

Statement by Mr. Aleksandr Merkushkin
Head of the delegation of Republic of Uzbekistan
to COP 18 and CMP 8
(Doha, 6 December 2012)

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

Let me begin with expressing our deep appreciation to the Government of the State of Qatar for hosting this milestone event on climate change and providing every support to enable the activities of the conference.

I also join others in congratulating His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah with his election as president of COP-18 and CMP-8.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Uzbekistan has been consistent in meeting its commitments under the UNFCCC. Measures on preventing climate change have been successfully implemented in the country, in particular through enhancing projects on clean development mechanism (CDM). Uzbekistan ranks first among CIS and Eastern European countries on the planned volumes of annual reduction of emissions within registered projects of clean development mechanisms.

Uzbekistan attaches high importance to the adoption of a new international agreement on climate change and we believe that the long-term joint actions should be guided by the purposes and principles of UNFCCC taking into account the national commitments of the Parties.

Any delay in this process would have serious negative complications for our planet, for the future and well-being of the humankind. Therefore it is time for all of us to join our efforts in reaching common solution.

We share the views on the necessity of holistic approach to international climate change cooperation. Balanced actions are needed both in adaptation measures and mitigation efforts.

Climate change is a common challenge and a common responsibility. In implementing climate change measures the national needs and development tendencies of economies should be taken into account. Therefore the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" remains a key in designing future international strategy to combat climate change.

We think that in the new legal document which we are going to elaborate, and also in our approaches to climate change issues, as a whole, we have to have a clear understanding of the fact that efforts in coping with climate change should be consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

Mr. President,

We consider it important to enhance the work on development and transfer of technologies to support actions on climate change prevention. In this context, we support the efforts of developing countries directed on elimination of barriers and easing the access to new technologies.

The importance of ensuring fast and long-term financing of the needs of the developing countries in tackling with climate change challenges should be given due attention. Financing should be provided in a fair, equal and geographically equitable manner. It is also important to enhance the efficiency and co-ordination of the work the various funds and financial mechanisms operating within the framework of climate change issues. In this regard we hope that newly established Green Climate Fund streamline our work.

Mr. President,

Taking this opportunity let me briefly mention some of the challenges of climate change for my country, and also for our region, as a whole. They include: shortage of water resources, decrease in quality of drinking water, land and biodiversity degradation, glacier degradation in the Pamir and the Tian Shan mountains which feed the two main rivers of Central Asia and others.

The water of the Aral Sea reduced by more than in 7 times and the volume of its water decreased by 12 times. Water supply of the two main rivers of Central Asia is now below 70% from the average annual rate. These circumstances complicate the tasks to provide the population with the necessary volumes of water for drinking and irrigation. In our country, and also in the region as a whole, people are mainly involved in agriculture and their livelihood and well-being directly depend on agrarian sector.

Therefore, we are convinced that in our discussions on climate change the issues of water security should be given due attention. Coping with climate change could be effective not only with adaptation and mitigation measures, but also through the rational use of natural resources.

Mr. President,

In conclusion let me reiterate my country's commitment to work towards a successful and agreed outcome of international climate change

negotiations in designing a new international legal framework applicable to all.