MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

11th ACD MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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PREFACE

Starting from the second part of the XX century and the beginning of the XXI century in the history of mankind a new era of political and socio-economic development, as well as emerging and shaping of globalization process has begun. At that time various regional and sub-regional integrating associations emerged, and, during development of these associations, they assumed special organizational forms. Within this trend, this kind of processes emerged in the Asian continent, and facilitated emerging several sub-regional integrating organizations as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO, 1964); Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN, 1967); Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC, 1981) and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC, 2004).

At the same time, starting from the XXI century, the expanding of globalization processes aimed at strengthening existing bases of regional cooperation, particularly in the Asian continent, the need for their further development through universal organizations has been emerged. In this context, emerging of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) in 2002, as a new comprehensive integration tool, was a call of the times. The main goal of its establishing, and the creation idea was proposed by the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Thaksin Shinawatra in the year 2000 during the 1st Conference of Asian Political Parties in Manila, was consolidating of sub-regional organizations of the continent and ensuring multilateral cooperation of the engaged states. Establishing of the mechanism for exchange of views and experience between participating countries, coordinating partnership between them on different levels, elaborating counteraction strategy resistance to the new challenges and negative consequences of globalization processes were determined as main goals and objectives of the Dialogue.

It is worth to note that such universal goals have attracted attention of majority countries of the continent, and the quantity of par-

ticipating states increased to 32 countries within the 10 year period, (years 2002-2012). During this period of time 10 meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ACD Member States have been held, and in their framework a lot of organizational and conceptual work were done.

Expanding regional cooperation within the framework of integration organizations, which provide opportunities for relatively comprehensive implementation of the national goals at the era of globalization, is considered as a part of Tajikistan foreign policy. Within this context, necessity of assistance in strengthening international security and stability, and expanding fruitful cooperation with foreign countries requires from Tajikistan to intensify its participation in activities of such organizations. In this context, participation of Tajikistan in the Asia Cooperation Dialogue creates favorable conditions in order to achieve these goals. That is why in 2006 Tajikistan officially sent a request for membership in the Dialogue. On May 2006 during the Fifth ACD Foreign Ministers` Meeting in Doha (23-24 May 2006) the membership request of Tajikistan was endorsed, and Tajikistan was officially accepted as a full member of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue.

Since the early days of participation in the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, Tajikistan took an active position and effectively mobilized all efforts to achieve its goals. In this regard, the country decided to hold in Dushanbe the Eleventh ACD Foreign Ministers Meeting. Such a proposal was supported by all participants of the Dialogue during the Seventh ACD Foreign Ministers Meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan, at the same time Tajikistan was entrusted with chairing the Dialogue in 2013.

It should be noted that during the chairmanship of Tajikistan in the ACD the primary importance was attached to issues related to the sustainable development of the Dialogue participating states. Though during the last decades Asia was regarded as an area of increased economic activity, taking into account the high level of development of some countries of the region, however so far most of its various parts are constantly faced socio-economic and environmental problems and challenges. In addition, the global financial and economic crisis that broke out in 2008, proved the instability of the existing socio-economic order in most parts of the world, especially in developing countries.

Taking this into account, the concept of activities of the Republic of Tajikistan during the chairmanship period has been developed, and its slogan was "Towards Economic Growth, Stability and Prosperity in Asia through Sustainable Development". The concept drew ACD Member States` particular

attention to solving the problems of poverty elimination, creating conditions and encouraging sustainable consumption and production, protection and rational use of natural resources. The ACD Foreign Ministers were informed about the contents of concept as well as priorities of Tajikistan as a Dialogue Chairman, during a Ministerial working meeting held on September 27, 2012 in New York in the sidelines of the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly.

At the same time, in its activities within the framework of the Dialogue, Tajikistan always attracts the attention of the Member States to the practical and pragmatic and result-oriented cooperation. In this regard, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Ramon, in his statement during the First Summit of Heads of the ACD States in Kuwait stressed that "...in these difficult times of the global financial, energy and food crisis, cooperation between our countries in the Asian Cooperation Dialogue should obtain an active and pragmatic approach, and this cooperation should also be strengthened in order to achieve the established objectives and to implement 20 areas of cooperation in energy and energy security, information technologies, transportation, agriculture, environmental protection, tourism, entrepreneurship development, expansion of intercultural dialogue and formation of the continent`s reserve market".

It is worth to note that such a creative position of Tajikistan is backed up with the concrete steps. In this context, the joint proposal by Tajikistan, Thailand and Kuwait aimed at establishing a working group for preparation of recommendations to the ministers on the development of working mechanisms of the ACD, including its secretariat, had been supported by the Member States, and it was included as an appropriate separate item in the Communiqué of the 1st ACD Summit (article 18).

During the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting, which was held on 29-30 March 2013 in Dushanbe, the idea was renewed before the high level delegations from 32 participating countries. The Tajik side reiterated that solution of issues mentioned in the Concept, in the aggregate, would play a significant role in the prevention of challenges that pose a danger and threat for the countries of the continent.

At the same time, taking into account many changes occurred over the last decade in the world politics, as well as international experience in regional cooperation, the ACD activities require the establishing of institutional structures and working out action plans in the specific areas. In this connection, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon in his address at the opening session of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting drew attention of the Member States to the mentioned issues and reiterated the need to "improve and expand the topics and the content of activities" and "establish a standing ACD institution".

We bear in mind, first of all, establishment of the ACD Secretariat, elaboration of the Strategy for sustainable development of the ACD Member States, as well as the establishment of sectoral working groups, primarily on ensuring food security, energy and infrastructure development in the Asian region.

It should be mentioned that this and other important proposals were discussed during the plenary session of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting and working group gatherings, as well as in course of bilateral talks in the sidelines of the event. In meetings and conversations, everyone had an opportunity to introduce the positive experience of the governments and various organizations on the matters of regional integration aimed at achieving sustainable development, the Millennium Development Goals and other similar strategic programs approved by the international community, and to exchange views on them.

In this regard, it was proved that all the ACD Member States share a common view on ways and means to achieve sustainable development goals, including poverty reduction, establishment of sustainable production, setting-up a "green" economy, ensuring food security, access to the new technologies, recognition of human rights for clean water, role of renewable energy, etc. Thereupon, a serious importance was attached to the regional cooperation in the field of rational use of natural resources; especially better utilization of renewable sources of energy.

This shared vision has been particularly reflected in the Dushanbe Declaration, a final document of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting, and it was adopted unanimously. The Declaration also called the participating countries for taking effective measures to counter the economic, financial and natural crises, and to support the use of renewable sources of energy.

Upon a proposal of Tajikistan, "Dushanbe Declaration" included the Member States` commitments to the 2005-2015 International Decade for Action "Water for Life" and their full support to the efforts to realize it through mobilization of resources from all sources, capacity-building and technology transfer, as well as invitation to the Member States to their active participation at the High Level International Conference on Water Cooperation (20-21 August 2013, Dushanbe), also convening the Third ACD Energy Forum in Tajikistan and the establishment of the ACD Coordination Network among the Early Warning Centers in the countries of the region.

Taking into account the importance of the water theme and the need to develop cooperation in the field of water resources` use, the Tajik side proposed to declare the 21st ACD area of cooperation as "Water for Life". And it was agreed by the ACD Member States to consider the matter after development and submission of its concept by Tajikistan.

In addition, along with the issues of sustainable development, Dushanbe Declaration approved decisions made by the ACD senior officials meeting in Kuwait on the establishment of the interim Secretariat, as well as mobilization of contributions for an Asian Development Fund. It should be noted that the Declaration highly appreciated Kuwait's pledge of USD 300 million initial contribution to the Fund, in order to provide funding for the cooperation projects in the non-Arab Asian countries.

On the basis of agreements reached during the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting, as it is reflected in the Dushanbe Declaration, its results can make a tangible contribution to the promotion of the ACD objectives and provision of sustainable development in the Member States. In this regard, this document can assist in development of the regional integration in Asia and create favourable conditions for establishing a long-term cooperation and developing mutually beneficial relations in this direction.

Worthy of note that the Asia Cooperation Dialogue during a relatively short history of its existence, proved to be a fruitful and encouraging organisation for extensive multilateral cooperation that promotes creation of the atmosphere of trust, good-neighborliness and mutual search for constructive solutions to the "hot problems" in Asia. In this regard, there is a confidence that the outcomes of the Dushanbe ACD Ministerial Meeting will give a new scope for the ACD activities and will promote to achieve its final aims.

In conclusion, let me note that through this book the esteemed reader has an opportunity to get familiar with the essence and content of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting. The book contains speeches of heads of delegations of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting, the text of the Dushanbe Declaration, as well as course and content of the meetings conducted in the framework of the event.

Hamrokhon Zarifi,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

INAUGURAL STATEMENT
by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon

STATEMENT
by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahmon at the opening ceremony of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting

Distinguished Heads of high level delegations,

Dear guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to welcome all of you to the Republic of Tajikistan to participate at the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACD Member States. It is an honour for us in our capacity as the ACD Chair to welcome and receive you in Dushanbe. Welcome to the ancient and hospitable land of Tajiks. It should be noted that the main idea of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue is to raise the authority of Asia continent in the international arena through introducing it as a continent that uses its existing advantages for the promotion of the global development. This coincides with the fundamental principles of the foreign policy of Tajikistan, which is a true supporter of the regional integration. Therefore, our country during the period of its chairmanship in ACD will use all means in order to achieve the abovementioned goal. We are confident that our Forum, the membership of which continuously is expanding and today has run thirty two countries of the region, will carry out this responsible task in an appropriate manner through the strengthening of existing achievements of interregional cooperation and defining priorities and new ways of its expansion.

The Republic of Tajikistan on the basis of development and strengthening mutually beneficial relations with the countries of the region is interested at achieving the final goals in all areas of cooperation, which is defined in the framework of Asia Cooperation Dialogue.

Dear attendees,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Asia continent has an ancient and rich culture and most of Asia countries have achieved a noticeable progress in the field of sustainable development. At the same time, a great number of countries of the region have not a proper access to the common economic and social benefits, including food, electricity, fresh water, medical service and education. The abovementioned problems increase the importance of enhancement of ACD activity at the present period. In this context, the cooperation in the framework of ACD for the achievement of defined goals, in particular in the spheres of energy and energy security, information technology, transport, agriculture, environmental protection, tourism, development of commerce and business, intercultural dialogue expansion and creation of resource market in our continent should have a practical and active character. It should be noticed that achievement of cooperation goals in the above stated spheres on the whole is directly related to the successful solution of sustainable development issues. In our view, in order to ensure transition to sustainable development, it is expedient to strengthen the joint cooperation activities of ACD participating countries in the directions of vital importance. We consider that among these directions the poverty reduction, taking into account environmental protection, ensuring a stable access of population of the continent to primary needs, raising public preparedness to address disaster risks and development and strengthening of regional infrastructures are of paramount importance. In this context, our country in the national development strategy, which is based on the Millennium Development Goals, has defined the achieving economic sustainable development, raising the living standards and poverty reduction as primary tasks. One of the issues of vital importance of the strategy is to overcome transport and communication isolation of the country and make it a transition region with most transport infrastructures that meet the international standards. I am confident that the interest of ACD Member States in enhancement of cooperation in the direction of development and strengthening of communication infrastructures in the region will facilitate the implementation of our abovementioned steps.

With regard to the use of natural resources we support the efforts of giving preference to international cooperation. In this context, the other parts of our efforts are aimed at access to technology, which ensure safe and effective use of natural resources. Taking into account the acute energy shortage in many countries of the region, interregional cooperation on energy issues should be one of the priority directions of the ACD. In this regard, Tajikistan urges to support comprehensive use of renewable energy. In our view, hydro energy as

a modern element in this direction could became a priority sustainable development programme. The rich water resources provide us with the unique opportunity to develop this sector. Implementation of such programmes could provide the population of countries of the region with cheap, renewable and environmentally safe, non-polluting electric energy.

Therefore, the Republic of Tajikistan once again expresses its readiness to develop and strengthen the true, bilateral and multilateral cooperation in this sphere. Taking into account the abovementioned, Tajikistan in its capacity as the Chair of Asia Cooperation Dialogue once again underscores the need for holding the next Energy Forum of participating countries. The Republic of Tajikistan, despite possessing the huge water and energy resources, continuously attaches great importance to the solution of water related problems. In this regard, during the last years, Tajikistan has put forward a series of initiatives to the international community and those initiatives were adopted and implemented by the United Nations General Assembly. In particular, International Decade for Action "Water for life", 2005-2015, which is in its final stage, is of great importance in establishing effective dialogues to enter into cooperation in the field of effective water resources management and energy. Taking into account the vital importance of effective cooperation in solving an even more complicated problem of water resources management, on the initiative of Tajikistan the year of 2013 has been proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly as The International Year of Water Cooperation. We are confident that during the implementation process of the abovementioned Year's Plan, a great importance will be attached to the issue of cooperation in the field of protection of portable water resources and effective management of hydro energy potential of the countries by the participating countries of the event. Establishment of cooperation with the international and regional organizations in the direction of food and energy security is also one of the means that will facilitate in achieving our goals in these sectors.

