

## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN KYRGYZSTAN AND CENTRAL ASIA

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Dear colleagues, ladies and gentleman,

Before I start my presentation I would like to thank all the organizers, and in the first place our Turkish brothers, for inviting Kyrgyz delegation to take part in the work of the present Congress which is devoted to important security issues in Asia and across the CICA (Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia) space. I am confident that our meeting is arranged with the aim of attracting the world community's attention to the problems of a huge region with multi-billion population and to its inseparable part – Central Asia – the region to which my country belongs.

I would like to focus on several key security issues which, in my opinion, are important not only for our region but also for the international community. I would emphasize the following: first of all, regional security in the context of military-political stability and threats and challenges; environmental security; and energy security. I would like to note that these issues are closely interrelated.

In the beginning of my report I would like to describe in detail the current political and socio-economic situation in our country, so you can understand better how and to what extent Kyrgyzstan influences regional processes of intergovernmental collaboration on issues of regional security.

We believe that domestic and regional security and stability are the main factors required for sustainable and diversified development of Kyrgyzstan. We proceed from understanding that the level of political, economic, social, cultural, educational and democratic development of any country is inseparable and dependent on general state of regional cooperation, especially in issues of regional security. In this context Kyrgyzstan does not have sharp political contradictions with any neighboring state. We have been building our relations

with them on the principles of good neighborhood and mutually beneficial cooperation on a wide range of issues of common interests.

Today, as you all know, Kyrgyzstan is experiencing one of the most important and complicated stages of its development, from the perspective of strengthening its statehood. Radical transformations and reforms of constitutional and governmental management are underway. We will be holding a nationwide referendum on the issues of adopting a new Constitution and authorizing the post of President for transit period. On 10 October we will have parliamentary elections.

We have come along the hard way and with many human victims to these crucial and determining events which should open a new page in building a truly democratic state and change the lives of multinational people of Kyrgyzstan to the better.

As a result of mass civil unrest throughout the whole country on 7-8 April President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was overthrown. He and his family have usurped the power in the country and considered it as their own domain and gold-mine. Corrupted entourage of the former President has almost led the country to the complete collapse by selling all the strategic properties at a price of next to nothing. Hundreds of thousands of people in search of means for subsistence had to leave their homeland. Today Kyrgyzstan is going through difficult times taking into account the global economic crisis and complicated socio-political and economic situation in the country.

The Provisional Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is taking all possible measures in order to stabilize the situation throughout the country and not to admit the revenge of pro-Bakiyev forces that do not leave their attempts to regain the lost positions. We are grateful to all governments and international organizations which have given a helping hand to us in such difficult times. We are grateful to the leadership and people of Kazakhstan for opening the Kyrgyz-Kazakh border, and we deeply believe that the brotherly people of Uzbekistan will follow the lead of our neighbors. We are thankful to Russia and the United States of America for invaluable humanitarian and financial assistance, we are grateful to the brotherly nation of Turkey who did not leave us alone in difficult times. I am not going to list all those who have rendered assistance to us, as it will take a long time. I just want to say “thank you very much” on behalf of people of Kyrgyzstan. I believe that having such a great number of friends Kyrgyzstan will be able to improve the situation and return to a normal pattern of development.

Situation in Afghanistan is a key issue in today’s international agenda. It directly affects the situation in Central Asia and in the so-called “Greater Central Asia”.

Discussing problems, opportunities and prospects which are common for the states of Central Asia and Afghanistan is timely and necessary. Provision of stability and security, especially in the context of the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, is one of the most important issues for the Central Asian states. Everyone understands that destinies of the countries in the region are interconnected. Everyone understands that conflicts and instability in Afghanistan and deteriorating situation in Pakistan undermine stability of the whole region and pose threats far beyond the region.

We consider activities of the international community in rendering further support to Afghanistan as a very important mechanism for strengthening security, stability, assisting in reconstruction process, and building worthy life for the Afghan people.

Kyrgyzstan does not have common borders with Afghanistan but being a Central Asian state it is to the full extent experiencing all the challenges and threats faced by the Afghan people.

Our country along with other Central Asian states is as before considered as the main transit corridor for trafficking drugs to Central Asia, Russia and then to Europe and the United States. We understand that terrorism, illegal drug trafficking and organized crime are serious barriers for the development of Afghanistan and not only for this country. Therefore we consider the problem of Afghanistan in the regional context, in the context of “Greater Central Asia”, the region to which the international community should compel its attention.

Kyrgyzstan supports the efforts of the International Security Assistance Force and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, and we believe that today systematic and complex approach should prevail which will include political, economic and humanitarian aspects besides military component.

Taking into account the current situation the international community under the aegis of the UN should make amendments in a long-term program of economic development of Afghanistan. All concerned countries and international organizations, including neighboring states, should take part in the realization of this program.

Passing on to the next issue, I would like to underline that the issues of environmental protection, provision of ecologic security, rational use of depleting important resources pose new threats and risks in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These problems require continuous attention and adopting of complex, well-coordinated and timely preventive measures at all levels – international, regional and national.

From such perspective Kyrgyzstan identifies its priorities in the sphere of environmental protection as fundamental basis for sustainable human devel-

opment and maintaining a balance between human rights, society and preserving unique natural complex for our future generations. National priorities identified in the Country Development Strategy are closely linked to the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Kyrgyzstan has more than 90 tailings and mountain dumps with the total area of 6.5 thousand hectares containing 286 million tons of uranium and other highly toxic waste. The condition of the majority of tailings does not meet modern safety standards. During decades after closing of the production facilities protective installations have seriously deteriorated and continue to collapse under the influence of natural factors including precipitation, torrents, landslides and earthquakes. Protective installations cannot duly provide ecological security in the long-term perspective.

As high priority the Kyrgyz Republic considers the conduction of proactive preventive measures in regard to tailings while using existing multiple opportunities including a number of the UN ecological conventions. Numerous tailings containing large volumes of highly toxic waste from production of uranium and other very harmful technological waste pose significant risks of potential ecological and humanitarian disaster in a wider region of Central Asia.

We have to take into account another important problem of providing the Central Asian states with water resources. In case of possible contamination of water basins of Central Asian rivers with radioactive and highly toxic waste the problem of water shortage will become even sharper and insuperable.

I touched upon the issue of providing the Central Asian states with water resources for a good reason, as water-energy problems in the region are not only vital but rather sharp as well. Historically and geographically it has developed in such a way that two Central Asian states (Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan) are located upstream of the two largest mountainous rivers in Central Asia – Syrdarya and Amudarya. These rivers bundle the five Central Asian states (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) into a single vital water-energy junction (Afghanistan has very direct relation to this junction).

The Central Asian states are interdependent on reciprocal supplies of water-energy resources.

Kyrgyzstan can think of only one way to resolve water-energy issues – through multilateral negotiations, compromises and mutual concessions for full-scale and mutually beneficial cooperation on a long-term basis.