

**The Tenth United Nations Congress
on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders**

**International Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crime:
New Challenges in the Twenty-First Century**

STATEMENT

by

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAKISTAN
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**Distinguished Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the leadership of the United Nations for excellent organization of the Congress and invitation to participate in its work, as well as thank the Government of Austria for its hospitality.

Today, the international community is seriously concerned about an increasing spread of international terrorism, separatism and other forms of extremism, illegal drug trafficking and smuggling of weapon and other dangerous crimes, as well as illegal migration not only in certain states, but the whole regions.

Conducting the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders at such a high level once again testifies that on the eve of the twenty-first century the international community is increasingly worried about the impact of transnational organized crime on national economy, international relations, stability, security and peace.

At the threshold of the new century, transnational organized crime poses a new challenge for the twenty-first century. It has gained a character of global danger threatening both separate countries and the whole international community. Moreover, it should be noted that the spectrum of manifestation of organized crime is constantly broadening.

It is getting more and more obvious that the struggle against this evil should become a priority in international cooperation and consolidated efforts of all countries and international organizations.

Heads and active participants of criminal communities negatively influence vital sectors of the economy and financial and banking structures. They accumulate significant illegal capital, interfere in the activity of state institutions lobbying their interests in legislative, executive and managerial structures, hence ensuring the adoption of favorable decisions. They participate in spreading extremism and instigating political, ethnic and regional conflicts, strengthen their resistance to the law enforcement bodies of the states through physical and moral terror, deprave and involve a growing number of Young people into criminal activity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Since gaining its independence, the Republic of Tajikistan has actively participated in joint efforts on combating a growing menace of transnational crime. Tajikistan, as a country that has actually faced the problem of terrorism and illegal drug trafficking, which are an integral part of transnational organized crime, firmly stands for prudent and effective initiatives and actions against this evil.

One of the most radical forms of organized crime is terrorism. Currently, as Tajikistan has achieved the establishment of peace and national reconciliation and goes towards building up a democratic country with a market economy, terrorist actions carried out by certain hostile groups have a serious negative influence on stability and tranquility in the society, as well as hamper a steady implementation of reforms.

Analysis of the reasons and conditions of terrorist actions in our country shows that the majority of them has been carried out on the basis of religious extremism and achieving certain political goals.

Usually, it is political figures, scholars, journalists, military servicemen or the peacekeeping troops in Tajikistan, employees of the international organizations' missions who have become victims of such actions. In our view, the objective of these terrorist actions is destabilization of social and political situation and obstruction of the course of implementing reform.

A distinguishing feature of modern terrorism is its international character. That can be proven by the fact of simultaneous spread of terrorism in unprecedented scales in various parts of the world. Recently, the world has witnessed how bold and aggressive have been international terrorists who more vigorously act under the banner of political extremism and religious fundamentalism.

Common historic, political and cultural roots and traditions having an Islamic origin, as well as political and economic instability create favorable conditions for various religious radical organizations and movements.

Events in the North Caucasus region of Russia and the south of Kyrgyzstan have been thoroughly prepared actions in a big game imposed by international extremist forces. Drug and weapon trafficking, hostagetaking and other illegal actions are an indispensable part of their activity.

Tajikistan supports a point of view that combating terrorism is among global problems facing humanity today. We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and consider it necessary to coordinate efforts of the whole international community in order to eliminate this evil at global, regional and national levels.

The threat of spreading international terrorism has been adequately realized not only by our neighbors in the region, but in fact, by the whole international community. This has been proven by the final documents adopted at the Istanbul Summit of the OSCE and meetings of the CIS and "Shanghai Five" participating States at various levels.

Having such a situation, we should not linger on undertaking adequate measures. Thus, strengthening anti-terrorist activity should be supported by a close interaction and harmonized cooperation among all the states. Therefore, in order to combat this negative phenomenon in international relations, joint efforts of all states are needed.

International conventions on this problem signed earlier do not specify terrorism as a separate problem and consider it along with other crimes. I should noted with regret that so far the international community has not been able to reach an agreement on a unified definition of terrorism.

In such circumstances, some states combating terrorism at home, indirectly support international terrorism in other countries and regions describing terrorists as fighters for freedom and human rights.