Dear friends,

It should be noted that some Asia countries has been internationally recognized as a producer of the modern equipment and technology. These countries that possess abundant development opportunities and capacity could assist needy countries with regard to having access to modern technology and creating innovative economy. In this context, we welcome the strengthening of the activity of Working Group on information technology development and we hope that procurement of innovations and know-how to ACD participating countries will be effectively implemented.

In our view, the efforts of ACD participating countries should be on the whole aimed at reducing economic, social and technological development inequality step-by-step and achieving more opportunities to ensure sustainable development implementation. This will be only possible when developed countries spare no assistance and support for developing countries. In this case the appeal of a number of ACD Member states for attraction of financial resources to implement projects in needy countries is worthy of support.

The other direction that in the globalization period requires special attention is the enhancement of cultural-humanitarian cooperation. As is generally known, the Eastern countries were at the origins of the human civilization. Therefore, today protection of cultural values and their use for the benefit of humanity should become one of the important tasks of our Dialogue. More attention should be given to the issues of Human Resources Development, healthcare of the people and raising academic literacy of the youth in the Dialogue Plans. In this field, exchange of students for the study and professional development purposes should be our important tasks and concrete programmes to be developed and implemented in this sphere.

Ladies and gentlemen,

10 years have passed since the establishment of Asia Cooperation Dialogue. Lots of changes that have occurred in the World policy in this period is the evidence of the soundness of its establishment and the need for strengthening and enhancement of the meaning and content of its activity. Therefore, we support the establishment of its permanently-operating entity and consider necessary that practical works in this direction to be enhanced.

We are of the view that the Dialogue should develop the sustainable development strategy of the participating countries and establish sectorial Working groups for consideration of the issue of strengthening its activity. Moreover, establishment of the senior officials Groups of ACD participating countries to identify joint measures on the issues of food security, energy and infrastructure in Asia continent could discover many opportunities and implications in this direction. In our view, taking measures to reduce particular hardships in the countries of the region is suitable. Development of researches in the field of protection of fresh water resources, elaboration of cooperation strategies in the direction of adoptation with the climate change, establishment of coordination networks between countries on natural disaster preparedness and elimination of the consequences of natural calamity could be among such steps. Development of capacity building projects, cooperation in the sphere of tourism, discovering new trade roots and development of existing transit

and transportation networks are also of the issues, which need to be studied and be programmed. I think that with the establishment of its financial Fund the Dialogue could attract and centralize finances of related countries and use them purposefully for the support of needy countries, in particular for poverty reduction.

Dear participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We hope that today's event will be an effective step in consolidating ACD participating countries efforts to address actual problems of the continent's development, to strengthen and practically enhance our cooperation and will facilitate enhancement of the role of our Forum. In conclusion, I would like to wish success to the work of the Forum and I am confident that distinguished guests will get new and fine impressions during their stay in Dushanbe.

I thank you for your attention!

STATEMENTS
by the Heads of Delegations

STATEMENT
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi

Distinguished Ministers,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear guests,

Allow me once again to express my sincere appreciation to you for finding time to attend the eleventh Ministerial meeting of the Member States of Asian Cooperation Dialogue in Dushanbe.

I also would like to thank the Kuwaiti side, in particular Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid as-Sabah for the comprehensive report on the ACD activities curried out in recent year.

It is delightful that today the high level delegation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan taking part in this Meeting as a full member of our Dialogue and I would like to congratulate them in this regard and wish them success in achieving our joint goals. I believe that taking into account the important geographic location of this friendly country in the region, participation of Afghanistan in this Dialogue will give new impetus to ACD activities.

Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It should be noticed that our Meeting is taking place at a period, when the issues of sustainable development are becoming more and more important for the Asian Development Cooperation Member States. Therefore the Republic of Tajikistan as a chair of Asian Development Cooperation at present moment

curries out its activities under the slogan "Towards sustainable development for the better future in Asia".

I hope our Meeting will facilitate enhancement of sustainable development and prosperous future of our countries. I am confident that the above stated issue will be deeply and comprehensively discussed and appropriate decisions will be taken in order to strengthen cooperation.

Though during a few decades Asia on the whole being considered as region of active economic development and some of Asian countries are at a high level development however many Asian countries are facing with economic, social and environmemtal difficulties and challenges.

Adding this situation to the level of growth of population, which is typical to our region, proportionaly will brought to increse of consumption rate. For instance, the demand for natural resources, in particular unrenewable resources has been increasingly developing, which has bad impacts for the future of the Earth.

Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Such situation should be a matter of concern for countries of the region. Therefore, we need since the moment tend to seek effective ways and means to get rid of it and lay a solid foundation for sustainable development of our countries. In our view the Asian region has all potential, including human, intelectual and economic.

In this regard, the content of the statement of H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan at the first Asian Cooperation Development Summit in Kuwait in October 2012 should be recalled. The Head of Tajik State in particular stated that "Cooperation of our countries in the framework of Asian Cooperation Dialogue should have an active and practical character, in the situation of global financial, energy and food problems to achieve defined goals and 20 announced areas of coopertion in the spheres of energy and energy security, information technology, transport, agriculture, environmental protection, tourism, business development, enhancing intercultural dialogue and strengthening reserve market of our continent».

It should be noticed that poverty reduction, attraction of sustainable patterns of consumption and production, protection and wise use of natural resources are the necessary pillars of sustainable economic and social development.

These tasks are directly related to each other, only their complex solution could lay a solid foundation for sustainable development process.

In this context, the UN Conference on sustainable development (Rio+20) reiterated its support in strengthening of international cooperation in the direction of sustainable development. In Rio the need for ensuring sustainable development was indicated and its promotion through various means were defined.

Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

In order to achieve sustainable development goals we need to use new unusual principles and effective management of resources and opportunities. For achievement of sustainable development, first of all the existing patterns of production and consumption in the member states of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue should be completely changed.

In our view, for the periodical transition to sustainable development, the Asian Cooperation Dialogue Member States should focus their joint efforts to the following key directions:

1. First of all, it is necessary to implement the commitments which were identified in the framework of Rio+20 regarding enhancement of international cooperation by promoting financial resources, potential growth and access to technologies, should be implemented.

2. In working out their national strategy, the Asian countries should pay primary attention to the modification and analysis of the debt's stability. With this aim, supporting the technical cooperation in the direction of capacity building for debt management in their developing economy will be of vital importance.

3. It is necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and other similar programms in the ACD Member States, which were agreed by the international community.

4. The climate change has already become a source of the new ecological challenges for many countries of the Asian region. Therefore, working out the new strategy and effective programms to prevent and reduce the climate changes' impact in the national, regional and international level are strong timely demand.

5. Ensuring satisfactory level of the people's wellbeing, particularly the poverty segment of the people, the economic, social and physical improvements, as well as protection of its cultural heritage are directly related to the state of the eco-systems.

6. The threats of existing and further challenges require from us to recognize the importance of regional factor of sustainable development in Asia. In this regard, the regional and subregional structures have opportunities to supplement each other through related cooperation. Taking such measures can modify our efforts to the process of currying out concrete activities at the national level to achieve sustainable development.

7. The prompt implementation of the national and subnational strategies of sustainable development, which are based on the specified national condition and efforts for development, should take place through the arrangement of the proportional different types of the energy sources. Moreover, there must be taken the necessary measures for the satisfaction of the development needs.

8. In order to implement their efforts, the states of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue need to mobilize the large scale of resources from the account of the different sources and the effective financing management. In this regard, appropriation of the new partners and expansion of the innovative financing sources as additional investment sources can play its role for the sustainable development.

Distinguished participants of the meeting,

Last year, at the initiative of the Republic of Tajikistan, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution entitled "Implementation of the International Year of Water Cooperation". According to this resolution, the High Level International Conference on the issue of water cooperation will be held in Dushanbe, in 20-21 August 2013.

Taking this opportunity, we invite all Member States of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue to attend this important international conference.

The Republic of Tajikistan taking into account the importance of the water issue and need for cooperation enhancement in the sphere of water resources, propose to declare the 21st area of cooperation - "Water for life" in the framework of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue.

As well we express our readiness to host the Third Forum of Energy of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue in Dushanbe.

Distinguished participants of the meeting,
Ladies and gentlemen,

In order to achieve the sustainable development for the regional prosperity, there are many tasks and problems before us, which the successful solution of

them require the mutual efforts and serious interaction from the ACD Member States. As we have expressed in the previous meetings, we consider that the effective implementation of these objectives has close relation with the prompt solution of a number of organizational and structural problems of our Meeting.

In this regard, it is important to address the issue of establishment of ACD entity and primarily the establishment of the ACD Secretariat, to increase the status of the ACD contact points to the level of national coordinators, to hold the meetings of the permanent representatives of ACD member-states in the framework of UN. I am confident, that such measures will give a practical character to the activities of our Dialogue and will facilitate the implementation of the defined effective programs in all areas of the cooperation.

In conclusion, I want to express hope that the outcome of our today's Meeting will be effective step in ensuring sustainable development of our countries and promotion of regional integration in Asia.

I thank you for your attention!

STATEMENT
by the Former Prime Minister of Thailand
Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra

Your Excellency Mr. Emomalii Rahmon,
President of the Republic of Tajikistan,

Your Excellency Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is truly a privilege for me to be invited to speak at this 11th Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), held for the first time in the Republic of Tajikistan, a country of rich historical and cultural heritage. I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Tajikistan for according me this honour.

This visit to Dushanbe brings back many old memories since Tajikistan was the last country that I made an official visit as Prime Minister on 9 September 2006. Only 10 days later, a coup d'etat was staged at home while 1 was away on my official duty.

It is particularly meaningful to me to be given this opportunity since it was at my seaside residence in Cha-am, Thailand that the ACD first came into being back in June 2002. On that occasion, there were 18 founding countries altogether, which made my dining room quite cramped, but also very warm with the solidarity of our convictions.

Looking back to those early days over a decade ago, 1 still recall the initial challenges we faced in establishing this region-wide cooperation, which was unprecedented at that time.While other continents of the world had a regional

grouping encompassing all the countries in the region, this was a missing link as far as Asia was concerned. But with all of the ASEAN countries as the base, we were able to draw upon the support of our friends in East Asia, South Asia and the Middle East to forge a region-wide strategic partnership spanning all corners of the continent, from North to South, and from East to West.

And so, the ACD was born.

Since those eventful days, 1 am pleased to say that our organization has steadily gathered momentum. 1 am gratified to see that since 2002, our membership has almost doubled to 32 countries at present, with additional members from the Middle East and South Asia in particular. Certainly, we are well on the way to becoming a continent- wide grouping.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,

In my opening statement at the Inaugural Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, 1 presented my vision of why a grouping such as the ACD is so essential for our region. 1 believe that it is worth repeating today because the essence of the message remains the same, if not even more so.

Asia today is home to over 4 billion people, accounting for almost 60 percent of the world's population, and representing a huge market and a rich pool of human resources.

It is the world's largest and most diverse continent, comprising 30 percent of the earth's land area, and rich in natural resources.

Asia remains the world's fastest growing economic region and will continue to be the driver of global growth during the decades ahead. Asia's proportion in world exports has also risen over the past ten years, with our region now accounting for over 30 percent of world trade.

When the ACD first originated, Asia's total combined international reserves amounted to over one trillion U.S. dollars, representing over half of the world's foreign exchange reserves. Today, the percentage is even greater with Asian reserves multiplying at anastounding level.

Not only is Asia rich in economic terms, but also in religious and cultural dimensions as well. Asia is, of course, the birthplace of most of the world's major religions, including Islam, Hinduism, Christianity, Buddhism, and others. Many of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and the Modern World are located in Asia. And Asia was the cradle of the world's earliest civilizations, dating back thousands of years.

Against this backdrop of seeming abundance and wealth, it was disconcerting to me that, in much of Asia, our peoples still remain mired in poverty. It was perturbing to me that great potentials exist in our region and yet they remained largely untapped. And it was of great concern to me that despite our age-old shared heritage, the countries of Asia continue to compete with one another, and are often embroiled in conflict, rather than joining hands to channel our strengths into cooperative endeavours.

For this reason, I saw the need for a region-wide grouping such as the ACD, which would be both a lorum for cooperation as well as for dialogue. It would be a vehicle for us to turn our diversity and vast potential into mutual benefits. And it would be an avenue for us to pool our individual strengths together to make a stronger Asia that would be a better partner, not only for our region, but for the rest of the world.

Excellencies, I must admit to feeling a sense of pride in seeing the ACD grow and expand its areas of cooperation during the six years that I served as Prime Minister of Thailand. I lowever, since I left office in 2006, I do detect some decline in interest, with only two new members admitted since then. Therefore, my main purpose today is to appeal to you all - to help revitalize the ACD, and inject new life and dynamism into our grouping.

During this time when many other regions of the world are encountering economic and financial difficulties, Asia has been a bastion of strength and stability, with the fastest growing economies in the world mainly coming from Asia. But while the region is generally doing well, there is so much more that we can do together, if we pool our inner strengths and comparative advantages. We are already major producers of goods for the rest of the world, but we are still lagging behind when it comes to value creation and adding value to our products. It is, therefore, high time that we put our conflicts and rivalry aside, and channel our energies instead into close cooperation under the ACD, as a driver towards regional peace, prosperity and stability.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over 2,000 years ago, some of our ancestors and ancient traders travelled along the famous Silk Road. This historic road extended almost 8,000 kilometres from China through Asia, including parts of Tajikistan, to the Middle East, the Mediterranean, Europe and Africa. This network of interlinking trade

routes played a highly significant role in the exchange of goods, knowledge and technologies, as well as the propagation of religions, philosophies and cultures.

