



General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 February 2017

Original: English

Seventy-first session

Agenda item 14

Culture of peace

Letter dated 21 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you the attached information relating to the twenty-fifth anniversary of Uzbekistan's membership in the United Nations (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 14.

(Signed) Muzaffar **Madrakhimov**



Annex to the letter dated 21 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Twenty-fifth anniversary of Uzbekistan's cooperation with the United Nations

On 2 March 1992 the Republic of Uzbekistan became a full Member of the United Nations and our national flag was raised in front of United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Over the past 70 years since its establishment, the United Nations has been recognized throughout the world as a universal international institution for maintaining international peace and security, promoting sustainable development and protecting the environment. The growth of the international authority and relevance of the Organization and its leadership role in resolving many highly complex modern-day problems are increasingly evident.

Uzbekistan, ever since the first years of its independence, has opted for a path of peaceful and constructive development, based on the values of humanism and peace. On the basis of a deep understanding of the commonality of interests and destinies of all the States and peoples of Central Asia, and also the inseparability of regional and global security, Uzbekistan's international efforts are directed towards ensuring the peaceful and stable development of the region.

The preservation and strengthening of stability in Central Asia and its transformation into a zone of security and sustainable development are among the priority objectives of Uzbekistan's foreign policy framework. President S. M. Mirziyoyev has defined the Central Asian region, with which our country's national interests are intertwined, as the main priority of Uzbekistan's foreign policy activities and has asserted that Uzbekistan will remain firmly committed to an open, well-intentioned and pragmatic policy in relation to its closest neighbours — Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

The President of Uzbekistan has stressed that active cooperation with the United Nations accords with our country's national interests. Through productive cooperation with the Organization and its agencies, Uzbekistan seeks not only to strengthen regional stability but also to make a meaningful contribution to global peace and security. The main priorities of cooperation with the United Nations include confronting contemporary threats and challenges, post-conflict reconstruction of Afghanistan, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, tackling environmental problems, in particular, mitigating the effects of the Aral sea crisis, socioeconomic development, and the protection and promotion of human rights — in other words, issues which extend far beyond the borders of the Central Asian region.

The initiative to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, put forward by Mr. I. A. Karimov, the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, from the General Assembly rostrum in 1993, was an important contribution to the strengthening of the global non-proliferation regime. The Central Asian States signed the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia in September 2006 in Semipalatinsk. After ratification by all five States of the region, the Treaty entered into force in March 2009. On 6 May 2014, a truly historic event took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York — for the first time since the establishment of the United Nations, representatives of the “five” nuclear States —

the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, China and the Russian Federation — unanimously and simultaneously signed a crucially important international document — the Protocol on security guarantees to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia.

The Central Asian region is making an enormous contribution to the strengthening of regional security and the consolidation of the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime and has assumed a solid place in the international disarmament agenda.

As a party to all 13 United Nations conventions on combating terrorism, Uzbekistan has put forward major initiatives aimed at consolidating the efforts of the international community in this sphere and creating a global system of multilateral cooperation within the framework of the United Nations. In this context, our country welcomes the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and wholeheartedly supports its efforts to strengthen the capacity of States Members of the Organization to counter this scourge. The establishment of this Committee is in part the result of an initiative to establish an international counter-terrorism centre put forward by the leadership of Uzbekistan at the summit meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Istanbul back in 1999.

Uzbekistan cooperates closely with the United Nations in the area of combating drug-related aggression. On the proposal of the first President, Mr. I. A. Karimov, during the visit of the United Nations Secretary-General to Tashkent in October 2002, the Central Asian regional information and coordination centre for combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors was established.

Uzbekistan attaches particular importance to efforts to bring to an end the violent war which has raged for many years in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, which has caused enormous suffering for the Afghan people and has become a source of serious threats for the entire region.

As early as 1993, at the forty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the first President of Uzbekistan sounded the alarm, calling on the international community to contribute actively to a solution of the Afghan problem. Uzbekistan is the sponsor of two initiatives — to impose an embargo on the supply of weapons to Afghanistan and to establish a group of friends and neighbours of that country, which became the so-called “6+2” contact group.

