

Address
by Talbak Nazarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Tajikistan
at the 12th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council
Sofia, 6-7 December 2004 r.

Distinguished Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, let me, distinguished Mr. Chairman, join the words of gratitude said to the Government of Bulgaria for the hospitality and wonderful organization of our meeting. I would like especially to stress that the activity of the Bulgarian chairmanship during the past period deserves high appreciation.

Tajikistan, continuing the path of reforms and building democratic state, attaches great importance to further strengthening and expansion of relations with OSCE and its participating states based on mutual advantage and trust. With active support of international institutions, including OSCE, Tajikistan intends to solve the problem of economic reconstruction and creation of favorable conditions for sustainable socioeconomic development.

Distinguished colleagues,

As all of us are aware, the modern world is characterized by its dynamic and interdependent features. Today, the world faces global changes of economic, ecological, social and political character. Today, development of the civilization is threaten by terrorism, extremism, organized criminality, illegal drugs and weapons trafficking etc. To all these we can also add other negative phenomena of today such as poverty, famine, destitution, growing debts of the least developed countries, etc., which considerably frustrate development of these states.

Adopted documents last year in Maastricht are the very instruments for strengthening our unity to stand firm against threats of international terrorism. The amplification of the role of OSCE on counteraction against terrorism meets the requirements of provisions of the OSCE Strategy on counteraction against threats to stability and security in the 21st century and proposed Draft Sofia Declaration on prevention and combating terrorism.

We are extremely concerned about the scope of terrorism, which is acquiring more and more monstrous forms. Examples of this phenomenon are the last year terrorist acts in number of the countries of the world, which once again confirm the scope of this threat to the world and international security.

We believe that at present taking joint preventive measures against threats of terrorism have to be a priority direction in activity of Organization on safeguarding security

and stability in the region. Accordingly, it is necessary to improve approaches for further solution of this problem so that the undertaken measures were effective and purposeful.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The government of Republic of Tajikistan continues to undertake efforts for solution of problems which today are faced by the state and society in regard with growing threats of terrorism in the modern world.

For this purpose, first of all, we have to find **solution of socioeconomic problems**. The low living standards of the population is a basic reason for demonstration of social aggression, and sometimes in a form of terrorism. In this connection, in Tajikistan the Strategy for reduction of poverty level is implemented. Indeed, the best answer to terrorism, as it seems, is elimination its sources.

In Tajikistan series of important laws have already been adopted, according to which functions and the role of public associations in the society considerably increases. The respective amendments and additions in the Constitution of the country have become a new contribution to development and improvement of bases of democracy and defense of human rights and freedom. In 2003 the Parliament of the country has adopted the Law on modification and additions in the criminal code of the Republic of Tajikistan based on principles of humanism. The major change, in this regard, is that at present death penalty in the country is applied only in 5 cases. Today, **the moratorium on death penalty** is in force in the country.

This year in October, the Parliament of Tajikistan ratified three international documents on terrorism. **Thus, our country became the participant of all 12 antiterrorist conventions. The Republic of Tajikistan has completely fulfilled provisions of the Resolution 1373 (2001) of the UN Security Council**, which envisages the necessity of ratification of the basic international acts on combating terrorism by member countries.

We continue to adopt appropriate measures against expansion of organized criminality, illegal migration and drug trafficking. The decrees of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan "On voluntary handing over and withdrawal of fire-arms, ammunition and military vehicles from the population of the Republic of Tajikistan", "On urgent measures on strengthening of combating illegal drugs trafficking" were issued, the law of Republic of Tajikistan "On combating corruption" and other acts which determined main directions of combating criminality were adopted. Tajikistan has joined the UN Convention on combating transnational organized criminality, and **in September of this year Tajikistan has entered Interpol**. It is also necessary to emphasize that now in Tajikistan the Draft Law "On counteraction against human trafficking" was worked out, which was submitted to the Parliament for consideration and will be adopted in the near future.

Distinguished colleagues,

Tajikistan, being on one of the most brisk crossroads of international drug trafficking, faces risks and challenges of 21st centuries. The criminal world, actively using

all possible means and ways tries to protect itself. Illegally acquired small arms and light weapons, explosives and other kinds of the illegal weapons threaten national security of any country in particular, and the region as a whole..

According to the UN data, Tajikistan occupies the fourth place in the world for detention of drug traffickers and the third place for withdrawal of raw opium. Last year the problem of drug trafficking was considered by the UN as one of the twenty serious problems for the Plane. Therefore, Tajikistan proposed to create a wide international coalition for combating drug trafficking. It proves that the modern world is in need of necessary measures on this issue.

Tajikistan welcomes vitalization of OSCE activity on *strengthening security of borders and management of frontier issues*. Unification of frontier policy and customs rules, coordination of efforts and cooperation in solution of frontier problems are those measures, which are aimed at prevention of threats of international terrorism. These efforts meet the requirements of the Document on safety of travel documents adopted in Maastricht. We hope, that *the OSCE Concept on frontier security and management* will allow us to achieve more effective management of frontier control and improvement of coordination of frontier countries.

Considering that human trafficking represents new threat to security and stability in the OSCE region, we hope that the Plan of OSCE actions on combating human trafficking will serve as a reliable mechanism for realization of further steps by the participating states of OSCE in this direction and promote better cooperation among them in counteraction against this evil phenomenon.