Today, with all the talk about regional connectivity, we envisage a New Silk Road that will intricately link ACD Member Countries with one another and with other regions through an extensive network of roads, railways, sea lanes and air routes. This is the hardware.

Equally important, however, is the software in the form of the longstanding cultural, religious and historical heritage, which can weave the countries of Asia together into a single priceless, exquisite and durable fabric.

I invite you all to join me in taking a highly-rewarding journey along this New Silk Road, which will link our common destinies together along the path towards greater peace and prosperity.

Thank you for your attention.

STATEMENT
by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

In the name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate

Your Excellency Mr. Emomali Rahmon,
President of the Republic of Tajikistan,

Distinguished Heads of delegation,

Dear participants,

At the outset, it is my honour on behalf of the State of Kuwait to express my gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Head of State and its people for the warm welcome and hospitality, good organization of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting and wish success to its work, which cover the issues of vital importance for my country too.

From 15 to 17 October 2012 there was held the first ACD Summit in the State of Kuwait, which was an important and intermediate station on the way to our today's Meeting and during that there were adopted vital decisions and forward-looking initiatives that should be firmly followed-up in order to be implemented. And one of the outstanding outcomes of ACD Summit is defining irreproachable direction of ACD Ministerial Meeting activities for the term of more than one and a half century through conducting ACD Summit and here we welcome the offer of the Kingdom of Thailand to host the second ACD Summit in 2015. Besides, following the first ACD Summit there were established several Working groups and there were held a few Meetings, the most recent one was a senior officials Meeting, which took place on 3-4 March 2013 in Kuwait.

Dear participants,

In fact the Asia continent possesses countless abundant material resources and development and prosperity opportunities, which oblige us to continue integration and cooperation between Asia continent countries and these are all for the benefit of the peoples of Asia continent and at the national level we should think about the potential of a great number of population of the continent, people's hope in each other contribution and influencing by their action not only at the national level, but at the regional and international levels.

Therefore and with State of Kuwait's confidence in our countries potential, the need for the development of the countries with existing opportunities in addition to that the ACD organize for political and economic support, my country considers your contribution necessary to the three vital causes:

1. Necessary fund raising for the preparation of the fulfillment of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of Kuwait's initiative of establishment of Relief Fund for the development projects in Asia countries with a capital of billion US dollars that 300 million of it will be made up by the State of Kuwait and it will be delivered to the most remote Asia continent areas and will be a cause for strengthening development activities, discovering new fields of bilateral and multilateral cooperation and human potential of our countries. The State of Kuwait in recent year has assigned several delegations to a number of friendly countries to call on for early contribution to the above stated Fund.

2. We express a hope that the proposal of establishing general Secretariat mechanism and general provisions of Asia Cooperation Dialogue that was raised during the senior officials Meeting, which took place recently in Kuwait and this step will strengthen the efforts in arranging activities and raising the level of the Forum as an in fact operating organization and will drive the activities according to the progressive ideas. The State of Kuwait once again expresses appreciation for the decisions made during the first ACD Summit with regard to choosing the State of Kuwait to host ACD Provisional Secretariat.

3. While the idea of ACD as society occurred on the basis of goals of strengthening economic cooperation and also with the aim of mitigating hardships, which is impossible without development of various cooperation fields and taking into account the fact that the Asia continent has deep human history and has different culture and civilization, we are obliged to demonstrate this bright side of our civilization and this will be possible only by holding meetings and organizing cultural and intellectual forums, reflecting various sides of our intellectual heritage.

Dear participants,

In this regard, with great thanks we would like to mention the role of the Kingdom of Thailand as a ACD coordinator from the very first days of establishment of the Forum. At the same time, we beg the Almighty for the Kingdom of Bahrain success in hosting the 12th ACD Ministerial Meeting and we hope that Bahraini brothers with the opportunities and potential that they have will conduct the abovementioned meeting at the highest level.

We highly appreciate the ACD activities and hope that agreements, achieved during past Meetings will find approval and the fact that contained in the outcome document of our Forum will be implemented and undoubtedly will contribute to strengthening of existing mechanisms. We hope that the outcome of our Meeting will contribute to the development of our activities and strengthening glorious and rich path of ACD.

Thank you.

STATEMENT
by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain Ghanim Fadhil Al Buainain

Mr. Chairman,

Your Highnesses, Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

I am delighted to be here in beautiful Tajikistan, to represent the Kingdom of Bahrain at this 11th Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue; the first Ministerial meeting since the historic first ACD Summit held in the State of Kuwait last October.

Before going further, I want to express my sincere thanks to the government and people of the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting this meeting, and for their outstanding preparations and generous hospitality. May I also express my appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand for their continued and vital work as ACD Coordinator, without whom none of the achieved progress would have been possible. Further, I extend my appreciation to the brotherly State of Kuwait for hosting the first ACD Summit, and for the detailed papers they have presented on the future mechanism and structure of the ACD.

Mr. Chairman,

As the cradle of civilization, being the most populous continent, with its abundant natural and human resources, Asia can be proud of its historic cultural, economic, social and technological achievements in all parts of the continent, and stretching back many thousands of years dating back to the time

of the Silk Road and beyond. And the most remarkable thing about these achievements is that, for most of our region's history, they came about largely through countries working in an individual manner, without any overall umbrella for cooperation, coordination or dialogue.

I believe, therefore, that all of us should be inspired by Asia's tremendous potential - imagine how much more might have been achieved with a genuine structure for cooperation that enables us to harmonize and harness our peoples' talents, creativity and productivity so as to fully contribute to the regional and world economy, and expand Asian prosperity.

Just as Asia is a continent of diverse peoples and cultures, I am convinced that in fields as diverse as science, technology, culture, tourism, commerce, investment, and the economy, genuine and coordinated moves towards greater social and economic cooperation in Asia will benefit not only the continent and its people, but also the entire world.

Mr. Chairman,

It is in this context, that the Kingdom of Bahrain has been an enthusiastic member and supporter of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue since its very inception at the First Ministerial Retreat in Cha-am, Thailand, in 2002. We truly believe in the potential of Asia, and in the benefits of working together in many diverse fields to share our expertise and to pool our talents and experience.

Accordingly, I want to commend the paper presented by the brotherly State of Kuwait on a draft ACD Charter and a mechanism for an ACD Secretariat and the recommendations of experts in this regard. The institutional development of the ACD will be key to ensuring that we maximize our cooperation in the most efficient and effective manner, and that we put in place the proper structures to enable our ACD member states to work together at all levels and in all fields.

The Kingdom of Bahrain therefore welcomes the opportunity to consider the Kuwaiti proposals in detail, and looks forward to working closely with our fellow ACD members to achieve an institutional structure that builds upon the strong foundations we have established, in an evolutionary and consensual manner. I can assure you of Bahrain's full and constructive participation in this process.

I also want to commend the timely and well thought-out Concept Paper prepared and presented by our hosts, the Republic of Tajikistan. As it rightly recognizes, poverty eradication and sustainable development are the most

fundamental and basic demands of peoples throughout the world, and are the areas in which our ACD cooperation can make the most tangible impacts on the lives of all our citizens. We should therefore pledge ourselves to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development across the ACD countries, in line with the principles of the Concept Paper and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

In this context, we can be proud of the wealth of expertise and experience in our Asian continent that can be harnessed through closer cooperation to devise, share and help implement strategies to reduce poverty and ensure sustainable development in the areas set out in the Concept Paper. Consequently, we look forward to arrive at appropriate recommendations and joint programmes in this respect.

To take one example, the Kingdom of Bahrain is one of the many ACD states that has been recognized for its innovative and pioneering use of technology in the provision of government services, through our e-Government initiative. We have found that the initiative has not only brought direct benefits to our citizens in terms of quicker and easier access to government services, but has also allowed us to look at our own systems and practices and identify ways in which they can be streamlined and improved. We would be more than happy to share our experiences in this and other fields.

It is as part of this process of coordination and integration that the Kingdom of Bahrain welcomes and appreciates the ACD Energy Action Plan, as envisaged by the Communique of the First ACD Summit in Kuwait. As a Prime Mover on Energy, Bahrain greatly appreciates the efforts of the other Prime Movers and co-Prime Movers in drafting, reviewing and finalization of the Action Plan, and I want to commend in particular the outstanding work of Indonesia in this regard. Bahrain believes that the Action Plan provides a solid foundation and framework for ACD energy cooperation, and an opportunity bringing together the diverse talents, resources and requirements of ACD countries. We welcome the detailed areas of implementation and proposed cooperative activities, and look forward to a clear follow-up mechanism being established to ensure that these activities are conducted and fully completed in a comprehensive manner that brings maximum benefit to all ACD countries.

On behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain, I therefore join with my colleagues to commend the ACD Energy Action Plan, and look forward to its adoption by this Ministerial Meeting. Furthermore, and in line with the above, we believe there are many opportunities of inter-funding. Asia is thrives with untapped economic and investment potential which is not optimally exploited.

Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellencies,

This is indeed a historic year for the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, building on the success of the first ACD Summit in Kuwait, and with the momentum sustained by the two Ministerial Meetings we are holding in 2013 - this forum and the upcoming Manama conference. I want to express my appreciation to all concerned at the excellent coordination that we have seen in these matters, ensuring that progress is maintained through these meetings, while avoiding any duplication of our efforts.

I therefore look forward to the successful outcome of this 11th Ministerial Meeting, and the adoption of the Dushanbe Declaration, and have the pleasure to inform Your Excellencies that the 12th Ministerial Meeting will be held in Manama, Bahrain, in November, 2013.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Kingdom of Bahrain to continue the successful advance of our ACD partnership.

Thank you.

STATEMENT
by the ACD Coordinator, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand Jullapong Nonsrichai

Your Excellency,
President of the Republic of Tajikistan,

Your Excellency,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan,

Your Royal Highness,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is a pleasure for me to participate in the 11th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting. On behalf of the Thai delegation, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Tajikistan for the warm hospitality extended to my delegation.

We welcome and commend Tajikistan's active role in advancing the ACD process. I am confident that this 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting in Dushanbe will prove to be another milestone in further enhancing our cooperation.

I assure you of Thailand's fullest cooperation in ensuring the success of Tajikistan's chairmanship and the continued positive development of the ACD.

Excellencies,

Since its inception in 2002 under the initiative of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, the ACD has been moving forward amidst recurring global challenges. As ACD Coordinator, I am pleased to report that outstanding progress has been made since the conclusion of the historic 1st ACD Summit in Kuwait City in October 2012.

I wish to commend Iran's sustained efforts to promote cultural dialogue by hosting the Seminar on Culture and Globalization in February 2013. Iran now plans to convene a Ministerial Meeting on ACD Culture Cooperation this May.

The efforts of Indonesia, the Philippines, China, Lao PDR, Bahrain, Qatar and Kazakhstan as ACD Energy Prime and Co-Prime Movers to draft an ACD Energy Plan of Action is very timely, as the world is facing a rising challenge of energy security.

Furthermore, our appreciation goes to Kuwait for hosting the ACD Senior Officials Meeting on the establishment of an ACD Permanent Secretariat earlier this month. The Provisional ACD Secretariat will help increase the efficiency and effectiveness of ACD process, while ensuring its institutional continuity.

We look forward to the hosting of the 12th ACD Ministerial Meeting by the Kingdom of Bahrain in November this year and the 13th ACD Ministerial Meeting by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2014. Thailand will host the 2nd ACD Summit in 2015 and the Islamic Republic of Iran will host the 3rd ACD Summit in 2018.

These accomplishments and scheduled meetings clearly reflect the relevance of ACD to its Member States and the commitment we have for the process.

Excellencies,

While today's Meeting provides us with an opportunity to take stock of the progress made in our cooperation. We can also look at what remains to be done to move the ACD forward.

First with the 2015 deadline of the UN Millennium Development Goals approaching, we need to mobilise all possible efforts to achieve the MDGs. However, to ensure continuity, we should also build upon the MDGs as we formulate the post-2015 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. It is vital that we balance economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability.

Sustainable development must go hand-in-hand with inclusive growth, green and clean economy. We can achieve this through capacity building in science and environmentally-friendly technology.

Water is vital for life. Thailand is proud to host the 2nd Asia- Pacific Water Summit from 19-20 May 2013 in Chiangmai. It will be a platform for Leaders to address water resources management, especially water-related disasters. Thailand looks forward to welcoming your Leaders to this important meeting in my Prime Minister's hometown.

Second, given the rising threats of natural disasters in the region, it is necessary to closely coordinate and expedite our efforts. Thailand fully supports Tajikistan's initiative on an ACD Early Warning Center Coordination Network. Thailand has considerable experience in this field, in ASEAN and in APEC that we would be pleased to share. The broader our coordination in this field, the safer the world and its citizens will be.

Third, on energy and food security, as the world's major rice producer and "Kitchen to the World", Thailand is ready to exchange our ideas and good practices to improve the region's food security and production. Halal food production and science, contract farming, as well as post-harvest technology, management and logistics are potential areas of cooperation.

