

## STATEMENT

by the Founder of Peace and National Unity – the Leader of Nation,  
President of the Republic of Tajikistan His Excellency Emomali Rahmon  
at the 78<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for  
Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)  
(23 May 2022)

Your Excellency, Chairperson!

Esteemed colleagues!

Honorable ladies and gentlemen!

Tajikistan welcomes the theme of today's conference entitled “A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”. Taking advantage of this opportunity, I am pleased to congratulate all members of the Commission on the 75th Anniversary of ESCAP.

After two years of the most difficult period of epidemiological isolation, the coronavirus crisis has clearly shown the vulnerability of not only small economies but also superpowers.

Due to the joint efforts and diligences shown by the countries, we have been able to minimize the threats posed by COVID-19 pandemic. However, its economic and social consequences are enormous on a global scale.

Despite the measures taken to prevent the impact of negative external factors on the national economy of the Republic of Tajikistan, the country's growth rate decreased to 4.5% (four and a half percent) in 2020, which is three percent less than in 2019.

Currently, in the post Covid-19 period we are witnessing the revival of economies due to the anti-crisis measures taken by the Government to prevent the impact of pandemic to the socio-economic development. Thus in the end of 2021, economic growth in the country amounted to 9.2%, which is 4.7% more than the same period last year.

The main factors that have contributed to such a high rate of economic development are consumer demand, foreign investment, the recovery of the global economy and world trade, as well as the renewal of the economies in the member countries.

In particular, the Government of the country is constantly carrying out reforms to ensure the development of entrepreneurship and creating a favorable investment climate, and fully supports the creative initiatives of investors and entrepreneurs. The private sector is identified as a key driver of economic development in the National Development Strategy until 2030.

## **Ladies and gentlemen!**

The analysis and reports of the United Nations show that with the speed and efforts we have today, it is challenging to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Unfortunately, modern threats have seriously hampered this process.

The Republic of Tajikistan is constantly taking the necessary steps to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

The National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 is aimed at raising living standards in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring energy independence and energy efficiency, breaking the communication deadlock and transforming the country into a transit state, ensuring food security and access to quality food, as well as the country's rapid industrialization.

In this regard, Tajikistan is interested for strengthening the regulatory framework of the multimodal transportation activities, establishing and developing a regional logistics center, introducing the digital technology, as well as an intelligent transport system within UNESCAP that can break the country's communication deadlock.

I am convinced that we, along with our partner countries, will continue to pursue our political will and leadership in this process.

## **Distinguished participants!**

A recent report by the UN Secretary-General on the SDG's implementation progress, has revealed that the international community is lagging behind in achieving these global goals. In particular, this trend is evident in the achievement of SDG 6 and other water-related goals.

Namely, to discuss water issues in the framework of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" and to accelerate the achievement of the SDG 6 as an initiator and contributor in this area, Tajikistan is hosting the Second International High-Level Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, which will be held on June 6-9, 2022 in the capital of Tajikistan – Dushanbe.

I hope that you will accept our invitation take an active part in this high-level conference.

I thank you for your attention!!!