

STATEMENT
by the Representative of Turkmenistan at the Global Summit on
Climate Change

(New York, 23 September 2014)

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 for successful work to all the participants of the Global Summit from the President of Turkmenistan, His Excellency Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov.

Turkmenistan regards the current Summit as a very important stage on the road towards the implementation of the agreements reached at the UN Rio+20 Conference follow-up measures which should be undertaken in the near term at the national, regional and global levels with a view to dealing with the urgent issues relating to the climate change.

It is apparent that today it is the transition from assessments to specific steps as well as focused and purposeful concentration of the efforts of states and UN specialized entities on clearly defined areas of work that is of primary importance.

In this context President of Turkmenistan has launched a number of specific initiatives aimed at stimulating multilateral interaction and establishing system-wide mechanisms of international cooperation with respect to climate change. In particular, we refer to Turkmenistan's proposal to create under the auspices of the United Nations and with its active participation of a specialized entity in Central Asia, i.e. the Regional Center of Climate Change Technologies. The main goal of the Regional Center will be stimulation of technical and technological cooperation, development and implementation of programmes and projects aimed at providing support to Central Asian and

neighbouring countries, as well as providing assistance in preparing and implementing strategies with a view to support actions designed to tackle issues relating to climate change.

We are convinced that establishment of such an entity is dictated by the objective needs of the environmental situation in the region and the logic of international community's actions with respect to climate change problems in this part of the globe. We urge the United Nations to support this initiative so that specific decisions on the establishment of the Regional Center should be taken in the near future.

When Turkmenistan embarks on the implementation of its national plans in various spheres of the economy it checks them responsible and thoroughly against the environmental component of sustainable development goals. In this regard our primary goal is to effectively introduce modern methods and patterns of production, construction of industrial and social infrastructure that helps to reduce their negative impact on environment. While supporting the efforts of the international community efforts on reducing greenhouse gas emissions Turkmenistan moves towards using modern environmentally clean and resource saving technologies in industry, oil, energy and transport sectors which account for a considerable part of greenhouse gas emissions. We proceed from the assumption that nowadays high environmental efficiency is the synonym of the efficiency of production.

We support the efforts of the international community aimed at reducing man-made impact on the climatic system of the Earth and reaffirm our commitment to the goals of major international documents aimed at reducing the amount of harmful emissions into the atmosphere.

In order to promote and implement the most important tasks envisaged in appropriate multilateral international legal instruments Turkmenistan has established a National Organ for the Clean Development Mechanism in the form of the Inter-Agency State Commission.

At present our country carries out the work on large-scale reconstruction of enterprises of the entire national power system. As a result the last years saw a reduction in carbon intensity of the products

manufactured in Turkmenistan. In future we look forward to broadly use the potential of the clean development mechanism for a much more intensive reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions. We also consider it necessary to enhance the work on improving international legal framework regulating activities of the international community in the sphere of clean development.

While implementing a whole range of actions aimed at mitigating climate change impact Turkmenistan is actively pursuing environmentally beneficial measures including reforestation and better land use. At present vast forest strips that use water saving irrigation methods have been established around cities and population settlements in accordance with the large- scale nation-wide reforestation programme named “The Green Belt”.

Parallel to this work a unique project is under way that envisages construction of a lake in the center of the Kara Kum desert which will accumulate drainage and processed water and thereby help in reclaiming vast tracts of land that will be used in the future for agricultural needs.

The National Strategy on Climate Change adopted in 2013 basically signifies progressive transition of all major spheres of state production activities to environmentally safe standards. The Strategy envisages priority development of high-technology sectors, establishment of conditions for developing “the green economy” as the basic element for the functioning of the entire vital infrastructure of the country. In our view, this land-mark document may be used for a review at the international level and among expert community and we are prepared to present it to the appropriate United Nations entities as Turkmenistan’s contribution to our common efforts.

Dear Participants,

Turkmenistan attaches special importance to the development of the energy sector. It is quite natural if we take into account the enormous reserves of gas and oil in the country. We are fully aware of the great responsibility that our country bears as a major producer and international

exporter of hydrocarbons. Therefore environmental safety is a matter of key importance for us. We are convinced that development of energy infrastructure cannot be carried out to the detriment of environment under any circumstances. This approach underlines Turkmenistan's position that it is necessary to find an international consensus in the sphere of energy safety where environmental dimension plays one of the leading roles.