In developing cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Uzbekistan has always been guided by the principles of mutual respect, equal rights and reciprocal advantage. Under the leadership of President S. M. Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan, as in the past, will conduct a good-neighbourly and friendly policy in relation to Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan’s position of support to the government chosen by the Afghan people and commitment to the establishment of long-term stability and peace in Afghanistan remains unchanged.

Afghanistan’s full integration and peaceful economic relations with the States of the region constitute an essential priority condition for its peaceful and stable development.

Uzbekistan has always provided all possible assistance and support to the Afghan people at the most difficult times and was the first country, in record time, to build the only railway to date in Afghanistan which goes to Mazar-i-Sharif. Since 2002, it has been supplying electricity to Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan is making an effective contribution to the implementation of United Nations programmes for the post-conflict reconstruction of Afghanistan; in particular, it opened a bridge on the Uzbek-Afghan border for international deliveries of humanitarian cargo and is assisting in the building of infrastructure projects in the territory of Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan regards as vitally important and supports the continuation of international efforts to provide practical assistance to the socioeconomic recovery of Afghanistan and the development of its transport and communications infrastructure.

Cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United Nations also covers ecological and environmental protection issues. In this area, Mr. S. M. Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan, is paying attention to yet another acute global problem, requiring an urgent solution — the Aral sea tragedy.

In view of the seriousness of this issue, an international conference was held in Uzbekistan in March 2008 on “Problems of Aral: impact on the gene pool of the population, flora and fauna and international cooperation for mitigating consequences” in which United Nations representatives took an active part. One of the most important documents, which gained unanimous support at the sixty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, was resolution [63/133](#) on observer status in the General Assembly for the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, which Uzbekistan sponsored.

During his visit to Uzbekistan on 4-5 April 2010, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, visited the Aral region. At the end of his visit he noted the need to adopt urgent measures to prevent the further deterioration of the situation in the Aral region and mitigate the effects of the Aral disaster. He stressed that the United Nations is prepared to assist Uzbekistan in resolving environmental problems. Following his visit, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Volunteers, in coordination with partners in Uzbekistan, launched a joint United Nations programme entitled “Sustaining Livelihoods Affected by the Aral Sea Disaster”.

In September 2013, a “Programme of measures on eliminating the consequences of the drying up of the Aral Sea and averting the catastrophe of the ecological systems in the Aral Sea region”, comprising vital projects to stabilize and improve the situation in the environmental disaster area, which had been formulated during Uzbekistan’s presidency of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, was circulated as an official document of the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

In order to further develop international cooperation and mobilize funds from the donor community for the implementation of practical measures to improve the situation in the Aral region, an international conference on the “Development of cooperation in the Aral sea basin to mitigate the consequences of the environmental catastrophe” was held in Urgench on 28-29 October 2014, on the initiative of Uzbekistan.

The President of Uzbekistan, Mr. S. M. Mirziyoyev, is calling for the efforts of the international community to be focused on reducing the harmful impact of this environmental disaster on the livelihoods of the millions of people living in Central Asia and preserving the natural and biological balance in the Aral region.

A significant event in Uzbekistan’s relations with the United Nations was the participation of the leadership of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the High-level

Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), held in September 2010 in New York. We achieved concrete results in joint work with the United Nations during the implementation of the MDGs and gained significant capacity for cooperation. Maternal mortality fell by a factor of 3.2, and child mortality — by a factor of 3.4, and average life expectancy rose from 66 to 73.5 years, and 76 years for women. The national MDGs were successfully achieved in the area of ensuring universal access to primary education and gender equality in primary and secondary schools. This clearly demonstrates the steady improvement in the quality of life and well-being of our people. The fact that, in 2015, Uzbekistan was one of 14 countries of the world which received awards from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for achieving the MDG in the area of ensuring food security constitutes recognition of the successes achieved.

Accordingly, it may be affirmed today with full confidence that the relations between Uzbekistan and the United Nations over the past 25 years have been characterized by significant advances and are developing in a dynamic fashion in all directions. All the proposals put forward by Uzbekistan within the United Nations have been fully supported by the international community and today are making a significant practical contribution to ensuring universal peace, stability and sustainable development. Our country remains committed to the further expansion and deepening of mutually advantageous cooperation with the United Nations.
