

STATEMENT
by the Head of the Delegation of Turkmenistan
at the 69-th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
(New York, 25 September 2014)

Esteemed Mr. President,
Esteemed Heads of the Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I have the honour to convey the words of greetings and wishes of peace and prosperity to you and the peoples of your countries on behalf of His Excellency, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Sam Kutesa on his election to the post of President of the 69-th session of the United Nations General Assembly and wish him success in his forthcoming responsible work. I would also like to express my appreciation to Mr. John W. Ashe, President of the 58-th Session for his skillful and effective work on this post.

Dear Participants,

The current session of the General Assembly is taking place against the background of complex processes which we witness in some of the world's regions. Assessment of those processes and their casual relationships may be different but it is apparent that in view of the prevailing conditions the world community needs to apply a balanced, sober and highly responsible approach to emerging and potential challenges and threats. It is the objective and imperative requirement of our times. Experience demonstrated vividly once again that **there is no military solution to international and internal conflicts in today's world.**

It is our firm conviction that the United Nations role is acquiring decisive significance in the prevailing situation. It is the United Nations that should assume upon itself the leading mission in resolving contradictions and preserving global stability, strengthening people's faith in international institutions and legal frameworks. Here the

Security Council is called upon to assume a special responsibility. Its functions and authority under the UN Charter cannot be put into doubt and used to satisfy some individual or group interests. The UN Security Council remains and should remain the only universal legitimate body for maintaining global peace and stability and guarantor of fundamental political and moral foundations of the conceptual basis of modern world architecture.

Dear Participants,

Turkmenistan has constantly and consistently advocated for the expansion and maximum use of the United Nations peace-keeping potential. Today the need for this is especially relevant. Therefore our country proposes to actively start the elaboration of common approaches with a view to reducing and at a later stage completely eliminating potential risks of any confrontations.

It is well known that President of Turkmenistan stated at the 66-th session of the General Assembly that it was necessary as a first step in this direction to adopt a United Nations Declaration on priority use of political and diplomatic means in solving international problems and their further consideration at the UN General Assembly. We stand ready to engage in meaningful discussions on this issue.

The logic of development of global processes in the sphere of security dictates the need for a fundamental strengthening of **regional interaction mechanisms**. As regards Central Asia such interaction should ensure favourable conditions for preserving and maintaining lasting peace and stability, successful reaction to terrorist threats, extremism, organized crime and drug trafficking. In this connection we consider that it is relevant to create a standing mechanism of political consultations for coordinating steps aimed at maintaining security in this area, preventing and neutralizing conflict situations and combatting new threats. We propose to meaningfully consider the idea of convening a Forum on security and cooperation in Central Asia under the auspices of the United Nations as the starting platform for future work in this

direction. We stand ready to host such a forum in Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabat in 2015.

As the host country of the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia Turkmenistan advocates for omnilateral support to its work which has proven to be highly effective. It is not accidental that during its August session in 2012 the UN Security Council emphasized the great importance of preventive diplomacy and early settlement of disputes and in this connection supported efforts of the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia. We are convinced that in the context of current and future development of political, economic, environmental and humanitarian processes in the Central Asia region and neighbouring areas the mandate of the Center is especially relevant and necessary and call for a more active involvement of this entity in various aspects of regional problems with the support from the UN member states. Turkmenistan also believes that it is necessary to establish a more focused and substantive interaction between the Regional Center and international organizations, including the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Community of Independent States and other bodies with a view to elaborating common approaches to such pressing issues as transnational threats, terrorism, illegal drug trafficking, environmental challenges, management of trans-border water and energy resources and regional security in the context of the situation in Afghanistan.

Settlement of the situation in Afghanistan is the key factor in achieving regional peace and stability. It is necessary to support those positive processes that are taking place in this country and provide the Afghan people real assistance in achieving reconciliation and accord. This can be achieved **only through peaceful and negotiating means**. There are no other solutions here.

