



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKMENISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Please check against delivery

STATEMENT

**by His Excellency
Mr. Rashid MEREDOV**

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan

**at the High-Level Plenary Meeting
of the 60th session of the United Nations
General Assembly**

New York, 16 September 2005

**Mr. Chairman,
distinguished heads of delegations,
ladies, and gentlemen,**

First of all I would like to express sincere gratitude for the honour to address you from this high rostrum and to convey on behalf of the President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Ataevich Niyazov the best wishes of peace and prosperity to the people of all nations.

The current session has a special value for Turkmenistan which celebrates this year the 10th anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the resolution «On Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan». President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Niyazov has proposed this initiative at the 50th jubilee session of the United Nations. Turkmenistan values its universally recognized international legal status of permanent neutrality and demonstrates with practical actions the adherence to its international obligations in this regard and to the high ideals of the Community of Nations.

We express deep gratitude to all Member-States of the United Nations, United Nations Secretary-General for constant attention and support of a peaceful foreign policy of our State and its international initiatives.

Being the largest and authoritative international organization of the modern times, and also by virtue of the universality and huge political experience, the United Nations occupies a unique place in system of the international relations. It has a big role in the resolution of the most urgent problems of the modern times.

Today fundamental provisions of the Charter of the United Nations have been further developed in the Millennium Declaration based on principles of sustainable development, strengthening of peace and collective security, promotion of human rights and rule of law. It is these principles that make a basis of our interaction for the future.

One of the main tasks of the Organization is prevention of occurrence of threats facing by the world community. This in turn demands elaboration of a system of preventive measures, definition of legal tools and mechanisms for their realization.

Fully realizing the value of idea of preventive activity, our country participates in its practical realization. In particular, Turkmenistan has become the place of holding the first round of the Forum on prevention of conflicts and sustainable development for Central Asia that took place under the aegis of the United Nations which we consider as an important and necessary process that enhances understanding and cooperation between States.

The attention given by the United Nations to questions of strengthening of security and preventive activity in Central Asian region is timely and necessary. In this connection the idea of creation of the United Nations Regional Center for Central Asia on Preventive Diplomacy with headquarters in Ashgabat was a significant international initiative. We express gratitude to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his intention to create such Center. As is known this initiative has found reflection in the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization submitted to the current 60th session of the General Assembly. We also thank many States for support of this important international initiative. The importance of creation and functioning of the Regional Center on preventive diplomacy in many respects will promote comprehensive consideration and resolution of questions related to prevention of contentious situations, fight against terrorism and illegal drug trafficking as well as to the all-round sustainable development in Central Asian region.

In this connection I would like to underline that efficiency of preventive activity as one of the main elements forming collective security system in many respects will depend on the real contribution of each country to strengthening interstate stability and international cooperation. Therefore we believe that ensuring conditions of security on a global scale is determined by further improvement of interaction, both between the individual countries, and within the framework of their joint activity in international organizations.

Such approach will allow to solve effectively issues of threat prevention that the world faces in the XXI century.

The major direction of activity of the world community is the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime. In this context, Turkmenistan, having supported the initiative of the United Nations on creation of the international coalition against terrorism, has become its active participant. Not only we resolutely condemn acts of terrorism in various parts of the world, but we also undertake specific legislative and practical measures to fight this evil and prevent its proliferation.

Turkmenistan supports effective implementation of complex system of measures against terrorism, including active cooperation of States in finding and bringing to justice organizers and perpetrators of acts of terrorism. In this connection, we consider it timely and necessary to elaborate and adopt comprehensive United Nations convention against terrorism.

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is a pressing issue that is being considered at the present High-level plenary meeting. Being a party to the main international documents in the area of non-proliferation, our country, neutral status of which provides for such important obligations as not to produce, station and proliferate weapons of mass destruction, fully supports efforts of the international community in this area and participates in their implementation. One of such practical steps is Turkmenistan's active participation under the aegis of the United Nations in the process of establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

One of the main tasks facing the world community is fighting against illnesses and their prevention. In this direction Turkmenistan, implementing the national program "Health", conducts full-scale cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations. As a result of such interaction a number of joint projects and programs were implemented which high efficiency is recognized at the international level. Today we completely eliminated poliomyelitis. Wide prevention measures against parasitic diseases are carried out, and a national program "Immunoprevention" is successfully implemented. Providing our people with iodized salt and iron fortified flour have acquired great significance as effective preventive measures. As a result of such work by our country United Nations agencies have issued relevant international certificates.

Maintenance of ecological sustainability is an important theme of the present meeting. Necessity to rationally use natural resources, protection of environment, increase in investments into improvement of quality of nature management and carrying out required structural changes to enhance ecological sustainability were reflected numerously in the statements heard at this forum. The solution of these tasks in Turkmenistan at a level of national strategy is combined with realization of the international ecological programs. Turkmenistan's close partnership with UNEP, Caspian Ecological Program, Aral Sea Rescue Fund and a number of other international ecological structures is a testament to how regional and global environmental protection issues can be solved when all countries make purposeful efforts to implement documents coordinated at the international level.

Human dimension has a special place in the Millennium Declaration. From its inception, the United Nations Organization endeavored to maintain peace and justice on the basis of universal respect for human rights. In this area Turkmenistan consistently undertakes efforts to create and develop real guarantees of realization of personal, political, economic, social and other rights of citizens. Our country carries out this activity together with the international organizations and first of all with humanitarian agencies of the United Nations. As a result of such constructive partnership, we have established dialogue with the Commission on human rights and its structures, actively interact with the Office of the High Commissioner for human rights all of which have a number of practical results. In particular, over a month ago by the decree of the President of Turkmenistan more than 16 thousand refugees living in Turkmenistan have been granted citizenship of our country and residence permit in territory of Turkmenistan.

We are going to continue our efforts on these issues and are ready for cooperation with all States and the international organizations.

Mr. Chairman,

We share the common view that today the United Nations requires rational reforming .but only towards its strengthening and broadening of its role in the world. In this context the ideas and proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General «In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all» are actual.

We believe, that one of important points is to strengthen the role of the General Assembly as the main consultative and representative body of the United Nations. This, in turn, requires improvement of the concept of activity of the General Assembly, determination of its agenda which should reflect the modern problems facing the world community.

Prominent aspect of reforming of the United Nations is the improvement of work and structure of the Security Council. Taking into account significance of this body we believe that optimal composition must be adopted on the basis of broad agreement.

The initiative on creation of the Peace-building Commission as well as proposals on concrete definition of activity of such institution of the United Nations, as Economic and Social Council are timely and significant.

In conclusion I would like to note that only joining our common efforts and realization of the role and responsibility of every country would allow for successful implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and solution of the diverse tasks facing Member-States of the United Nations.

I thank you.