

UZBEKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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STATEMENT
by H.E. Mr. Murad Askarov,
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Uzbekistan
on the agenda item 97u "Confidence-building
measures in the regional and subregional context"
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Mr. Chairman,

Achieving goals of disarmament and security on the regional and global level depends on the urgent stabilization and peace-building in countries with persistent conflicts which became sources of illegal weapons proliferation, drug trafficking, terrorism, extremism and other threats.

Uzbekistan, being a neighbor of Afghanistan, as no one else is interested in the sustainable development of its economy, the revival of all aspects of life of the Afghan state. We can not say that for the past nine years, the international community together with the Afghan government has not made progress in addressing the multiple and difficult problems of this country. However, at the same time, we can not say that stable preconditions for the irreversible process of establishing peace in Afghanistan have been created.

In his statement at the recent MDGs Summit the President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov had paid special attention to the issues of international peace efforts in Afghanistan. As it was noted by our President, in the current situation it becomes utterly important to search the alternative ways of achieving peace and stability in Afghanistan. Among them, in our opinion, a creation of the Contact Group "6+3" under the United Nations auspices including the six states bordering Afghanistan, as well as the United States, Russia and NATO. This mechanism could play a significant role. This initiative, proposed by the President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov in April 2008, within the framework of cooperation with the UN in the stabilization and reconstruction of Afghanistan, proceeds from the fact that problems of this country should be resolved by the Afghans themselves with the assistance of the states which are interested in ending the war and ensuring a stable future for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The most important objective of the "6+3" Contact Group is to propose to the confronting parties the Program of secession of military operations in Afghanistan, find compromise solutions on the key problems and contradictions, which divide the country, ensure security and provide necessary guarantees.

Through the implementation of the initiative to establish the Contact Group 6 +3 under the auspices of the UN, with participation of authorized representatives of the States bordering Afghanistan and

representatives of Russia, the United States and NATO, it could be possible to achieve consent of the parties, both inside and around Afghanistan. In this regard, the negotiations on the national reconciliation in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan must be held with all major confronting forces.

The above mentioned format, which is creating a multilateral and multilevel mechanism of achieving peace in Afghanistan, in principle, allows to discuss and to develop a model of long-term peace and development in Afghanistan. Clearly, the six neighboring states, whose peoples are connected with the Afghan people by centuries-old ties of friendship and co-existence, are vitally interested in peace on the much suffered land of Afghanistan.

The first and foremost attention in the Program of secession of military operations in Afghanistan must be paid to rendering the economic aid, implementing the social, infrastructural and humanitarian projects, tackling the problems of unemployment, urgent tasks to eliminate poverty, misery and violation of rights.

Achieving peace and stability in Afghanistan will open great opportunities for addressing the problems of sustainable development in South and Central Asia in the socio-economic, political and all other areas, and to build confidence in the regional and subregional context.

Based on these objectives, the Republic of Uzbekistan is making an effective contribution to the implementation of the United Nations programs of the reconstruction of Afghanistan. In particular, Uzbekistan opened the bridge at the Uzbek-Afghan border for international humanitarian supplies, contributes to the restoration of infrastructure and construction of various facilities on the territory of Afghanistan. Uzbekistan constructed 11 bridges in Afghanistan in the area of Mazar-Sharif - Kabul to ensure uninterrupted communication between the north and south of the country.

Since early 2002, Uzbekistan has been supplying electricity to Afghanistan, and in 2008 completed the project on commissioning of electricity transmission line Hairaton - Puli Khumri - Kabul, so that today Kabul is fully provided by electricity from Uzbekistan. In these days, the Uzbek companies are finishing the construction of the railway Termez (Uzbekistan) to Mazar-e Sharif. This is a real contribution to solve the problem of transport infrastructure development in

Afghanistan and connection of the country to international transportation and communication projects. The ongoing project will go through the route of Navoi – Turkmenbashi – Baku - Kars railroad to markets in Europe, and through the Mediterranean port of Mersin – to markets of North Africa and the Middle East. Its implementation will contribute to the revitalization of mutual trade and expanding investment ties in the region.

However, the settlement and stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan, rebuilding the Afghan economy and creation of conditions for the inclusion of the state into regional integration processes will be impossible without the involvement of the Afghans themselves. Without the well-thought and organized negotiation process, which should involve all the major confronting forces of Afghanistan, it is impossible to radically improve the situation in this country, to eliminate the most serious security threats emanating from Afghan conflict and significantly strengthen security, stability and confidence on the regional level.

Thank you.