Therefore it is so urgent today to work out and sign a comprehensive and universal convention that would give a definition of terrorism, particularly a transnational one and elaborate specific directions of international cooperation in combating terrorism and stipulate sanctions against states declining cooperation and supporting terrorist groups, as well as harmonize legislative and legal acts regulating issues of combating terrorism. In national legislature, it is also necessary to single out terrorism as a phenomenon having political dimension.

In our opinion, implementation of these and other proposals made here on combating terrorism and elaboration of an effective mechanism of interaction among countries could be an important step in the area of consolidated struggle against terrorism and transnational crime.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Now I would like to draw your attention to another problem relating to international crime that today has turned into a universal evil. In their activity, transnational criminal groups attach a special importance to the illegal drug trafficking which is one of the main sources of their earnings. The problem of illegal drug trafficking, considered until recently as a local and regional one, now has been more frequently affecting interests of all states.

Using difficulties and problems of the transition period, as well as limited resources in arranging sufficient protection of the state border with Afghanistan, international drug traffickers use our territory as a

transit route for trafficking drugs to the CIS countries and further to Europe.

This threatens not only security and stability in the country, but to a certain extent, becomes a serious obstacle on the way of developing Tajikistan's statehood.

There is no secret that catalyzing factor of the deterioration of narcotics situation in Central Asia and eventually in the whole world is Afghanistan.

Throughout a long period of time a critical situation in Afghanistan has been a destabilizing factor and dangerous source of military and political tension in the Central Asian region. It is the source of not only religious extremism and terrorism, but also drug trafficking.

It is not a secret that the main source of funding an armed conflict in Afghanistan is illegal production and selling of narcotics. According to the existing assessments Afghanistan's share in production of opium is 75 % of its world production

Dynamics of illegal drug trafficking poses serious problems for the law enforcement agencies of Tajikistan and it is one of the reasons of a growing number of serious crimes. During the last three years the Ministry of Interior only has investigated more than five thousand crimes related to illegal drug trafficking. Three and a half tons of narcotics have been confiscated in previous years.

On the one hand, while creating sources of tension, drug traffickers divert authorities from resolving economic and social problems and combating illegal drug trafficking and on the other, impose the image of insatiable state on Tajikistan, which is unattractive for international financial institutions and foreign investment.

Tajikistan resolutely participates in combating illegal drug trafficking. Following this strategic course, it has joined all basic international and regional conventions and memoranda on the problem of narcotics. An Agency on Drug Control under the President of Tajiksistan has been created. It coordinates the activity aimed at combating illegal drug trafficking. National legislature concerning combating drug-related crimes is being improved. There is a fruitful cooperation between the Government and the United Nations Drug Control Program.

Although we undertake a number of measures aimed at strengthening the struggle against drug trafficking through the territory of Tajikistan and its spreading, our country can not cope with this problem on it own. It needs a more active support and concrete help from the international community in order to close the channels of drug trafficking.

We believe that political settlement of the Afghan conflict, creation of a "security belt" around Afghanistan, shifting from combating drug

addiction to drug trafficking and its roots would allow to achieve significant positive results in combating organized and the most profitable business in the history of human kind.

On the other hand, as speaking of the Afghan problem, we face double standards and approaches which are applied in resolution of regional problems. I would to note with all the responsibility that Afghanistan is as much a European problem as it is Asian.

We are convinced that there is no military solution for the Afghan conflict. The major role for the settlement of the conflict should belong to the Afghan people under the aegis of the United Nations. Therefore, the international community and first of all, the United States and Russia should put all the efforts for strengthening the leading role of the UN as a key mediator between the parties in order to achieve the speediest restoration of peace and national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

Distinguished Mr. Chairman,

Although this problem is very important, but unfortunately, at this stage combating transnational organized crime is primarily carried out through reacting to crimes that have been already committed. It is not enough to implement collective actions aimed at preventing criminal acts and purposeful elimination of international links among criminal communities. An effective struggle against transnational organized crime is possible only through joint coordinated actions of the states. We should also practically implement international cooperation in the field of combating transnational crime and work out mechanisms of collective actions.

Allow me to express my hope that our meeting and the adopted decisions will be an important step on the way of strengthening international cooperation in combating transnational crime and demonstrate our firm resolution to protect our citizens and states from this menace and, hence providing stability and further prosperity to our countries and to the whole world.

Thank you very much.