



STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon

President of the Republic of Tajikistan

at

High-Level Meeting of the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly on

Biodiversity

22 September 2010, New York

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is not accidental that we are holding a High-Level meeting on biodiversity. Biological diversity is not only a component of the MDGs, it is indispensable for human survival. For this reason, today we have to discuss the progress we gained in conservation of biodiversity, as well as measures and actions that need be taken to conserve the Earth's diversity of habitat and species for future generations.

Life of billions of people, including the poorest population, directly depends on existence of certain species that they need for sustaining their every day's life, and sometimes even for survival. Irreplaceable losses in wildlife can nullify the efforts at implementing the MDGs related to the issues of poverty, hunger and diseases, since they make the poorest part of the population of the planet even more vulnerable depriving them of the possibility to change their lives for the better.

According to the international experts, Tajikistan ranks among the ten richest centers of biological diversity, and boasts diversity of habitat and species, including numerous plants that can be used as food, medicine, fodder, ornamental plants, and wild animals.

The gene pool of the biodiversity species of the mountainous Tajikistan is rich, and can be used as a potential genetic resource for creation of highly productive and resistant varieties of cultivated plants, ornamental plants, officinal raw stuff, food plants and animal breeds. New selective brands and breeds can be created on the basis on this gene pool. Many world collection centers of genetic resources comprise specimen of the genetic brands found in our country. A considerable part of this wealth served as a basis for creating numerous useful food and medicine brands. Despite its relatively small territory, Tajikistan has the flora and fauna that accounts for around 2 per cent of the total world biological resources.

Distinguished delegates,

The financial, food and energy crises coupled with global climate change and demographic growth of population lead to destruction of many ecosystems. We can feel it in our country and in the entire Central Asian region. As a result of the above processes many ecosystems have been restructured, deforestation has affected half of the total forest zone, natural pasture ground in the arid areas have degraded, the Turan tiger extinguished, and over a dozen of plants and animal species joined the category of rare and endangered species.

The Government of Tajikistan does everything possible to mitigate the anthropogenic impact on the environment in order to conserve biodiversity and other ecosystems.

In this vein, in order to meet the commitments made with regard to the implementation of the internationally agreed goals and documents, in particular the UN Convention on Biodiversity, our country has done enormous work at the institutional, legislative and political levels. In cooperation with UNDP and other UN institutions, we have developed and adopted the fundamental documents on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity such as the *National Strategy and Action Plan on Conservation of Biodiversity*, the national framed document on biodiversity and the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on "Biosecurity", and also elaborated a number of other program documents. We have established the National Center for Biodiversity and Biosecurity, which, in cooperation with other governmental organizations, assists in coordinating the implementation the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation. As a result of the efforts aimed, in particular, at improving the state of those nature territories that are held under special protection, at conservation of the genetic resources and biodiversity at large, it became possible not only to suspend the loss of biodiversity but in some cases to restore the number of some unique species such as axis deer, goitered gazelle, and snow leopard.

Though the High level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the MDGs implementation stated that the goals set for biodiversity conservation have not been fully implemented by 2010, we, however, believe, that the measures undertaken by the Government in my country have yielded certain results. I believe that our opinion coincides with the conclusions drawn by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity. We consider this to be our contribution to the implementation of the GA resolution that calls the parties-to-the convention to meet the commitments to considerably reduce by 2010 the rate of loss of biodiversity by giving due attention to the issue of biodiversity loss in relevant strategies and programs. This GA resolution recommends to the state members to continue providing to the developing countries new and additional financial and technical resources, including within the framework of the Global Ecological Fund. Undertaking of specific measures, including implementation of the national strategies and action plans on conservation of biodiversity requires large resources and involves big expenses. Biological resources is a universal heritage and, for this reason, any measures on conservation of biodiversity have transnational character; they are advantageous both for individual countries, regions, and the entire international community, since extinction of any variety of plants or any animal breed should me a matter of concern for the entire international community.

What is required for further support and development of this process is a more solid support on the part of the UN and other international organizations and donor countries. Such support should be directed at the implementation of measures on conservation and sustainable use of biological resources, especially in the places of their origin and concentration of genetic resources, which are wild relatives to cultured plants.

Taking into account the irreplaceable role of the Tajikistan mountains in conservation of biological resources, and also their enormous significance for the formation and conservation of

climate in the Central Asian region and other neighboring regions, we suggest that the UN, in cooperation with other international institutions, establish in Tajikistan a Regional mountainous center of biodiversity, which could become one of the most important centers for further exploration and management of biodiversity on the regional, subregional and global levels.

Thank you for attention.