kyrgyzstan, are the first of risk because of their complex mountain ecosystems.**

It is well known that **mountain ecosystems are the most vulnerable to climate change.** Today, problems of climate change have a serious impact on all sectors of our economy and cause significant harm in the form of natural disasters. Even now, in our country, there are consequences of climate change such as increase in air temperature, rapid melting of glaciers, reduction in runoff, and desertification, which are all vivid indicators of the vulnerability of mountain ecosystems in the changing climate.

Furthermore, I would like to draw the attention of the world community to the fact **that Kyrgyzstan is a country with comparatively small greenhouse gas emissions. The contribution of the country to the global emissions is only two hundredths of a percent.** Moreover, the Kyrgyz Republic, which did not join the Appendix 1 of the Kyoto Protocol, has made a voluntarily commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2020 by 20 percent towards the "business as usual" scenario.

Realizing the indubitable interconnection among an environment, climate change, and sustainable development goals, **we believe that it is necessary to adequately and justly reflect the interests of vulnerable countries to climate change during the coordination of further global actions.** All the more, the current year is decisive in mobilization of the entire world community on the common fight against climate change. The Kyrgyz Republic reaffirms its support of the development and signing a new comprehensive and legally binding agreement on the problem of climate change in Paris in 2015. We put high hopes on it.

It appears that adequate measures on climate change are able to effectively adapt vulnerable sectors of economy of the country to these processes. In this connection, **Kyrgyzstan as the developing mountainous country needs the support of the international community** for climate impact. In the view of current global processes, our country, as never before, needs a

preservation and restoration of mountain ecosystems; adoption of innovations, resource-saving technologies, and clean energy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Undoubtedly, one of the effective directions of the fight against climate change is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere. Furthermore, we believe that one of the most important conditions for the emissions reduction is a comprehensive development of ecologically clean and inexpensive energy sources. In the context of sustainable development this is most important for countries with developing economies, which include states of Central Asia.

Today the main strategic resource for Kyrgyzstan's "green" economic growth is water. We believe that **the building of large hydropower stations should be considered as one of the clean development elements**. Furthermore, hydropower potential should be considered as a mean of low-carbon development, and **water resources as a core of the "green development" model in the region**.

Moreover, we proceed from the assumption that hydropower energy is the most important precondition for the sustainable development. Furthermore, it should be noted that building of hydropower stations in Kyrgyzstan in addition to the production of clean energy would allow changing the reservoirs regime from energy to irrigative and therefore increase the level of guaranteed water supply in irrigated land of the neighbouring downstream countries. This in turn would promote the sustainable development of the whole region.

I believe that **by implementation of these projects, we would solve not only the issue of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere, but also the problem of the acute water scarcity in the region during a growing season**.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to once again call attention of the participants of the Summit to the necessity of involvement in the process of the fight against climate change of both developed and developing countries by **taking into consideration their real capabilities and the level of influence on climate change**.

We call on the United Nations System, international financial institutions, all international organizations and forums to realize the importance of **interconnection of environment, climate change, and sustainable development goals**, and in accordance with their powers to **adequately and justly reflect the interests of vulnerable countries to climate change**, in determining further priorities.

Thank you for your attention.