

Statement of H.E. Mr. Mahmamin Mahmadaminov at the United Nations
Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III)
Quito, Ecuador, 17-20 October, 2016

*His Excellency Mr. Rafael Correa, the President of the
Republic Ecuador
Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

1. Tajikistan associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Thailand on behalf of the G77 and China.
2. Allow me to extend sincere appreciation of the Government of Tajikistan to the President, and Government of the Republic of Ecuador for the excellent organization of this important forum and to the people of Ecuador for their warm hospitality extended to us during our stay in this beautiful city of Quito.
3. We are at the beginning of a transformation process, which has started with adoption of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the SDGs, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Paris Climate Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. It is obvious that the path towards sustainable development is not going to be easy and smooth. Traditional and emerging challenges are posing additional and

complex tasks and seriously undermining security in the world. Therefore, we believe additional efforts should be aimed at strengthening the global environment conducive for the implementation of the SDGs. In this connection, HABITAT III in Quito provides a timely platform and opportunity to discuss further plans, in particular to discuss a collective approach to current trends impacting on towns, cities and other urban areas.

4. Since the Second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) held in Istanbul in 1996 Tajikistan despite undergoing through some very difficult period of its newly independence has been making efforts towards creating healthy, safe, equitable and sustainable human settlements.

Tajikistan faces with challenges related to economic recession, natural disasters, climate change and demographic problems of human settlements, in particular with the electricity shortages in winter period. And we know perfectly the value of energy for the development and sustainability of the cities and human settlements. Because, energy alongside with water are considered as a main drivers of the development of any city.

5. Tajikistan has developed and implemented the policies and strategies and different programs within the national development strategies. We believe there is a need to develop more integrated projects and programs to overcome these challenges. And one of the important documents in this connection for

Tajikistan is recently adopted National Development Strategy until 2030 which encompasses tackling all of the above issues.

Dear participants,

6. My delegation is of view that if properly implemented the New Urban Agenda will help to end the poverty and hunger, promote sustained economic growth, achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, improve human health, protect the environment and provide safe drinking water. There is a direct correlation between how the cities and settlements are planned and governed and the success of the New Urban Agenda.
7. Although more than 60% of all Central Asian water is accumulated in Tajikistan, a large amount of population still has no access to safe clean water. Currently more than 1.6 billion people in the world still don't have access to safe drinking water. Therefore, we urge countries to conserve and sustainably use this precious resource within the urban and rural areas by reducing wastewater, minimizing water loses, promoting water reuse, and increasing water storages.
8. In our opinion it's important to have more coordinated approach between the international and regional organizations and other stakeholders in their urban and rural development strategies to sustainable

urbanization, mainstreaming the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

9. Adequate investment is also needed to ensure universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all, as well as access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all. Therefore, ensuring that infrastructures in the cities are climate-resilient and part of integrated urban development plans is crucial.
10. With this in mind, Tajikistan alongside with other countries is promoting an International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 this year and very much hope that this important initiative will further assist the international community towards implementation water related SDGs.
11. At the end, I would like once again express my sincere appreciation to the hosts of this Conference for convening this important meeting and hope that HABITAT III will serve as a platform for serious consultations between governments and other stakeholders regarding the future of our cities. I look forward to working with you all during these days.