

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALISHER FAYZIEV,
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE JOINT STOCK COMPANY
UZBEKENERGO, AT THE FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING FOR
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**Promotion of common actions and co-operation in the OSCE area in the
fields of development of sustainable energy and transport**

**Session 5: Regional and subregional co-operation on
sustainable energy in the OSCE area**

Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

One of the main factors contributing to the sustainable development and competitiveness of the economy is the more effective use of energy resources. In this connection, the Government of Uzbekistan has initiated two important programmes to stimulate environmental sustainability: the Environmental Security Strategy and the National Strategy for Renewable Energy Sources.

Uzbekistan has significant potential in the area of renewable energy production, specifically hydropower resources, solar and wind energy, and biogas.

In co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), several projects have been carried out with the aim of demonstrating and encouraging the use of renewable sources of energy in remote and rural locations. This has made it possible to gain initial practical experience as regards an integrated approach to the development of renewable energy production technologies.

The Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) recently introduced by the UNDP provides a basis for countries to formulate their own approach to achieving long-term sustainable growth of the national economy so as to prevent a further increase in the volume of greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the irreversible consequences of climate change. In this context, it might be mentioned that the republic has successfully implemented a project entitled "Capacity-Building for the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in Uzbekistan" in co-operation with the UNDP. This project was completed in June 2010 and served as a starting point for the successful implementation of the clean development mechanism in the country.

The national body currently responsible for the CDM in the Republic of Uzbekistan was established within the Ministry of Economic Affairs in December 2006, as was an interagency CDM council.

The Executive Board of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has currently registered nine CDM projects from the Republic of Uzbekistan, with an overall planned reduction of 2,686,000 tons of CO² equivalents per year.

It should be added that Uzbekistan occupies a consistent leading position among the countries of Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States as regards both the number of CDM projects registered (9 of the 22 projects registered for the region come from the Republic of Uzbekistan) and the expected volume of annual emission reductions (74 per cent of the total amount for the region).

Nevertheless, Uzbekistan has no intention of resting on its laurels and this work will be continued to ensure further capacity-building in view of the changing conditions of the international approach to climate change issues.

As regards the Aral Sea disaster, I should like to point out that Uzbekistan is playing an active part in the regional efforts to prevent the further drying out of the Aral Sea, in particular within the framework of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), as one of its co-founders. The republic supports the further development and strengthening of co-operation between IFAS and the United Nations, including its specialized agencies, in dealing with the region's environmental and water problems. In our view, the fact that IFAS was accorded observer status with the United Nations General Assembly in 2008 opens up new possibilities for its work at the global level, bringing the region to the attention of a wider international public.

At the present time, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is providing considerable assistance in the elaboration and implementation of the third phase of the IFAS programme of action to provide assistance to the Aral Sea basin region during the period 2011 to 2015 (Aral Sea Basin Programme-3 (ASBP-3)). Uzbekistan is playing an active role in this process, submitting its own projects for inclusion in the ASBP-3.

An international conference on the Aral Sea held at Uzbekistan's initiative in March 2008 in Tashkent gave a significant impetus to the broad-based consideration of this acute problem within an international format. The forum resulted in the adoption of the Tashkent Declaration and Action Plan. The Action Plan envisages the implementation of projects costing a total of around 1.5 billion United States dollars to mitigate the serious consequences of the Aral disaster.

I might mention that the total investment in the Aral Sea region between 1995 and 2005 amounted to 825 million United States dollars. Grants from international organizations accounted for 187 million dollars, while Uzbekistan invested around 640 million dollars in projects to deal with the consequences of the Aral Sea crisis.

In view of the fact that the complex set of environmental, socio-economic and demographic problems that have arisen in the Aral Sea region are of an international nature in

terms of their origin and the level of consequences, we believe it necessary to resolve this issue with the support and assistance of developed countries and international agencies.

I should also like to say a few brief words about the problem of the effective use of water and the experience of resolving this problem in Uzbekistan.

Following the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the republic inherited a hypertrophied economy, which was in effect merely a supplier of raw materials for the USSR. In order to provide not only the population of Uzbekistan but also that of the entire USSR with cotton, fabric, oil and many other products, more than 50 per cent of the republic's irrigated land has been reserved for cotton production.

When the country gained its independence, much work began on diversifying agricultural production. Instead of water-intensive crops such as rice, alfalfa and cotton, the cultivation of crops requiring less water increased – grain, melons and gourds, orchards, vineyards and other such crops. As a result, cotton now accounts for less than 30 per cent of the yield from irrigated farming, whereas the volume of rice cultivated has decreased more than fourfold. As a result of this, compared to the 1980s the republic's water intake has fallen from 64 to 52 cubic kilometres per year.

During the years of independence, radical changes have taken place in Uzbekistan with respect to the use of water resources. The organizational structure for water management in the republic has been revised and there has been a transition from the administrative and territorial principle of water resource management to the basin principle. This has made it possible to ensure a more effective, stable and equal distribution of water at all levels.

Ten basin management boards for irrigation systems have been established in the republic, along with management systems for the main canals in the Fergana Valley. These include 52 irrigation management systems, 7 management systems for the main canals and 3 facilities for the management of the primary systems, creating an effective mechanism for water distribution.

Uzbekistan is a regional leader when it comes to the introduction of integrated water resource management and other forms of water conservation technologies. A policy is under way for the large-scale introduction of new water conservation technologies, especially drip irrigation. In particular, during the last two years alone (2009 to 2010), drip irrigation has been introduced in an area covering more than 7,200 hectares.

One can thus say that during the years of independence the situation as regards water use in Uzbekistan has changed dramatically, and this is recognized by respected international organizations and experts.