Address by H.E. Sadyr Japarov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, at the World Summit on Climate Change

(Glasgow, 1-2 November 2021)

Distinguished Heads of States and Governments,
Distinguished Secretary General of the United Nations,
Mr. Chairman,

At the outset I wish to thank the government of the United Kingdom and the government of Italy for convening this conference amid the current global epidemiological situation.

Kyrgyzstan, like the rest of the world, is looking forward to the outcomes of the Glasgow summit. In recent years, our country's environment and people have begun to suffer from the negative impacts of climate change.

In this regard, let me reassure you that Kyrgyzstan is committed to the spirit and goals of the Paris Agreement.

In spite of the difficulties in its implementation, we remain very optimistic.

Kyrgyzstan will continue participating responsibly and fully in the global campaign to slow down climate change by implementing the Nationally Determined Contribution until 2030.

Dear Heads of Delegations,

By 2030 Kyrgyzstan aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by fortyfour percent (44%).

Currently, our country's share in the global emission is negligible, about zero point zero three percent (0.03%).

The emissions' nature is not industrial, but rather related to human activity.

We estimate that the implementation of the necessary medium-term mitigation actions to cost 7 billion US dollars.

By 2050, Kyrgyzstan aims to reach carbon-neutrality on the basis of green development.

Renewable energy, especially hydropower, will be the driver of the carbon-free economic development.

We intend to develop small and medium hydropower projects with a view of shifting industry, housing and utilities infrastructure to electricity consumption at the expense of the carbon-based energy sources, primarily coal and heating oil, without any negative impact on the environment.

Presently, ten small and medium hydropowerplants are being constructed. Some of them have already been operational. The rest will be ready by the end of the next year.

In accordance with the Paris Agreement spirit, I invite private investors from developed economies to cooperate with us in the hydropower sector, also using public-private partnership schemes.

Without advanced technology, innovation and know-how transfer, timely and simultaneous achievement of green economic growth and carbon neutrality in Kyrgyzstan will be difficult.

In this regard, I call on all stakeholders, especially international multilateral banks, climate funds and corporations, to have serious discussion with us.

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

It is vital for Kyrgyzstan not only to preserve its ancient glaciers, water resources and celestial mountains from climate change, but also protect from abusive economic activities that unfortunately are the case in our country. In this regard, I urge the international community to work together against such unacceptable business practices.

In areas of adaptation we are carrying out programs and projects in vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, water resources, energy, industry, disaster risk mitigation, public health, forests, and biodiversity.

Given that ninety-four percent (94%) of our territory is mountainous, the scope of work to be done is immense.

We estimate adaptation measures to cost nearly 3 billion US dollars.

Dear Summit participants!

The described problems from the negative effects of climate change are in many ways common for mountainous countries.

Their Governments, including that of Kyrgyzstan, may need donor assistance to address them.

In this regard, we propose to foresee and include in the Glasgow outcome decisions the targeted funding arrangements for developing mountainous countries in need of assistance.

We propose under the auspices of the UN to establish a Special Fund to implement needs tailored adaptation programs with focus on the conservation of glaciers, forests and biodiversity, enhancing disaster risk preparedness, and socio-economic support to mountainous communities, especially women and children.

In my opinion, the era of long and pretty speeches is over. It is time to act purposefully, consistently and effectively.

In conclusion, I wish to stress that we can only solve our problems by working together.

Thank you for your attention!