As a neutral country and Afghanistan's immediate neighbour Turkmenistan offered its political space for organizing a broad-based inter-Afghan national dialogue under the auspices and active involvement of the United Nations. We already have joint experience in

conducting negotiations within such a format. We believe that it can be used today too. Such dialogue in addition to purely political aspects implies the discussion of a set of measures aimed at providing specific economic support to Afghanistan and involvement of this country in regional integration processes and future infrastructure projects.

It is already many years that Turkmenistan has provided assistance to the neighbouring country in building social facilities and initiated implementation of major transport and energy projects with Afghanistan's participation. In particular, I mean the project envisaging construction of the Turkmenistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline as preparations for its implementation are nearing the final stage.

Another major project involves construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan railway which was launched in May last year. We consider them as major factors in rebuilding the economy and social sphere of Afghanistan and its transition to peaceful and creative life.

During a number of years our country has consistently supplied electric power to Afghanistan under highly favourable terms. In the near future due to the commissioning of new power generating capacities in Turkmenistan we are prepared to increase the volume of power supplied to Afghanistan several times. We continue to provide purpose-oriented training of specialists for the Afghan economy, health care and social sphere in Turkmenistan's educational establishments and will continue to provide all-round help to the fraternal Afghan people. It is our principled position.

Turkmenistan believes that irreversible nature of the disarmament process is the most important pre-requisite for peaceful and creative development of the region and establishment of climate of trust, openness and cooperation in Central Asia. Our country proceeds from the assumption that inertia-like model of the past century that was based on constant build-up of armaments has become irrelevant in today's world. Furthermore it considerably hampers and sometimes directly undermines efforts of the states in the sphere of social and economic development, enhancement of people's standards of living and

development of successful economic cooperation. It is our conviction: the less armaments there are in the world, the more stable and peaceful will its development be and there will be more trust and understanding between countries and peoples.

We stand for consistent strengthening of international and regional cooperation in reducing the arsenals of weapons of mass destruction and effective implementation of the non-proliferation regime. As a party to the fundamental international treaties and conventions of the United Nations in the sphere of disarmament, Turkmenistan intends to provide all-round support to those processes. In this connection while emphasizing the landmark nature of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that was held in Vienna in 2012 Turkmenistan believes that it is necessary to continue the current dialogue on measures aimed at expanding the international legal framework of non-proliferation.

This dialogue becomes especially relevant in view of the practical steps that are being taken in order to implement the Treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in Central Asia. Our country stands ready to engage in constructive cooperation with the Office of UN Deputy Secretary General on disarmament and participate in the implementation of a number of initiatives in this regard. Further improvement of existing UN structures can become another practical step in the implementation of consecutive measures in the sphere of disarmament. In this context we believe that it will be useful to consider the establishment of a UN Sub-regional Disarmament Center in Central Asia.

Esteemed Mr. President,
Esteemed Participants,

At the present session Turkmenistan looks forward to the logical continuation of the broad-based dialogue initiated by the President of Turkmenistan on energy security as one of the fundamental elements of

UN's sustainable development strategy. As is well-known in May 2013 the General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution entitled "Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation". The resolution was co-sponsored by 71 member states.

The adoption of this resolution is yet another major and consecutive step in advancing international cooperation in the sphere of energy. We believe that adherence to the letter and spirit of this document should acquire substantive and purpose-oriented nature. In this connection we call on member states and the UN Secretariat to actively conduct consultations on practical implementation of the provisions of this resolution. In particular, we mean institutionalization of the work of the international group of experts on energy cooperation issues and nominating representatives of member states to this group. The first international meeting of experts will take place in December this year in Turkmenistan. It is designed to launch systematic work on the establishment of the legal framework of cooperation in the sphere of sustainable energy. We invite UN member states and all interested parties to take part in it.

Esteemed Participants,

The outcome document of the Rio-de-Janeiro UN Conference on Sustainable Development entitled "The Future we Want" emphasized the central role of transport and mobility in sustainable development.

We fully share this approach. Moreover, Turkmenistan is convinced that it is high time to undertake systematic global interaction and strategic planning in the transport sphere **as a separate long-term area of UN activity.**

In early September of this year Turkmenistan's capital hosted a High-level International Conference dedicated to the role of transport

and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation, stability and sustainable development.