With the draft ACD Energy Plan of Action before us, Thailand would like to call on all ACD Member Countries to give it favourable consideration in order to ensure its early implementation.

It is our joint responsibility to ensure regional energy security through cooperation in promoting energy efficiency, developing renewable energy, as well as enhancing our regional energy network and trade. In this regard, Thailand will organize a workshop on energy efficiency and renewable energy, creating a platform for knowledge sharing and information exchange in this important area.

Fourth, enhanced regional connectivity should be strengthened to further promote energy and food security, as well as broader people-to-people ties between ACD Member Countries. Building on the Silk Route, Trans-Asian Highway, Trans-Siberian Railway and the Master Plan on ASEAN Regional Connectivity, Thailand has prepared a Concept Paper on ACD Regional Connectivity.

What we envisage is a network of connections, road, rail, sea and air, that will link ACD Member Countries among themselves and beyond. Missing links will be identified. Funding models will be developed for investment by government and/or the private sector. Tourism, trade and investment facilitation frameworks and actions will be agreed so as to ensure the smooth and efficient flow of people, goods and services across the region. Any resulting negative cross border issues must be addressed as well.

We invite all of you to share your preliminary thoughts on this "Silk Route revival" proposal. Thailand will host a Working Group meeting on this issue in Bangkok in June this year. Our ultimate goal is to prepare a draft ACD Blueprint on Enhanced Infrastructure Connectivity to be submitted to Ministers and/or Leaders in due course.

Lastly, the landmark 2 billion US Dollars Asian Development Fund initiated by His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait at the 1st ACD Summit deserves early implementation. Thailand looks forward to working with other

Member States, as well as international organizations such as the Asian Development Bank, to discuss and come up with the most appropriate implementation guidelines and procedures for the Fund.

Excellencies,

In light of the multi-faceted challenges we face, I believe the ACD countries must be strengthened from within to build resilience against external adverse impacts. It rests upon us to work together to promote inclusive economic and social development, as well as to maintain a stable and peaceful regional environment so that our efforts could be devoted to promoting development, cooperation and mutual prosperity.

To attain these desired values and outcomes, we need to increase cooperation in more areas where our diverse strengths and assets complement each other. Building collective strength from our complementarity is exactly the originating concept upon which the ACD process was built.

In this context, Thailand believes that the time has come for the ACD process to be served by an ACD Secretariat. We welcome Kuwait's generous offer to host and bear the cost of the Provisional ACD Secretariat. This generous contribution will prove to be a key to the success of a revived ACD.

Excellencies,

Thailand is honoured to serve as the ACD Coordinator and host the 14th ACD Ministerial Meeting and 2nd ACD Summit from 8 to 12 March 2015 in Chiangmai.

It is our strong belief that, as the only pan-Asian forum, the ACD has tremendous potential to do a lot of good. The ACD process could be the driver towards regional peace, stability and prosperity. To achieve this, we must continue promoting more dialogue to further foster our sense of solidarity and community.

In closing, I wish to urge ACD Member Countries to extend the ACD process their fullest support. With that, the ACD will be able to realise its full potential and lead us towards our lofty goals.

As a final word, it is this desire to serve the global community on peace and security issues, that Thailand is seeking election to a non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council for the term 2017-2018. We count on your valuable support.

Thank you.

STATEMENT
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Dr. Zalmai Rassoul

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Salaam and good afternoon to you all. At the very outset, I wish to thank our Tajik brothers and sisters for the gracious hospitality they've extended to us all, and for the excellent arrangements for our meeting today in the beautiful city of Dushanbe.

Please allow me to also express appreciation to the State of Kuwait for hosting and organizing the first Summit of the ACD last October, and to Kingdom of Thailand for its tireless work as Coordinator of the ACD.

I would also like to express our gratitude to the State of Kuwait for its generous contribution of $300 million to the Asian Development Fund, particularly its focus on poverty alleviation and health improvement. Afghanistan supports the establishment of a provisional ACD Secretariat in Kuwait until the next summit in Thailand in 2015.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Afghanistan, the newest member of the ACD, strongly identifies and associates with the vision and specific goals of this important continent- wide effort.

In fact, throughout history but especially over the past three decades, Afghanistan has suffered grievously because of divisions, mistrust, lack of confi-

dence and lack of overall vision of mutually beneficial cooperation in one of our continent's most important regions, namely the Heart of Asia region.

Therefore, Afghanistan particularly, fully and whole-heartedly endorses and aligns itself with the concept of ACD enhanced regional connectivity to promote trade, investment, transit, people-to-people contacts. This is a concept that lies at the heart of our own vision for a life of peaceful and mutually beneficial co-existence and cooperation with our neighbours and the broader region around us. Strengthening our political, social and economic ties with our region is one of Afghanistan's most important and most urgent national priorities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We must not forget Afghanistan's tremendous potential in developing cooperation and integration in Asia through our unique place as an Asian roundabout that connects three of our continent's key broad sub-regions, namely South Asia, Central Asia/Eurasia and the Middle East/Western Asia. To illustrate this uniqueness, consider the fact that Afghanistan is less than a single day's drive to two of the world's largest economies, both of which are growing at a monumental rate.

Consider also that Afghanistan is the only dark spot in our continent's and especially in the Heart of Asia region's vast railway networks. Removing this dark spot by implementing existing plans to connect the railway networks of Pakistan, Iran and all Central Asian states with one another and with other sub-regions in the Asian continent and beyond will dramatically increase trade, investments and people-to-people contacts. Similarly, Afghanistan is the one missing link in connecting energy-rich Central Asia with energy-deficient South Asia through power grids and energy pipelines.

Taking concrete action and achieving tangible progress in these two areas alone will bring jobs, increased incomes, energy security, investments, and enhanced prosperity to people in all these countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The realization of Afghanistan's positive potential for the Heart of Asia region and the Asian continent as a whole by definition necessitates honest and result-oriented cooperation among all countries in the region, especially Afghanistan's neighbours and near neighbours, to support the Afghan people's

quest for long-term peace and security, especially now that we're on a solid path of democratic, economic and social development and progress.

The consolidation of Afghanistan's historic gains over the past decade will not only benefit the Afghan people; it will have a defining salutary effect on nurturing peace, prosperity and development in this vital part of the Asian continent.

Here, please allow me to state the following truth: This vision and noble goal of harnessing our collective capabilities and complementarities to our common benefit, including sustainable development at the national and regional level, will remain an unfulfilled dream if we do not address the foremost and biggest obstacles before us: insecurity caused by terrorism and violent extremism in the region emanating from outside Afghanistan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Addressing this common challenge requires building greater confidence and trust among all countries in our region through honest and result- oriented cooperation. That is precisely why together with Afghanistan's neighbours and near neighbours, we launched the Istanbul Process in November 2011.

Since the inaugural ministerial meeting in Istanbul, all participating countries in the Istanbul Process, most of whom are represented around this table today, have marked significant and promising progress, in particular by agreeing to specific confidence building measures in the areas of counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, trade and investment, education, disaster management and regional infrastructure.

At this stage, we're keenly looking forward to the third Ministerial Meeting of the Istanbul Process in Almaty on April 26 where we hope to achieve further progress in our efforts. I want to take this opportunity to thank all participating countries in the Istanbul Process, especially the Republic of Kazakhstan as host of the next Ministerial Meeting, and countries and organizations supporting us for their commitment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On a larger scale, we believe that ACD countries working together can facilitate trade, investment, tourism and better understanding among the diverse, energetic people of our great continent.

Afghanistan will focus its efforts on building mutually beneficial economic cooperation with other ACD member States and believes that such cooperation contributes to more economic integration of the Heart of Asia region with other sub-regions of Asia. After all, most of our continent's sub-regions share similar challenges and opportunities.

The Afghan people and government's ongoing successful efforts to improve security, build lasting peace, strengthen state institutions and further consolidate our national sovereignty leading up to and beyond 2014 will also increasingly allow Afghanistan to contribute to regional peace, security and economic development, as well as to the ACD's vision and goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As President Karzai remarked at the first ACD Summit in Kuwait last October, Afghanistan is "fully in line with the core values of the ACD that are positive thinking; informality; voluntarism; non-institutionalization; openness; respect for diversity; the comfort level of member countries; and the evolving nature of the ACD process."

In conclusion, I would like to renew my gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the Government of Tajikistan for their warm hospitality and hosting this important meeting.

Thank you.

STATEMENT
by the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Dr. Dipu Moni

Your Excellency the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan and Chairman,

Your Excellency the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand and Coordinator of ACD,

Your Excellencies the Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My sincere thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, for convening this 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting in this beautiful city of Dushanbe. [My particular gratitude and appreciation to you and other heads of delegation for the expression of condolence at the recent demise of our Hon'ble President.] I have firm conviction that, with you in the Chair, our deliberations today under the theme, 'Towards economic growth, stability and prosperity in Asia through sustainable development' will be eminently fruitful. I offer my thanks to your government for the excellent arrangements, cordial reception and warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation. I express my deep appreciation to the government of Thailand for its unstinted support for the ACD process ever since its inception. I shall be remiss if I do not acknowledge the effective leadership of the State of Kuwait as the host of the historic First ACD Summit.

Mr. Chairman,

As suggested in the concept paper for our meeting, sustainable development is indeed of particular significance for Asian countries. Most our member states are experiencing deterioration of environment in the form of contami-

nation of soil, water and air; loss of soil fertility; desertification; and depletion of natural resources. The large population and high population growth of Asian countries cause an increasing trend of consumption. Moreover, it is mostly the Asian countries that cater to the high consumption demand of the Western countries. Asia will continue to be the manufacturing base of the world. This presents far-reaching challenges for our environment. Our development pursuit is, therefore, laden with the extra burden of sustainability. Asian countries need to articulate their views in a coordinated manner in the ongoing discourse for elaborating the new Sustainable Development Goals.

When we speak of environment, we cannot forget the creeping menace of climate change that is causing slow but sure harm to our planet. Asia is evidently the worst sufferer of climate change. We need to advocate enhanced global cooperation for mitigating as well as adapting to the climate change that should ensure adequate financing, transfer of technology and capacity support from the developed to the developing countries, particularly to the least developed and the most vulnerable countries. The provision of assistance should be in addition to the existing commitments for official development assistance.

Sustainable development is confronted with severe challenges posed by natural disasters. Belonging to various climatic and geographical regions, Asian countries are often victims of devastation by floods, cyclones, earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruptions and so on. It is well documented that Asia-Pacific region is by far the most disaster-prone region in the world, accounting for over 70% of global total. We need to consider developing pan-Asian mechanism for responding to natural disasters. In this context, we see merit in the proposal of Tajikistan for exploring the possibility of establishment of an ACD early warning centre coordination network.

It is recognized that among the key non-natural threats to Asia's sustainable development are such factors as fall-out of global recession, food and energy insecurity, disparity and diversity, conflict and tension among nations and so on. However, we believe that greater Asian connectivity – both physical and human – can contribute significantly to overcoming these challenges. A physically well-connected and digitally well-networked Asia will definitely be much more self-sufficient, secure and competitive on the global scale. Greater people-to-people contact will promote goodwill and amity that are vital for sustaining any outcome of cooperation. In this perspective, we welcome the proposal of Thailand for developing an Enhanced ACD Regional Connectivity.

Mr. Chairman,

A large segment of Asia is faced with substantial developmental challenge. We need to make best use of the available resources to achieve development.

However, the most precious asset of ours is perhaps the people. We need to place people at the centre of our quest for development. I take this opportunity to highlight the 'People's Empowerment and Development Model' presented by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh - a model that has been welcomed by UN General Assembly resolution with overwhelming support from membership. This multi-pronged people-centric development model essentially promotes: eradication of poverty and hunger; reduction of inequality; mitigation of deprivation; inclusion of excluded people; acceleration of human development; and elimination of terrorism. This perspective of development will be a valuable input to the post-2015 development dialogue.

We appreciate the proposal made by Kuwait during the First ACD Summit for establishing a 2 billion USD Asian Development Fund for financing development projects in non-Arab ACD countries and the pledge by Kuwait for contribution of 300 million USD to this Fund. We believe that financing from this Fund will not only contribute meaningfully to the development of Asia but also promote greater Asian solidarity that would catalyze further cooperative efforts in the region. We look forward to seeing more progress in the establishment of the Fund.

As a founding member, Bangladesh has a particular desire to see ACD move forward on a clearly marked pathway. The issue of structural mechanism for ACD had been under our consideration for quite some time. We need to recognize that membership of ACD is growing gradually. ACD recently celebrated its 10th anniversary and held its historic First Summit. These optimistic developments strengthen the case for setting up a Secretariat considering the continuity and professionalism that it would offer to us. We thank Kuwait for hosting a Senior Officials' Meeting earlier this month to consider this question. I appreciate the prudent recommendation of the senior officials for establishing a provisional Secretariat in Kuwait on a modest scale for initial period. We trust that a gradual approach such as this will be conducive to the healthy institutional development of ACD.

Mr. Chairman,

ACD is a platform that offers immense potentials for maximizing cooperation in various areas that have hitherto been unexploited. Collaboration in sustainable development could be one of those areas. Sustainable development calls for an inclusive, humane and socially responsible outlook on development. A spirit of Asian empathy and solidarity among us can carry forward these efforts in a great way.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

STATEMENT
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Erlan Idrissov

Mr. President!