The government of the Republic of Tajikistan attaches great importance to efforts of the international community directed on disarmament, including complex of problems related to mine clearing. The Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining, the Governments of Canada, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Belgium and other member states of EU and OSCE continue to make important contribution to this process.

The established Tajik Center on mine issues closely cooperates with the OSCE Center in Dushanbe. The OSCE Center makes efforts for mobilization of financial assets of the donor countries for these purposes. At present, the Commission under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on implementation of the international humanitarian right has ratified the Strategic Plan on mine issues for 2004 – 2008, and Annual Plan on mine issues for 2004.

In a context of combating international terrorism, Tajikistan supports the OSCE efforts on such concrete directions as the neutralization of threats and prevention of smuggling of small arms and light weapons (SA/LW) and conventional ammunition. In this regard, I would like to express gratitude to the OSCE member countries for readiness to assist my country in solution of the problem of further improvement of management, storage and destruction of stocks of conventional ammunition, small arms and light weapons and provision of their security.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the field of economic and environmental measurement it is necessary to develop further created mechanisms in the OSCE framework to realize properly the documents

adopted in this sphere, in particular in the field of free trade, industrial cooperation, development of power, transport and communication, investment, science and technology, as well as protection of environment. We believe, one of the basic tasks of the Organization in the given direction is creation of equal conditions for trade and economic cooperation in the entire OSCE region. The problems of employment, support of needy strata of the population and their supply with drinking water still remain actual for Tajikistan.

We believe, for today, the level of fulfillment of obligations by some member states in provision of freedom of movement for people and goods, improvement of conditions for development of tourism and expansion of cultural ties between our countries is insufficient.

I would like to emphasize, that the Government of Tajikistan agrees with the proposals by the Chairman-in-Office – Mr. Solomon Passy concerning enhancement of the political role of the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General of OSCE. We also fully support his idea about moving the venue for the annual Economic Forum of OSCE to regions with economic and environmental problems. In this regard, we consider that organization of the Economic Forum of the Organization on a theme "Problems, risks and challenges of development of transport and communications in the OSCE region" in 2006 in one of the Central Asian countries would be very actual. Availing of this opportunity, I would like once again to convey the proposal of my Government to organize this very important international forum in Dushanbe. The Tajik side is ready to provide all necessary conditions for organization and realization of the Economic Forum of OSCE.

Distinguished Mr. Chairman,

In February, 2005, in Tajikistan the parliamentary elections will be held. Our country continues to cooperate closely with the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) on appropriate amendments into the Law on Elections and hopes for further fruitful interaction with this Office.

Concerning the available proposals on reforming OSCE, I would like to note that we fully support these proposals and we emphasize their timeliness. At the same time, we consider that the activity of the field missions of OSCE, for which the main means of the budget of the Organization are allocated, causes certain concern in regard with recent tendencies of departing from fulfillment of the main provisions of the mandates related to rendering assistance to local authorities in realization of projects and programs. Instead of it, in practice, activity of missions is limited particularly to monitoring of situation in the field of human rights and democratic institutions, as was fairly noted in the Statement of the Leaders the CIS countries dated September 15, 2004, adopted during their meeting in Astana.

Now it is necessary to consider development of new provisions of procedures of OSCE and systematize already existing provisions, which could considerably regulate and improve procedures used in practice. We are also sure that to achieve practical realization of the principle of fair geographical distribution of posts in the Secretariat and specialized institutions and missions will become a priority task of OSCE in the nearest future. Prompt elimination of unbalanced situation between three measurements in activity of the Organization by increasing the role of an economic and environmental components is very important at the present stage. We believe that transformation of priorities to humanitarian

subjects would narrow OSCE activity in such areas as counteraction against new threats and challenges.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are convinced that the situation in Afghanistan has serious influence not only to security and development of the neighboring with Afghanistan countries, but also to the OSCE region as a whole. Tajikistan welcomes the results of the elections in Afghanistan held for the first time after twenty five years of war. We hope that the results of these elections, i.e. election of Hamid Karzai as the President of the country will promote further stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan.

We consider that it is necessary and to continue to draw attention of the world community, including OSCE, to problems of Afghanistan, and also to continue to render support to the Government of this country for the purpose of further strengthening of unity and national conciliation.

Distinguished Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Tajikistan now is the country chairing the Organization of the Central Asian Cooperation. Realizing their responsibility for safeguarding peace and stability in the region, the member countries the Organization attach great importance to joint efforts in combating international terrorism, extremism and illegal drug trafficking. We believe that entering Russian Federation as the full member of this Organization will considerably strengthen its potential and give additional opportunity for expansion of cooperation for the purposes of security in Central Asia.

In conclusion, I would like to note that next year, as all of us are aware, we celebrate 60th anniversary of termination of the World War II – the most destructive war in the history of mankind. In this connection, adoption of the appropriate Declaration at our today's meeting could serve the best proof of our gratitude in the memory of those who struggled for peaceful life and security for us during severe 40th of the last century.

I am deeply convinced that the results of our today's meeting will give a new opportunity for further strengthening and reforming of the Organization taking into account modern reality, as well as for mobilization of joint efforts and resources for the purpose of achievement of common goals and tasks.

Thank you.