In this context and with a view to combining efforts of the UN member states that actively participate in shaping the international legal framework in the field of sustainable energy production Turkmenistan considers that it is advisable to establish a new mechanism – an Inter-Regional Energy Dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations. By advancing this proposal we proceed from the belief that interested entities of the United Nations will actively promote establishment of such dialogue that is transparent and open to all. We see among its participant's states from Central, South and South-East Asia, Caspian and Black Sea regions, European Union, Middle and Near East countries, all interested states, companies and international financial institutions.

Wide-ranging discussion of energy efficiency and energy conservation and use of renewable energy sources could become an inherent part of this process. Our country is ready to engage in very close cooperation with specialized institutions and agencies of the United Nations, including UNDP, UNEP and other entities.

Preservation of natural wealth of the Caspian Sea is an issue that goes far beyond the regional framework. The unique biological complex of this basin and its coastal areas without any exaggeration is the heritage of the entire mankind and therefore it calls for special attention on the part of the international community. Furthermore the Caspian Sea region is rapidly becoming one of the major world centers of hydrocarbons production and transportation. Our common task is to combine objective economic interests and realities of international cooperation in the energy sphere with the need to preserve biodiversity of the Caspian Sea without disrupting its fragile environmental balance. In this regard we count on omnilateral cooperation from the United Nation. Today we need serious

expert assessments and constant monitoring of the situation that could form the basis for elaborating appropriate decisions, including those of international legal nature.

Efforts undertaken by Turkmenistan at the national level are based on the conceptual vision of the indivisibility and interdependence of modern environmental problems and importance of studying the experience of every country for its possible use in other parts of the globe. Turkmenistan is prepared to share its largely successful experience in fighting negative consequences of climate change and implementing the highest environmental standards.

In this context we would consider it useful to establish a more systematic and more purposeful communication within the United Nations framework with a view to studying experience of various states in solving climate change issues, especially among countries with similar natural and climatic conditions. It is possible that a special programme of expertise exchange and consultations could be developed at a later stage. We believe that it could give impetus to enhancing efficiency and focus of our joint efforts and raising them to a higher level of coordination. We are prepared to act as a focal point in developing such a programme for Central Asian states.

Water salinization and degradation of arable lands has turned into one of the most serious environmental challenges for Central Asia. An inter-regional conference on desertification and land degradation that was organized by the Government of our country and the United Nations was held in Turkmenistan in early August this year. The final document adopted at the conference determines the areas of work that deserve, in our opinion, most close attention and examination at the UN level.

The issue of the Aral Sea is yet another complex problem that has a direct impact on climate change, in particular in the Central Asian region.

It is apparent that the work of the International Fund to Save the Aral Sea and efforts of the Central Asian states at the national level are not sufficient to achieve this goal. What is needed is a focused and

complex international approach, an active and system-wide participation of the United Nations. In this connection, President of Turkmenistan speaking at the Rio+20 Conference proposed that it was necessary to elaborate measures that would be implemented as a separate area of UN activity, as a Special UN Programme for the Aral Sea which will specify concrete plans aimed at stabilizing and improving situation in the Aral Sea area.

We believe that it is necessary to take up the proposal on the establishment of such a programme once again and resume its discussion at the current session of the General Assembly.

Dear Participants,

Turkmenistan fully supports the decisions adopted at the Copenhagen and Cancun Summits on Climate Change, at the 17-th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban and the Rio+20 Summit. We look forward to a constructive international dialogue on those issues. We are convinced that it is necessary to consistently combine efforts at the international, regional and national levels and effectively coordinate actions of member states with those of the United Nations. In this context we welcome Secretary General's efforts aimed at implementing the agreed decisions and stand ready to provide maximum assistance in this regard.

By strictly adhering to our international commitments we state with a sense of full responsibility that we stand ready to participate in the broadest possible and active cooperation with member states of the United Nations and international entities.

Thank you for your attention.