Mr. Chairman!

Your Excellencies!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

First of all, let me thank the Tajik chairmanship for their excellent organization and warm hospitality.

Furthermore, I would like to express special gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, as the permanent coordinator of the Dialogue.

We attach great importance to this meeting. This is the first meeting of foreign ministers of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue since the successful ACD Summit held in Kuwait last year. That Summit not only allowed us to sum up our joint work over the past decade, but it also enabled us to identify specific goals and objectives for the future.

Over the years, the ACD has been a useful forum for discussing regional approaches to promoting social and economic development in Asia. This takes on special significance now that Asia is becoming the main arena for development in the world. Only through dialogue and cooperation can we live up to the potential of what has been described as "the Asian Century".

Kazakhstan is a strong advocate of a cooperative approach to multi-lateral relations, as demonstrated through our Chairmanship of the OSCE, our leadership role in CICA, and now as Chair of the Istanbul Process. We therefore very much support the idea of development through dialogue, and are pleased to be a member of ACD and coordinator of three ACD projects.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's ACD Ministerial Meeting is being held in Central Asia. This region is located in the heart of Eurasia: at the crossroads of the "North-South" and "East-West" axis. Historically, the geo-strategic importance of this region has caused it to be a theatre for great power rivalry. But it has also made it a centre for trade, inter-cultural contacts, and new opportunities. Today is no exception. There is a lot of focus on instability in this region, mostly due to the situation in Afghanistan. But there is also a growing realization of the opportunities in Eurasia - not least in terms of trade and development. We can only deal with our problems by working together. And we can only unlock the potential of our region through cooperation.

Joint participation of the Central Asian countries in regional integration processes, including the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia has great importance for the development of the region.

In October 2012 idea of convening CICA, initiated by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the 47th Session of the UN General Assembly in 1992, celebrated its 20th anniversary.

Looking back we can confidently say that the joint efforts of the Member States have not only implemented the "start" of the CICA, but achieved visible results in the formation of the regional security.

Take the example of drugs. This is a transnational problem that defies borders, and affects us all - either as countries of supply, transit or demand. Or take the example of water. Countries upstream and downstream need to talk to each other and cooperate in order to properly share this resource.

Kazakhstan is blessed with rich energy resources. They are the basis for our significant social and economic growth over the past twenty years. But we are also aware that these resources will not last forever: they are exhaustible and not renewable. This requires us to search for new alternative energy sources that are safe for humans and the environment, as to create more modern competitive energy systems. We therefore have an interest in energy security.

This is an issue that requires global attention, and a global response. According to official UN data, today around 1.5 billion people are not provided with electricity, and 2.4 billion lack access to proper fuel. Increasing energy demand per capita, together with population growth in the world, are leading to consumption levels that modern power systems cannot able to support.

Furthermore, we cannot look at energy security separately in from food and water security: the three are inter-linked. We need to seek solutions for all three together. This is particularly urgent since projections suggest that by 2030 - in order to sustain global development - we will need 30 percent more water, 40 percent more energy, and 50 percent more food.

That is why Kazakhstan chose the issue of "Future Energy" for its campaign for EXPO-2017. We are proud that Astana has been chosen to host this global exhibition.

We do not regard EXPO-2017 as just an opportunity to showcase Kazakhstan. We also see it as a chance to focus on the energy challenges and opportunities of the future. For example, how can we promote "green growth", renewable energy, and create a more sustainable energy mix?

We believe that EXPO-2017 will focus international attention on fostering an extensive and robust global process of adopting the kinds of technologies that will ensure to uninterrupted and plentiful energy supplies. This will enable us to cope with the challenges arising from energy security needs and climate change, as well as the growing demand for energy on our planet.

I welcome you all to Astana for EXPO-2017, both as visitors and presenters.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Cooperation in the spheres of transport and agriculture is an equally relevant and important item on our joint agenda.

During the last ten years, we have often discussed the need for cooperation in these fields. We have adopted a number of conceptual papers. In my opinion, this was the first phase of building our relation. Now it is time to move to the next phase and take practical steps to achieve our goals. Kazakhstan is ready to play its part. Over the past 20 years, Kazakhstan's agricultural sector has developed significantly. We have achieved a steady growth in yields, productivity and labor efficiency. We have also invested in modernizing key assets and infrastructure. As a result, we have achieved self-sufficiency in basic food production. This enables us to create a so-called 'buffer of free goods' that we can either export or use for humanitarian assistance.

We are willing to supply grain and oil crops, as well as fishery products to Asia on a mutually beneficial basis. In my opinion, SWOP projects are most interesting in this context.

As mentioned, we must also do more to promote food and water security. This is key both from a humanitarian and a development perspective.

In this regard the proposal of the President of Kazakhstan to form a food security system on the 38th Council of OIC Foreign Ministers in Kazakhstan in 2011 was on-time. The awareness of lack of food security in some countries motivated to propose the establishment of the OIC Food Security Office.

Today Kazakhstan and the Islamic Development Bank are currently negotiating issues related to the establishment of workable financial mechanisms to create an effective mutual food assistance system

We would like to see the start-up of an OIC Institute on Food Security with its Headquarters in Astana in nearest future.

Any interstate trade operations, including within the framework of the ACD, require a properly coordinated and balanced customs and tariff policy. I propose to pay close attention to this issue in our dialogue. We should also take into account the special needs of land-locked countries.

One of our common objectives should be to expand the trade and financial market within Asia. To do this we must break down barriers. I therefore pro-

pose that we work through the ACD to promote liberalization of trade and investments, which will open new markets, and enhance regional economic integration.

Ladies and gentlemen!

The strengthening of trade and economic relations between ACD Member States is impossible without the development of transport and logistics infrastructure and the reinforcement of the region's transit potential.

As a priority, we must create a network of modern highways allowing for inter-continental and trans-continental transit from North to South and from East to West. We must also enhance our rail networks and port facilities.

In this regard, we believe that the accelerated implementation of projects along the 'Silk Road' connecting the emerging markets of Eastern Asia and Western Europe is of great strategic and economic importance for our region.

In this context, I would like to mention the mega-project aimed at opening a transit corridor 'Western Europe - Western China'. The project covers a total length of 8,445 kilometers, of which around one third (2,787 km) are on the territory of Kazakhstan. It will serve two major freight routes: China – Eastern Asia - Central Asia, and China - Russia - Western Europe. This will, quite literally, pave the way for closer integration between the markets of Europe and Asia.

Speaking about the development of the transit, transport and trade potential of the region, we must not forget about the country that is just to the south of here, namely Afghanistan. Afghanistan is now following the path to become a self-reliant and independent state. It needs our support. Transforming Afghanistan from a war zone into a trade zone will benefit us all.

Kazakhstan welcomes all economic initiatives related to Afghanistan, if they are backed up by concrete measures for implementation. In this context, the concept of a 'New Silk Road' is very useful for the development of transport and trade logistics in the region. Kazakhstan is actually implementing it as part of the transport corridor 'Western Europe-Western China'. And the construction of roads, railways, power grids and pipelines in Afghanistan will help to connect the markets of Central and South Asia.

These are the types of projects that can build confidence and trade. That is very much the philosophy behind the Istanbul Process. Kazakhstan will chair the third Ministerial Conference of the Istanbul Process on April 26 in Almaty. I think it is important that we plug the Istanbul Process into the ACD as we have done with other sub-regional arrangements.

Ladies and gentlemen!

In conclusion, I would like to express hope that this 11th meeting of ACD Foreign Ministers will make a significant contribution to strengthening our dialogue, and that our dialogue will enhance cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.

STATEMENT
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to express my great appreciation to President Rahmon for his fine address and for the very kind welcome we have had. I would also like to thank you personally, Mr. Chairman, for the excellent arrangements made for our meeting.

It is a great pleasure to be back in Dushanbe and I warmly congratulate the Government and People of Tajikistan on the very impressive developments taking place in their beautiful capital city.

Mr. Chairman,
Fellow Members,

At first sight the name "A.C.D" looks like three simple words.
"Asia" for our identity.
"Cooperation" for the purpose of our meeting.
And "Dialogue" for the method we use.

In fact, however, there is little that is simple about any of these words. Put together, they form a very complex process. It is driven by new ideas, fresh understandings and a common feeling of togetherness and goodwill.

The result, we hope, will inspire our people and give them a feeling of confidence in the future. I mention this, Mr. Chairman, because that hope is now being severely tested by reality.

That reality is represented by the international financial and economic situation. It poses extremely complex challenges, especially to the young people we represent.

Across our continent, there are now over a billion children under 15 years old. Current international statistics suggest that they face a very difficult future.

According to some estimates, up to 20% of them could be unemployed, perhaps permanently.

That, in itself, is a worrying figure but what is even more disturbing is a statement by the International Labour Organisation which says that there is a new special category for many of our young people.

It represents those who are described as "too discouraged" to seek work.

Why?

Because they have lost hope.

This is a prescription for lasting social unrest and instability. It is why we welcome the concept paper presented here. We appreciate its clear summary of all the current challenges. It is also why we are pleased by the emphasis our theme places on "sustainability".

What I believe to be the most important things we have to "sustain" are confidence and hope for the youth of Asia who may find today's world deeply discouraging.

It could mean that our dialogue needs to evolve. That is why we express our great appreciation to his Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait for the far-reaching ideas he presented at last year's summit.

It is also why we thank our hosts today, the Government and People of Tajikistan, the Kingdom of Bahrain, who will be hosting our next ministerial gathering and the Kingdom of Thailand for undertaking to host the 2015 Summit.

Each is offering inspiration to our people and we believe that this is the most important responsibility of the ACD.

As I said, it is a complex process and, in Brunei Darussalam, we will be pleased to offer our support in whatever way we can.

Thank you.

STATEMENT
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic
Erlan Abdyldaev

Your Excellency Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan,
Chairman of ACD 11th Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs,

Excellencies,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me, at the outset, to convey the Kyrgyz Republic's heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to our generous host - the Government of Tajikistan for utmost hospitality and very warm welcome. I also wish to pay tribute to the work carried out by the Kingdom of Thailand as Coordinator of ACD and the Tajikistan authorities in organizing this meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

It is particularly significant that today's meeting takes place in the capital of one of the countries of the Central Asia, the core region of the Asian continent, and addresses a highly important issue of sustainable development.

The conceptual framework for sustainable development consists of satisfying the needs of current generations without endangering the satisfaction of needs of future generations.

Pursuing this mission, in 2013, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic initiated the National Sustainable Development Strategy for 2013-2017 for the Kyrgyz Republic. It is the first public document outlining key vectors of political, economic and social development of the country that has been developed under the new format of the country's political system.

The presented strategy is aimed at ensuring sustainable development of the Kyrgyz Republic while its implementation will help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the new set of goals and targets for the period of 2015 that would better reflect the nature of contemporary challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

At the same time, as a mountainous and landlocked developing country, Kyrgyzstan is aware that without consolidation of efforts among ACD Member States and enrichment of practical cooperation within the ACD, it is difficult to overcome or minimize the affects of Climate Change, Food Security, and Poverty and resolve challenges and major development obstacles resulting from the great distance from world markets and high transit costs, affecting our national sustainable development efforts.

In this regard, particular attention should be paid to cooperation projects in energy, transport, education, culture, infrastructure, natural disaster management, tourism, agriculture and food security.

Organic agriculture and small hydropower offer promising avenues for private sector investment in sustainable development in Central Asia. Kyrgyzstan has a large hydropower potential and providing energy security is vital to us. In this connection further collaboration in the implementation of joint projects, like CASA-1000 energy network project connecting Central and South Asia, will be of mutual benefit to all. We also need to scale up investment and innovation in agriculture to attain more robust economic growth and sustainable development to ensure food security.

Region's strategic location is a built-in incentive for private investment in trade and public investment in the transport infrastructure. In this regard, Kyrgyzstan is undertaking a range of measures to integrate national transport networks into the regional networks, and facilitate transit operations, both at regional and international levels, including via China - Kyrgyzstan - Uzbekistan trans-Asia railway project.

The exchange of external debt for an equivalent investment in sustainable development should also be considered.

A transition to a green economy requires changes in strategies and the application of new technologies and management approaches. The greening of the energy, agriculture, forestry, tourism and water sectors will provide not only environmental safeguards, but also give the countries a competitive advantage economically and promote the equitable distribution of social benefits. These changes require new skills, expertise and ways of thinking.

In this regard, we note the importance of funding of international exchange on the green technologies and green economy between developed and developing states.

Global warming is slowly decimating mountain glaciers, affecting snow reserves and at the same time increasing the water requirements of basic agricultural crops. Climate change could also amplify the risk of floods, mudflows and landslides in the mountains. All these require constant attention, comprehensive, well-coordinated and timely use of preventive actions at all levels - international, regional and national.

Uniting our efforts to address these issues would be a powerful incentive to strengthen the economic stability and prosperity for all the peoples of the Asian continent.

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic and the people of Kyrgyzstan allow me to express our sincere condolences and sympathy to the delegation of Bangladesh on the passing away of Bangladesh's President His Excellency Zillur Rahman.

In conclusion, I express once again our sincere gratitude to the government and the people of Republic of Tajikistan for the kind invitation to participate in the meeting and for the warm welcome and hospitality.

I also take this opportunity to extend my profound congratulations to my colleague, His Excellency Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan for the successful conclusion of his duties as the Chairman of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting.