The Ashgabat Declaration adopted at the end of this Conference reflects the need for elaborating new modern criteria of cooperation in this sphere that are oriented towards diversification, security, accessibility and environmental safety of the transportation infrastructure and its maximum correspondence to the realities of present-day global development taking into account the needs of developing countries, including land-locked states. As President of Turkmenistan emphasized in his address to the participants of the Conference “global transport strategy of the 21-st century is a strategy of integration break-through, combination of geographical and infrastructural opportunities and technical and technological potentials of states and regions”.

The very fact of the convening of this Conference marks a momentous event designed to give an impetus to the commencement of meaningful multilateral communication with respect to the transportation problems and raising cooperation in this sphere to a qualitatively new level and transition to the adoption of concrete decisions. In our view, provisions stipulated by the Ashgabat Declaration lay the foundation for the long-term practical interaction, formulation of a **complex approach** to the development of transport and transit communication lines based on constructive and real partnerships. Our country has submitted the Ashgabat Declaration to the UN Secretariat for its distribution among the member states as an official document. We hope that it will be studied with interest.

With a view to accelerated development of international transport infrastructure Turkmenistan advocates closer cooperation and partnership-like interaction with specialized entities of the United Nations, primarily with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. We are convinced that such cooperation corresponds to

the logic of modern development of international cooperation in the sphere of transport in the Euro-Asian continent.

Dear Participants,

Turkmenistan fully supports the decisions taken during the summits on climate change held in Copenhagen and Cancun, at the 17-th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Durban and at the Rio+20 Summit. We look forward to the continuation of a constructive international dialogue on those issues. We are convinced that it is necessary to consistently combine efforts taken at the international, regional and national levels and effectively coordinate actions taken by the states with those of the United Nations. In this context we welcome Secretary General's efforts aimed at implementing the agreed decisions and stand ready to provide him with our all-round support in this regard.

It is with a sense of utmost responsibility that we approach development of international cooperation with respect to climate change problems. Of late our country has launched a number of concrete initiatives aimed at enhancing regional and global interaction in this sphere. In particular, I mean Turkmenistan's initiative concerning the establishment under the auspices of the United Nations and with its active involvement of a UN specialized entity – the UN Regional Center for Climate Change Technologies. We are prepared to provide the infrastructure required for its functioning on the territory of our country. We are convinced that establishment of this Center is dictated by the objective requirements of the environmental situation and the logic of international community's actions on issues relating to climate change. We urge the United Nations to support this initiative so that specific decisions concerning the establishment of this Center could be taken as soon as possible.

Humanitarian dimension is one of the most important components of international partnerships. As a member of major United Nations humanitarian agencies Turkmenistan takes practical steps for ensuring the rights and freedoms of its citizens.

In particular our country devotes great attention to solving the issues relating to ensuring the rights of refugees, migrants and stateless persons.

Last June the Government of Turkmenistan together with the International Migration Organization and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugee organized an international conference on migration and statelessness “Challenges and the Way Forward” in Ashgabat. Upon its conclusion the Conference adopted a declaration which spelled out urgent tasks for enhancing multilateral cooperation, improving the international legal framework and reforming national legislation concerning migrants and stateless persons, their legal and social protection and material support and adaptation.

During the current session Turkmenistan will strive to translate the main provisions of this international forum into reality.

We reaffirm our desire and readiness to continue close cooperation with the International Migration Organization, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, member states and all interested stakeholders.

Esteemed Mr. President,

Our country views the 69-th session as a major stage in progressive consolidation of international efforts aimed at resolving the key issues of the global agenda, reaffirming the leading role of the United Nations in maintaining and strengthening of universal peace and stability and achieving the goals of sustainable development.

We reaffirm our firm commitment to cooperation with the United Nations, our readiness to actively participate and promote its peace-keeping political and diplomatic endeavours and implement its projects and programmes in the economic, social, environmental, humanitarian and other spheres. As far as Turkmenistan is concerned, its partnership with the United Nations has always been and continues to remain a strategic priority, conceptual and practical foundation of our activity in the international arena.

Thank you for your attention.