

**Statement by the representative of Tajikistan  
at the Third Committee of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of UN General Assembly  
on advancement of women (agenda item 28)  
New York, October 11, 2011**

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation expresses its appreciation to Ms. Lakshmi Puri, UN Women Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General, Ms. Silvia Pimentel, Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and Ms. Rashida Manjoo, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women for their valuable briefings. We are confident that newly established UN Women will succeed in ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women around the world. Tajikistan aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Argentina on behalf of the Group 77 and China.

Since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, certain progress has been achieved with regard to gender equality at the global level. However, it is necessary to keep making efforts at the implementation of international agreements on gender equality.

My country also makes its contribution into the advancement of women's rights. The role of women in society attracts special attention in Tajikistan. Issues of gender equality are an important area of Tajikistan's state policy and activities of its public structures. The country has seen positive dynamics of public attention to issues of gender equality, women's representation in power structures, the enrollment of girls and addressing domestic violence, reducing maternal and infant mortality and etc.

The National Action Plan on Enhancing the Role and Status of Women, Presidential Decree "On increasing the role of women in society," State program on "Main areas of state policy to ensure equal rights and opportunities for men and women" have been adopted and implemented in Tajikistan. Law "On State Guarantees of equality between men and women and equal opportunities for their realization" provides state guarantees on equal opportunities for men and women in public service, social and economic sphere, in the course of the implementation of the electoral law, etc. The State Programme "Education, selection and appointment of leading cadres among capable women and girls" has been approved. One of the main goals of this program is to increase the representation of women leaders in government agencies. The representation of women in legislative, executive and judicial branches at the level of 30% can be considered as general indicator of achieving this goal. The National Strategy for enhancing the role of women in the Republic of Tajikistan for the period of 2011-2020 has been approved. Currently a draft law "On social and legal protection from domestic violence" is under consideration. In order to ensure the rights of girls to education and to prepare them for independent life, as well as to implement specific articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the marriage age has been raised from 17 to 18 years. Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology are among the priorities of the government policy of Tajikistan.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Of course, there are still many problems to address. "Feminization of poverty", relatively high rates of maternal and infant mortality are of major concern for us. Institution of the family undergoes major changes; number of divorces increases, there are a lot of early marriages. Families of migrant workers, especially young families represent serious problem. Society and the government are looking for solution to these problems. Certainly, significant resources, public awareness campaigns and practical measures are needed in order to actually provide a legal basis, through passed laws, for protecting women's rights in the country. Specific and practical measures and mechanisms are required to ensure implementation of the obligations of the state. On the way to achieve the real equality between men and women, a number of economic, political, cultural and other barriers must be overcome. In this regard, Tajikistan needs the support of the international community, within the

framework of international projects on ensuring equal opportunities for women and girls in all spheres of life, and first and foremost, in education.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Republic of Tajikistan to a full and effective implementation of the international standards on the issues of gender equality and empowerment of women.

Thank you for your attention.