In addition, I would like to congratulate the Kingdom of Bahrain for taking over ACD Chairmanship.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

STATEMENT
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi

In the Name of Allah, the compassionate, the Merciful

Honorable Ministers,

Distinguished audience,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the Government of Tajikistan for hosting the 11th Ministerial Meeting of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue, and for warm hospitality offered to our delegation.

We are happy to note that one decade after its inception, ACD has become an effective forum for exchange of views and a milestone in the trend of cooperation and solidarity among Asian nations as well as an appropriate platform for promotion of cooperation in wider region. The Asian Cooperation Dialogue as the only pan-Asian regional cooperation mechanism holds the potential to bring together diverse voices in Asia using their cultural common values and norms as basis for expanding cooperation in economy, trade, and beyond.

A number of the determinants of ancient cultures and civilizations are attributed to the Asian nations: Asia is the territory of ancient written documents, ancient linking roads, oldest among the manifestations of traditional knowledge, unique mythologies, deeply rooted religions, outstanding forms of art, and outstanding methods of peaceful coexistence. The continent has successfully entered the modern era and is acting quite successfully in the domains of economy, culture, tourism, and many other fields to the extent that sustainable development is foreseen as guaranteed. To us, the Asian nations are unique in that they have succeeded in keeping their idiosyncratic cultural roots while adapting the features of the modern world.

Distinguished audience,

Asian continent as cradle of civilizations and world's most populous continent enjoys exquisite natural, racial, tribal and religious characteristics and important geopolitical and strategic significance. These characteristics along with energy and mineral resources are conducive to enable Asia to influence developments at international level further.

Asian countries, by adopting economics-based policy have given priority to their trade and economic growth. Such a policy is gaining further momentum when we notice that this continent, enjoying immense resources for economic growth and development, is able to produce goods and services at a very extensive level and comes out as the biggest supplier of food, agricultural products as well as energy in the world in favor of interests of the world population.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The First ACD Summit held in the last September in Kuwait demonstrated the importance of this inter governmental body as a nonpolitical entity containing immense potential for fostering a remarkable change in international economic, social and cultural exchanges and increasing the weight of Asia in the international arena.

Being undeniably in cultural weight in Asia itself, the Islamic Republic of Iran is cognizant of the significance of cultural cooperation and, is going to do its utmost to help further cultural interaction among Asian countries within the framework of ACD.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been honored to be mandated to be ACD prime mover in cultural issues. In fulfilling this responsibility, we have elaborated and presented a number of project plans and notions such as: establishment of ACD cultural units, Enforcing role of women in promoting Asian culture, establishment of an Asian Center for Cinematic Studies, academic Cooperation in the fields of Anthropology and Culture, Cultural Revitalization of the Silk Road, Creation of an ACD great encyclopedia, holding commemoration ceremonies for Asian prominent cultural figures etc.

We have hosted a conference entitled "Culture and Globalization in Asia" in February 2013, and planned to hold 3rd ACD Senior Officials' and Ministerial Meetings on Cultural Cooperation in Tehran in May 2013, in which we hope to see attendance of Culture Ministers of all ACD Member Countries. I further hope with contribution of all members, the Meeting can finalize outcome of its previous jobs, and seek new areas of cooperation. We believe that cultural cooperation among the ACD member states ought to be lent greater

weight. And, for that matter, our countries should mobilize all the efforts to materialize potentials for cultural cooperation in a collective endeavor.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Based on its founding purposes and principles, ACD should play an effective role in helping the member states to overcome the problems and challenges arising from regional and international developments through collaboration by creating an enabling environment for that purpose and utilizing the resulting synergy.

In revitalizing ACD structure and functioning, it is important to reflect on the new realities including the changes in the structure of the world economic power, but more important is making the ACD deliver in critical areas such as promotion of economic growth, ending regional poverty, tackling environment degradation, combating drugs, enhancing health and dealing with energy challenges. In this regard our insight is to support a comprehensive organizational reform of ACD in order to enhance its status and performance, in a way which ensures further solidarity and convergence in Asia. Furthermore we are happy to note that prime movers of Energy, Disaster Management, Tourism, and Regional Connectivity have come up with new initiatives in materializing ACD cooperation in these fields.

Mr. Chairman,

A majority of Asian developing countries are still confronted by numerous shared and common problems and great challenges such as extreme poverty, global food crisis and continued food insecurity, high level of unemployment, external debt burden, and financial instability and climate change negative effects. Asian countries should work on a vigorous, coordinated and comprehensive global response to, and undertake immediate actions and initiatives to overcome these challenges. We need to shape a comprehensive Asian agenda in consistent with Millennium Development Goals with a focus on poverty eradication and changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, protecting and managing the natural resources based on national strategies on economic and social development, and transfer of advanced energy technologies. In supporting to materialize the above targets Asia wide, we have to consider the issue of a multilateral development fund to finance development projects in Asia. In this regard we welcome participation of Asian Development Bank as a possible partner of the fund, in our gathering today, although we

have strong reservation on ADB membership procedure which deprives Asian countries membership, while several non Asian countries are ADB members and decision makers.

We should strengthen free trade and investment and reject Coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions, against Asian countries, which violates and undermines international law and threatens freedom of trade and investment.

Mr. Chairman

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the great importance, the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches to enhancing our multilateral cooperation entity from non institutional forum to a full-fledged mechanism of cooperation. Experiences of organizations like ECO, SAARC and ASEAN can be looked at in the process of enhancing organizational and substantive status of ACD to become an important means for growth and development of the countries of the region.

I thank you all for your attention.

STATEMENT
by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia HRH Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah al Saud

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate Blessings and Peace be upon the Noblest oj His Prophets and Messengers

Your Excellency Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan,

Your Highnesses and Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace be with you and the Mercy and Blessings of God

I have pleasure in expressing our gratitude and appreciation to the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting this 11th Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue and for the warm reception and generous hospitality that we have received. It is our hope that this Meeting's work will be crowned with success and will help to achieve the purpose for which the ACD was established for the benefit of its Member States.

I also wish to assure this distinguished gathering that we in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are giving our full support and backing to this dialogue, which constitutes an appropriate framework for the promotion of mutual understanding and cooperation for the development of our continent and the consolidation of world peace and security in a manner conducive to the fulfillment of the hopes and aspirations of our peoples.

Our hopes in regard to the establishment of a strong partnership among the Asian States are nourished by our history and cultural heritage and justified by the numerous available opportunities for us to expand the scope of

our joint interests derived from investment and intra-trade since we possess the economic, natural and human resources and vast cultural wealth needed to achieve growth and prosperity.

Your Excellencies,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always highlighted the importance of joint action and closer cooperation at all international levels with a view to ensuring easy access to reliable supplies of energy for sustainable development in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the goal of halving, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's population living in poverty.

With regard to the promotion of technical and technological cooperation in fulfillment of the Rio-120 commitments to mitigate the effects of climate change, we in the Kingdom believe that advanced technology will offer many solutions, but these will require more extensive financial resources, innovation, cooperation and investments. Any strategies will also have to take into consideration the established principles of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and, in particular, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in accordance with which the developed countries would play the lead role in the light of their resources and their historic responsibility in this field.

In this connection, the adoption of unilateral measures by any country or group of countries must be emphatically rejected as a matter of principle. It should also be borne in mind that endeavours to promote alternative sources of energy, such as biofuels, will not produce the desired effect and, moreover, such alternative sources have numerous adverse consequences insofar as they will contribute to a rise in the cost of foodstuffs and agricultural land, thereby increasing poverty.

Your Excellencies,

The Asian peoples share many common characteristics rooted in their respect for others, and for the beliefs of others, and their commitment to peace. Moreover, the historical links between our societies have led to deep mutual understanding and close relations. Consequently, this forum should pursue its efforts to further consolidate these links between our peoples through dialogue, concord and development of a culture of mutual respect for all religious beliefs and their symbols.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is continuing its endeavours to foster the principle of dialogue among civilizations and cultures and to establish mech-

anisms for the furtherance of mutual understanding among peoples and the promotion of cooperation and peace based on mutual respect for the religions and cultures of human societies. To this end, in 2008, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz A1 Saud, launched his inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue initiative which recently resulted in the establishment, in the Austrian capital Vienna, of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz World Centre for Inter-Faith and Inter-Cultural Dialogue. It is our hope that, by the Grace of God, this Centre will help to promote a worldwide culture of dialogue.

In order to nurture a spirit of tolerance and mutual understanding among all peoples of the world, we must do our utmost to ensure that the international community adopts a decisive resolution to oppose abusive practices seeking to propagate concepts and views that are defamatory to religions and their sacrosanct symbols and incompatible with mankind's shared human values.

In conclusion, I once again thank the Government and people of the Republic of Tajikistan for their generous hospitality, warm reception and commendable organization of our Meeting which we hope will succeed in fulfilling our common aspirations for effective joint Asian action. We pray Almighty God to guide our steps in the best interests of our peoples.

Peace be with you and the Mercy and Blessings of God.

STATEMENT
by the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash

In the name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate.

Distinguished Ministers,

Dear participants,

With a great satisfaction, I would like, at the beginning, to express sincere appreciation of my delegation to the friendly Tajikistan for the warm welcome and hospitality, good organization of the event that, we hope will be a weighty contribution to the implementation of joint cooperation in the framework of Asia Cooperation Dialogue.

I also would like to express sincere appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand, ACD coordinator and brotherly State of Kuwait for their fruitful efforts to promote activities of the Forum, and at the same time, we highly appreciate the historical initiative of the State of Kuwait for hosting the first ACD Summit and also to host ACD Provisional Secretariat, which will provide more energy for implementation of hope and aspirations of ACD Member States in proper use of resources and opportunities of the countries in the direction of development and well-being of their people. At the same time, I would like to mention the efforts to develop mechanisms of Forum's activities, aimed at ensuring accelerated implementation of programmes and joint working Plans and focusing them to the required direction.

Today the ACD membership have run thirty two countries and it is the evidence of its importance and for achieving its goals through expanding co-

operation circles between Asia countries, it imposes a high responsibility to us. Holding the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting reaffirms the commitments of ACD Member States in expansion and implementing joint cooperation frameworks and further continuation of activities, ensure the efforts and cooperation by creating invariable strategy to strengthen cooperation in twenty fields of confident of ACD member countries and efforts for development and become an active Forum in the international arena in implementing mutually beneficial interests and desirable development, establishment of relation network between member states, unity in selecting right policy during settlement of International issues.

The issue of international security, which is based on respect for the UN Charter principles and International Law, is a priority for United Arab Emirates and undoubtedly and namely this calls for respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs of each other, prevention of violence and use of force or threat of using force and peaceful settlement of existing hardships.

In fact, the strategic, invariable policy chosen by the United Arab Emirates is not only limited to the issues of bilateral cooperation, but encompass directions for use and settlement of all hardships related to them and my country make efforts in laying cornerstone of peace and stability and easing of tension and building confidence for maintenance of peace and stability at the regional and international levels.

On the other side, UAE pays a special attention to the issue of renewable energy to ensure permanent and ecologically clean energy resources. The first example of the abovementioned is a launch of the solar electric power Plant earlier in Abu Dhabi, which is the greatest solar electric power Plant in the World with special solar electric power technology and it is the only one in the Middle East. It is expected that this first project will generate 100 MW, that will provide electricity for 20 000 households. After the full commissioning of solar electric power Plant the United Arab Emirates will hold 10% of World's solar electric power. This leading project of solar electric power should strengthen energy security and promote sustainable development and ensure prevention of pollution, which comply with the strategic goals of the Forum.

In this context, and with the launch of revitalization of Forums role in joint activities in the framework of renewable energy cooperation, it is my honor to declare the initiative of UAE on hosting the Meeting of Special Working group of highly qualified specialists on renewable energy to promote cooperation in the field of renewable energy. We hope that there will be established active mechanisms of mitigating obstacles and simplification

and speed up trade and economy exchanges and seeking real investment opportunities in the Asia markets in the framework of the Forum. At present we wish to boost the efforts to contribute to implementing development and rapprochement goals of UN that contain eight internationally recognized goals and aimed at poverty eradication all over the World by the end of 2015 as well as implementation of decisions related to environmental sustainable development issues and poverty eradication, which were adopted at RIO+20 Conference in June 2012 in Brazil.

In conclusion I would like once again to express my thanks to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for the generous act of organizing 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting and hope that it will produce desired outcome.

Thank you.

STATEMENT
by the Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India
Shri E. Ahamed

His Excellency Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan,

Honorable Ministers of ACD Member States,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to join you, once again for 11th Asia Cooperation Dialogue Ministerial Meeting in the historical city of Dushanbe.

On behalf of Indian delegation, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Republic of Tajikistan for the warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation and for the excellent arrangements for the 11th ACD Ministerial meeting.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

India attaches importance to its engagement with ACD, which is a unique continent-wide forum in Asia. It brings together a diversity of riches in populations and economies, including the fastest growing economies of Asia, the sources of richest natural and human resources. The ACD approach to explore complementarities in the strengths of its members, its efforts to seek common opportunities for development and maintenance of peace and stability, and its reliance on consensus have given us a strong foundation for future collabora-

tion. Securing prosperity, growth and stability through sustainable development is the need of hour for our people.

