

STATEMENT

by

Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda,

at

the UN Climate Summit

(September 23, 2014, New York)

Distinguished Mr. Chair,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to extend to the Secretary-General, appreciation for convening and organizing today's Summit on Climate Change. His tireless efforts at consolidating the actions of the international community on addressing the issues and challenges related to climate change inspire us to search for innovative and practical ways of responding to climate change. We hope that this Summit will give an extra impetus to these actions and will bringing us closer to the consensus on a new global document on climate change, which will be based on the UNFCCC principles.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provides an objective and clear picture of the on-going climate change that definitely contains an anthropological component. Long-term observations of our experts also attest to the increased impact of climate change on environment and social and economic situation in the country. According to the observations, over the last 60 years the average annual temperature in Tajikistan increased by 1 degree by Celsius; the number of days with heavy precipitation also increased; natural hydro meteorological disasters became more frequent and severe. In addition, the last decades witnessed a considerable degradation of Tajikistan glaciers that are of vital importance for the entire Central Asia.

It is worth mentioning that in terms of specific amount of carbon dioxide emissions Tajikistan ranks as 150th in the group of countries with the least emissions of green house gases. In Tajikistan per capita emissions of green house gases is ten times less that the average world index, and in Central Asia our country ranks as the last in terms of detrimental emissions.

Wide use of renewal energy, predominantly hydro energy, promotes economic and social development of the country, and allows to keep detrimental emissions at the lowest level. Hydropower stations constitute the basis of the country's energy and generate about 98 percent of the entire electrical energy. Nevertheless, annually, in winter season the country experiences certain difficulties in supplying the population with energy when a part of the Tajikistan population has access to electrical energy only for 6-7 hours a day. The Government of the country has been undertaking comprehensive measures in order to balance production and consumption of energy through modernization and increasing capacity of the operating hydropower stations, construction of new hydropower stations, extensive use of solar and wind energy and introduction of advanced methods of energy conservation.

The annual hydro capacity of Tajikistan accounts for 527 billion kWt, which exceeds by 3 times the current need in hydro energy in the countries of the entire Central Asian region. As of today, only 4 percent of this huge potential has been developed. Increase in hydropower potential will allow not only to deal with the energy problems of the country itself, but will also assist in