



Statement
of H.E. Mr. Siradjiddin Ashiyev, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations
at
55th Session of the Commission on Status of Women
New York, 28 February 2011

Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, allow me, on behalf of the delegation of my country, to welcome the delegates of the 55th Session of the Commission on Status of Women. This session is of special importance because it is the first one which is being held after the establishment of the new UN Entity on gender equality and empowerment of women *UN Women*. We are confident that *UN Women* will succeed in ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women in the entire world. Tajikistan allies itself with the statement made on the name of the group *Azerbaijan*.

Since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, with regard to gender equality on the global level, considerable progress has been achieved. However, it is necessary to keep making efforts in the implementation of all crucial areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. My country also makes its contribution into the advancement of women's rights.

Access and participation of women in higher education, science, culture and technology are among the priority priorities of the government of Tajikistan. Much has been accomplished in the field of education in particular, the efforts are aimed at increased integration into the world education system; the patterns of financing are being changed; on the basis of the State Committee on Women and Family Affairs there has been set up a system of training of emerging leaders among women involved in the system of government management; the new inter-subject entitled "Basics of demography and structure of population" has been included into the curriculum of the higher educational establishments; there has been a continuous cooperation of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan with the

remote regions, which enables them to receive high education, and with educational issues, are increasingly enhancing their activities with regard to the education of women. The year 2011 was chosen as the Year of education and technological knowledge.

Article 41 of the Constitution of Tajikistan declares the rights of each citizen for education. In compliance with this legal norm, in 2004, the Law on Education was adopted in Tajikistan, in which legal, organizational, and socio-economic fundamental bases for development of education in the country, and mandatory general basic education and general access to secondary education were identified as the main principles of the state policy of the Republic of Tajikistan in education.

The new draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on education, which addresses the issues of access to education in rural areas, has been developed with due consideration to the current challenges. Moreover, starting from 2011, the national educational system will be transformed into a 12-year system, which will allow to dramatically reduce the number of girls in the country who attend secondary education. With the view to ensure that the quality of education meets the international standards, the new National Education Strategy for 2020 is being developed by the Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the World Bank experts.

Thus, during the years of its independence, Tajikistan has substantially reconsidered its state policy with regard to equal rights and opportunities for women and men. The state program, which ensures basic equal opportunities for women and men in politics, economics, science and technology, is being implemented. However, specific and practical measures and instruments are required to ensure that the promotion of gender equality will be implemented. To achieve the real equality between men and women it is necessary to overcome a number of economic, political, cultural and other obstacles.

In this regard, Tajikistan needs the support of the international community within the framework of international projects on ensuring equal rights of women and girls in all spheres of life, and to refer to them as "to the utmost" 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 and wish every success to the current session of the Committee on the Status of Women.

Tajir Yegorov, A. G. Grahman