The year 2012, has been a significant year for sustainable development with successful conclusion of Rio+20 Conference, Conference of Parties of Convention on Biodiversity in Hyderabad, India and COP on Climate Change in Doha.

As we move forward on negotiation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and post-2015 development framework with completion of Millenium Development Goals (MDG) in 2015, we need to put people in the centre and place emphasis on sustainable development. Consequently, there is a need to ensure that the framework that is evolved does not constrict development, and that it preserves national policy space and priorities. The development agenda should emphasize growth and focus on eradication of poverty, employment generation and social inclusion.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Growth and development are vital to fight poverty, and bring prosperity to our people. India needs to grow at around 8-10% to meet our development needs. Steep rise in fuel and food prices and even natural disasters can derail the development path. The fragile nature of global economic recovery coupled with political instability in certain parts of the world have further complicated the scenario.

ACD can be important forum for energy cooperation. Member countries of the ACD comprise some of the world's most important energy producers and energy consumers, besides we also have some of the fastest growing economies of the world. The Asia Cooperation Dialogue can be a useful forum to develop cooperative mechanisms which can address these pressing issues. In this regard, we are looking forward to convening of 3rd ACD Energy Forum.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

ACD Member states have rich civilisational heritage and distinctive cultures. Communication through cultural cooperation is important for future of our youth for bridging our countries. As a co-prime-mover in

cultural cooperation, I am happy to inform that the 2nd SOM on cultural cooperation held in New Delhi in April 2012 was well attended and members exchanged views on further strengthening cooperation. We are also looking forward to the first Ministerial Meeting on Cultural Cooperation in Tehran in May 2013.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have completed 10 years of cooperation with a historic summit in Kuwait last year, we need to strengthen our cooperation. ACD started with informal and non binding dialogue as its method with multi sectoral cooperation on voluntary participation with equality and consensus. As we move towards establishment of tentative mechanism on Provisional Secretariat, we should not loose the sight of the significance of informality and loose cooperation for success of ACD as these are added values in themselves.

We suggest that ACD focus on a fewer range of core issues such as energy, transport linkages, culture, agriculture, poverty alleviation, education, health, science and technology and financial cooperation.

On behalf of my country, I would like to extend all support to the objectives and projects of the ACD to further our common pursuit of prosperity, growth and stability in world in general and in Asia in particular.

Before I conclude, please allow me to extend my sincere thanks to the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting and to welcome the Kingdom of Bahrain as the next ACD Chair.

Thank you.

АРҲОИ УЗВИ МУКОЛАМАИ ҲАМКО

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REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
HONOURABLE GUEST

ON DIALOGUE

Statement by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon at the opening ceremony of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Erlan Idrissov

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon with the Foreign Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Erlan Abdyldaev

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon with the Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Minoru Kiuchi

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon with the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Abdelaziz bin Abdullah Al-Saud

President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran Ali Akbar Salehi

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon with the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar Khaled bin Mohammed Al-Atiya

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Zalmai Rassoul

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon with the Deputy Foreign Minister of Indonesia Yuri Octavian Thamrin

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain Ghanim Fadhil Al Buainain

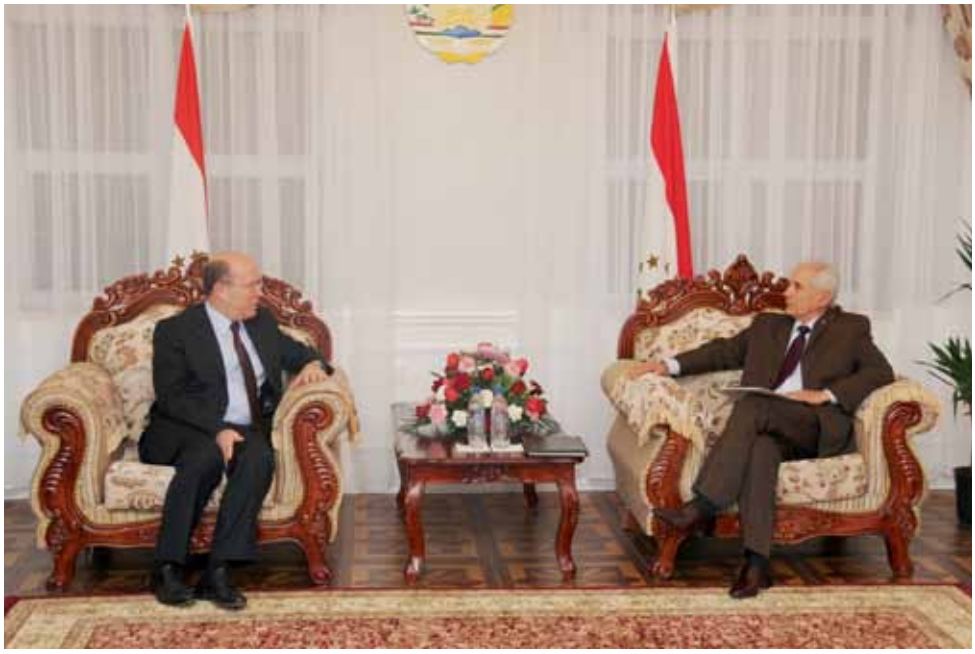
The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples` Republic of Bangladesh Navaz Dipu Moni

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates Anwar Mohammed Gargash

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey Naci Koru

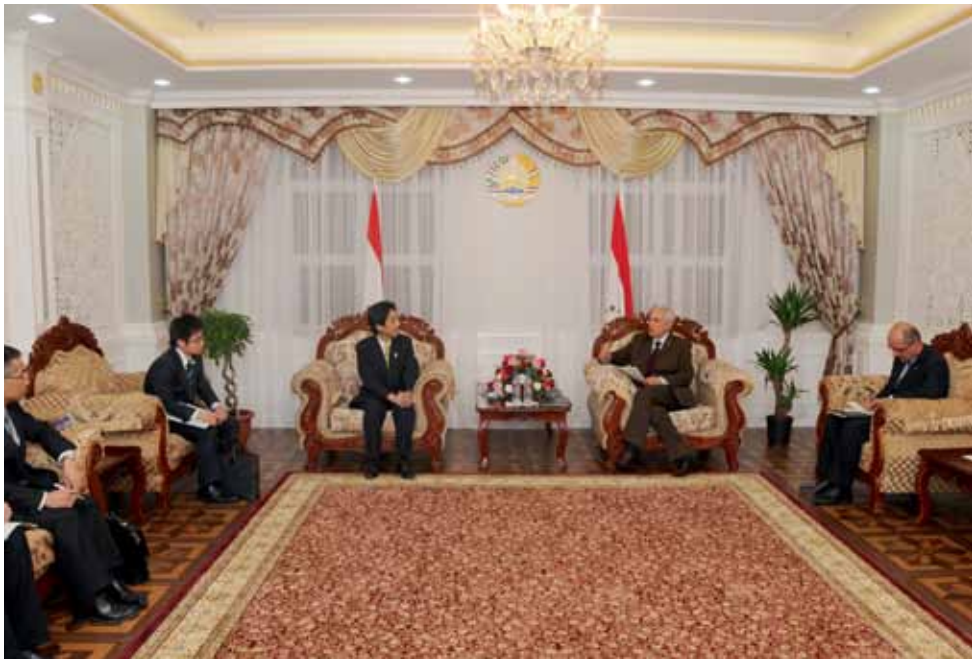
The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Erlan Abdyldaev

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Erlan Idrissov



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi with the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey Naci Koru

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples` Republic of Bangladesh Dipu Moni



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi with the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Minoru Kiuchi

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi with the Special Representative of the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Singapore Zainal Abidin Rashid

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi with the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ali Akbar Salehi

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi with the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Zalmai Rassoul

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates Anwar Mohammed Gargash

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi with the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi with the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Jullapong Nonsrichai

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi with the Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India Shri E. Ahamed

STATEMENT
by the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Minoru Kiuchi

Your Excellency Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan,

Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for its efforts to host the 11th ACD Foreign Ministers' Meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to us during our stay.

Asia is the most promising growth center in the world. If it continues to follow its recent trajectory, its share of global GDP is expected to nearly double to 52 percent by 2050. However, continued growth of this order is by no means preordained. The region must overcome various challenges in both the short and long terms.

Fortunately, in Asia multilayered networks for regional cooperation to tackle such challenges have been developed. Among these, the ACD is highly significant and, indeed, unique in that its member countries are located across the whole continent of Asia and display a high degree of cultural and religious diversity. Promoting cooperation and dialogue under the ACD and making the most of its unique qualities will contribute to deepening mutual understanding among the member countries and thus to building a basis for the sustainable development of the region as a whole.

Mr. Chair,

Today, among the challenges we are facing, I would like to focus on and specifically raise the issues of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), disaster risk reduction, the environment and the promotion of exchange.

To sustain our current growth, Asia must fully address the issue of poverty and deal with inequality within countries, which could undermine social cohesion and stability. In this regard, the acceleration of the efforts to achieve the MDGs and discussions on the post-2015 development agenda (Post-MDGs) are matters of profound significance for us.

The post-2015 development framework should build on the lessons learned from the current MDGs, having regard for the changes in the international community in recent years. While taking advantage of the strengths of the current MDGs, which are clear, easy to understand and measurable, it is important to address emerging and re-emerging challenges including growth and employment, equity, and sustainability issues such as disaster risk reduction, resilience and energy security. The new framework should also aim at poverty eradication with quality growth.

To this end, I believe that human security, which focuses on individuals and emphasizes their protection and empowerment, should be a guiding principle for the new development agenda.

In addition to accelerating the efforts to achieve the MDGs, Japan would like to cooperate with ACD member countries in the discussion towards formulating the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. Chair,

Two years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake. Japan was extremely moved and encouraged by the tremendous amount of generous assistance it received from all over the world, including ACD member countries. Let me take this opportunity to express once again our heartfelt gratitude for that kindness.

Now it is our turn to be proactive. By utilizing the 3 billion US dollars pledged at the Rio+20 conference, Japan will continue to assist the strengthening of the comprehensive disaster risk reduction capability of developing countries by effectively combining structural and non-structural measures based on human security.

The international community has been making steady efforts in the area of disaster risk reduction since the establishment of the "Hyogo Framework for Action" in 2005. That arrangement will come to the end of its term in 2015 and new guidelines will be discussed at the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015. Japan will host this conference and play a leading role in establishing a truly effective post-Hyogo Framework for Action.

In recent years, the frequency of natural disasters and the level of damage caused by them have been increasing due to climate change and unplanned

urbanization. The international community should invest more in disaster risk reduction and mainstream it in development efforts, as the poor and the vulnerable tend to bear the brunt of natural disasters. In this regard, Japan will cooperate with ACD member countries to incorporate the disaster risk reduction element in the post-2015 development agenda so as to draw the attention of the international community to this issue and to mobilize the necessary resources.

Mr. Chair,

Global environmental problems also pose a major challenge for sustainable development in Asia. At Rio+20, Japan announced its "Green Future Initiative" consisting of three pillars, namely the development of environmentally-friendly future-oriented cities around the world, contribution to the global transition to a green economy, and building a resilient society. For the purpose of supporting the global transition to a green economy, Japan organized the new "Green Future Action Corps" and has already sent experts to 50 countries, including ACD members, while promoting cooperation by utilizing its knowledge and technology.

In the past, Japan suffered serious pollution due to lack of consideration for the environment. Based on the experience of the Minamata disease, Japan has actively contributed to the negotiations for the Minamata Convention on Mercury with a view to strengthening measures against mercury contamination. Following the conclusion of the negotiations in January this year, Japan will host the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Kumamoto in October. Japan wishes to continue cooperating with ACD member countries in this field and sincerely hopes that they will attend the conference.

Mr. Chair,

In order to turn the cultural and religious richness and diversity of Asia into a source of energy, we must enhance mutual understanding by promoting exchange in various fields.

In particular, it is crucially important to promote exchange among the younger generation, who will lead our countries in the future, Japan has invited more than 45,000 young people, mainly from East Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia, under the umbrella of the project known as the "Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youth (JENESYS)" since 2007. In addition, in January this year Prime Minister Shinzo ABE announced the

re-launch of this program as JENESYS 2.0. Under JENESYS 2.0, Japan has begun the process of inviting 30,000 young people from Asian countries.

Japan has developed multilayered partnerships with Asian countries. This year marks the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. Japan and Central Asian countries, including Tajikistan, celebrated the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations last year, and since then we have steadily strengthened our partnerships, in particular under the framework of the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue.

To promote exchange and dialogue among and beyond such sub-regional frameworks would contribute to strengthening cooperation in this region as a whole. For example, this month Japan organized a symposium on "The role of regional cooperation in trade and investment promotion in Central Asia - lessons learned from ASEAN experiences" under the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue. At the symposium, participants enjoyed an active and useful exchange of views on the challenges for regional cooperation in Central Asia, while taking into consideration the lessons learned from ASEAN's experience of integration within its own region and Japan's contribution to it.

In closing, allow me to express my sincere appreciation of the initiative exercised by Kuwait and the role played by Thailand as Coordinator to strengthen the ACD. Japan hopes that the provisional secretariat due to be established in Kuwait will contribute to the further development of the ACD.

Thank you very much.

STATEMENT
by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Yuri Octavian Thamrin

Your Excellency Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan and
Chairman of the ACD Ministerial Meeting,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Indonesia is grateful to Tajikistan and in particular to you, Mr. Chairman, for convening this important meeting.

We would like to express our profound appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan, for gracing our meeting with his presence and for his thoughtful inaugural speech.

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Tajikistan on its accession to the World Trade Organization earlier this month. We believe that Tajikistan's accession will provide great benefit to the Tajik economy and at the same time will help to strengthen the multilateral trading system.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the first ACD meeting since the historic First ACD Summit last October in Kuwait, which imparted tremendous political momentum to the Dialogue.

This meeting is an excellent opportunity to discuss sustainable development as a follow up to the Rio+20 Summit, as the theme of this meeting.

The situation in Asia today abounds with challenges and opportunities. The challenges have become even more complex because of the interlinkages of global, regional and national issues. And the interlinkages of politico-security, economic, environmental, and social issues.

Throughout the regions of Asia, a multitude of regional and sub-regional organizations have flourished. In East Asia, they include ASEAN, ASEAN Plus processes, the ASEAN Plus Three with China, Japan and Korea, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the East Asia Summit, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation. All of them were developed to strengthen cooperation among countries to address challenges.

The ACD has a unique place in this multitude of regional institutions and fora.

As the only Asia-wide forum where Asian Leaders and Ministers convene to exchange views and promote cooperation, the ACD has the vantage point to help propel Asia forward.

The ACD can help promote greater Asian connectivity. It will stimulate growth and promote inclusive economic development. It will make the region more competitive, prosperous and integrated, with greater resilience against global economic crises.

Connectivity will help bridge a region as diverse as Asia, with its archipelagic and inland water sub-regions, as well as continental sub-regions and landlocked countries. Some sub-regions have world-class connectivity, while others are isolated economically and geographically. Centers of growth in Asia must therefore be linked through infrastructure development. Producers must be linked to markets and consumers to products. Supply must meet demand quicker, easier and at lower prices.

Asia's infrastructure development will boost employment and economic growth. It will also spur demand for capital equipment and technology, including those from advanced economies, while fostering growth in the developing and emerging world.

The Asian Development Bank has been doing many important work on Asia's infrastructure development and connectivity. We welcome the ADB's participation in the ACD.

As to energy connectivity, we encourage more to be done. Most Asian countries rely on imports to fill their energy requirement, which is close to 40 per cent of world energy demand. But much of the most important sources of energy are also located in Asia.

We need to connect the many centers of excellence in education and innovation all over Asia. That is how we will ensure that Asia's growth is sustainable. That is how we will develop innovations in production and ways

of consumption that are environment-friendly. Asia will thus be an energy-efficient continent.

Mr. Chairman,

Since coordination is important to the work of the ACD, let me thank Thailand for doing a good job as ACD Coordinator and for its support of the Dialogue since it began in 2002.

At the same time, Indonesia welcomes the idea of establishing a formal ACD coordinating mechanism. A mechanism that should be built gradually that will enhance the impact of our work. Our senior officials should therefore continue reviewing the plans for such a mechanism.

And as we coordinate our own work, let us reach out to establish complementarity and create synergy with the regional and sub-regional organizations of Asia.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

STATEMENT
by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
Sayakane Sisouvong

Excellency Chairman,

Excellencies,

Heads of Delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to my delegation and for the excellent arrangements made for the 11th ACD Foreign Ministers' Meeting being held in this beautiful city of Dushanbe.

I would also like to commend both Governments of Kuwait for its efficient and effective chairmanship during the past year and of Thailand, as the ACD Coordinator, for its hard work to enhance ACD cooperation.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Lao PDR highly values the role played by the ACD to strengthen cooperation among Asian countries, and the progress made in both quality and quantity in the 20 programme areas of ACD cooperation during the past decade. I wish to congratulate Prime Movers and Co-Prime Movers for

their diligent works and contributions to foster cooperation in their respective sectors.

The ACD Foreign Ministers' Meeting provides a good opportunity to discuss ways and means to further enhance collaboration and address common challenges, the region is now facing. The First ACD Summit held last year in Kuwait also provided guidance for future ACD cooperation.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the achievements attained during the past years, more still needs to be done to enhance cooperation in all programme areas of ACD cooperation.

ACD connectivity is an important area to contribute to socio-economic development and promote regional integration. Therefore, there is an urgent call to expedite connectivity among our countries to promote closer interactions, better understanding and facilitation of trade, investment and tourism. The Lao PDR welcomes the proposal by Thailand to host a Working Group Meeting on Enhanced ACD Regional Connectivity in June 2013.

Food and energy security are also vital to ensure the sustained socio-economic development. As population grows day by day, there is an urgent need for food security. If not properly addressed, it could constitute a serious threat to human security. We are all aware that the continued increase of both food and energy prices have brought about an adverse impact to sustained economic growth and livelihood of peoples in many parts of the world, including Asia. Therefore, concerted efforts from the part of ACD member states should be in place to respond to these challenges. Furthermore, Asian countries should promote global and regional energy security through energy efficiency, development of renewable energy and transfer of clean energy technologies. In this respect, barter trade, where appropriate, could also be another option to ensure food and energy security in our region.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Being a landlocked country, endowed with abundant natural resources including rivers and streams, the Lao PDR has carefully formulated and adopted

policies to make full use of its potentials and strengths, namely agriculture, renewable energy and tourism. The agricultural production, including rice, and environment-friendly hydropower stations to generate electricity are not only being developed to meet domestic consumption but also for export to neighboring countries and to help Lao PDR to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Given the importance to energy cooperation and its desire to make further contribution to fulfill ACD objectives, the Lao PDR is pleased to be one of the Co-Prime Movers on energy cooperation and is willing to actively participate in this cooperation area.

The Lao PDR reaffirms it commitment to support the enhancement of cooperative relations among ACD member states and to take part in the ACD activities in order to bring about more benefits to our people through concrete and tangible results.

I wish the 11 ACD Foreign Ministers' Meeting a brilliant success and I highly appreciate Tajikistan's contribution to ACD cooperation.

Thank you for your kind attention.

STATEMENT
by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Zin Yaw

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express our congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan for assuming over the ACD Chairmanship and for hosting the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting. And I would also like to express our profound appreciations to you and to the government of Tajikistan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to us since my delegation arrived at this beautiful city of Dushanbe.

I would also like to express our appreciations to the State of Kuwait for successfully presiding over the ACD Chairmanship as well as for hosting the first ever Summit of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue in Kuwait City from 15 to 17 October 2012. We are thankful to His Highness' contribution of USD300 million to help fund to development projects in non-Arab LDC Asian countries.

Excellencies,

The Asia Cooperation Dialogue has already come a long way since its inauguration in 2002. We have established ACD to manage the impacts of globalization and to survive and to prosper as strong partners in the region. Asia is the world's largest and most diverse continent, covering about

30 percent of the land area on Earth. Asia is also a home to over 3 billion people, over half of the world's population. The population size that Asia has also made Asia, the largest market in the world. Therefore, we must be able to create wealth for our nations through the economic, trade and investment cooperation.

The ACD main objective is to strengthen Asia for both Asia itself and the world at large so that each and every individual Asian country will become market-oriented in the intra-Asian and global trade. In this context, we welcome the regional connectivity initiative. And we are pleased to note the progress of the twenty identified areas of cooperation. We wish to thank the host countries for undertaking various events related to the ACD projects. At the same time, my delegation would like to encourage ACD member countries to encourage their private sectors to match businesses that are market-oriented to promote economic, trade and investment.

Myanmar is the largest main country in Southeast Asia and the country is rich in natural resources. Natural resources such as oil, natural gas, forestry, fisheries and precious stones are abundant and are largely still untapped. Politically, we have achieved success in our reform efforts to turn the country into a democratic nation. This is only a small step compared to a long and important journey ahead. But we need to make Myanmar become a developed nation like others.

Myanmar is a country that is strategically located between India and China, the two largest world economies in the Asia region. But like several Asian countries, Myanmar is not only rich in natural resources but also has high human potential. We would like to see development takes place in Myanmar and accordingly we are developing "Special Economic Zones" with the hope of building a better country in Asia.

The turning point enabling us to do this was the success we have achieved in our political reform efforts. This change has enabled us to better engage with the international community to promote economic and trade cooperation and to attract foreign investments. Myanmar recently enacted a new "Foreign Investment Law", a new law to create opportunities and an investment environment for the investors from Asia and the world at large.

If ACD is to succeed, we need to realize its full potentials. We are happy to note that ACD has progressed, including its membership, since its inauguration in 2002. We are now represented by thirty two member states that are diverse in culture, traditions and religion. But the diversity is the beauty that we all enjoy. And the beauty of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue is to

bring this diversity together so that Asia becomes a better place to live, travel and do business.

So, let us strengthen our efforts together to journey across the future for prosperity.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

To conclude, I would like to once again express our profound thanks to the government of Tajikistan for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us and for organizing this important meeting. I am confident that under your wise leadership, ACD will continue to be strengthened and prospered.

My delegation and I also welcome the gracious offer made by the State of Kuwait to host the ACD Provisional Secretariat. It will best assist ACD cooperation on various matters.

I would also like to thank Kingdom of Thailand for its continuous commitment and efforts as the ACD Coordinator.

Thank you.

STATEMENT
by the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines Laura Q. Del Rosario

I would like to express our appreciation to the Foreign Minister of Tajikistan, H.E. Hamrokhon Zarifi, for the warm hospitality extended to myself and to the members of the Philippine delegation and extend our sincere congratulations for the successful hosting of the 11th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Senior Officials' and Ministerial Meetings.

On this occasion, the Philippines reaffirms the value of the ACD as an effective platform for dialogue on cross-border issues. We further regard the ACD as an important partnership founded on common goals and mutual trust.

As we reiterate the call for closer cooperation among ACD member countries amid shared issues and common ambitions, the Philippines renews its commitment to energy cooperation as one of the co-prime movers in this area. We also wish to continue our unified stance on key issues such as achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth in the region.

While the Philippines recent strong economic performance allows us to have a positive economic outlook in the near-term, we maintain the need for ACD member countries to remain vigilant of continuing global risks to economic growth. Policy and regulatory reforms on all fronts must be proactively undertaken to achieve sustainable development and inclusive growth.

To this end, the Philippines continues to advocate principles that ensure sustainable development. We recognize that a healthy economy, good governance, and harmonious social and ecological conditions are key areas toward the overarching goal of sustainable development.

We likewise reaffirm our commitment to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and its follow-up processes. In line with

this commitment, the Philippines has ensured that sustainable development principles are embodied and integrated in the formulation of national, regional, and local development policies, plans, and programs.

The Philippines fully supports the Dushanbe Declaration, which underscores the urgency of achieving sustainable development among ACD member countries, and we are glad to note strongly complements the Philippine thrust for inclusive growth as spelled out in the Philippine Development Plan for 2011-2016.

At the same time, the Dushanbe Declaration is also supportive of the efforts of countries to attain the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 as it seeks to address extreme poverty and hunger, maternal and child health, disease control, environmental sustainability, and global partnership for development.

In view of its role as a Co-Prime Mover in Energy Cooperation, the Philippines welcomes the developments in relation to the ACD Energy Plan of Action, appreciates the valuable inputs of its Co-Prime Movers and hopes that all member countries can work toward its early adoption as it agreed in the Dushanbe Declaration.

The Philippines welcomes the offer of the State of Kuwait to host the ACD Provisional Secretariat and views this as an important step towards maintaining the relevance of the ACD as an important for the regional cooperation. We also support further steps that may be necessary to determine how the ACD format and arrangements can be improved in the future.

Finally, the Philippines extends its appreciation to the governments of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Thailand for their generous offer to host the 12th, 13th and 14th ACD Ministerial Meetings, respectively. We certainly look forward to engaging of other member countries to ensure that these meetings will just be successful as the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting that we are having today in Dushanbe.

Thank you very much and good day.

STATEMENT
by the Deputy Minister of External Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Hon. Neomal Perera

Your Excellency Hamrokhon Zarifi,
Foreign Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, permit me to thank you, Mr. Chairman and your Government for the excellent arrangements made for holding of this important meeting. My delegation and I have been heartened by the gracious words of welcome with which you have greeted us. My delegation and I are most thankful to the Government of Tajikistan for the warm welcome and generous hospitality we have received.

Mr. Chairman,

Sri Lanka considers it important to intensify regional and inter-regional cooperation in Asia, Africa and Oceanic Countries. In this context, ACD is a reflection of wide cooperative framework that has brought together more than half of humanity, closer to 4 billion people, 60 percent of the world's current population.

ACD is now entering its 11th year, with the Foreign Ministers Meeting in Dushanbe today. ACD has taken an initiative to set up a Provisional Secretariat with a promising and unique framework during the First ACD Summit held in Kuwait in October 2012. There is a substantive progress both in the dialogue and project dimensions since its launching it in 2002; ACD membership has grown rapidly from 18 to 32. Sri Lanka believes that the setting up of

a Provisional Secretariat for ACD would mark a new chapter to shape the future directions to meet the expectations of Asia as a new global growth center.

Mr. Chairman,

ACD encompasses virtually the whole of Asia, from the East to the West. In terms of projects, the ACD carries out work in 20 diverse areas that have been volunteered by Member States such as energy and food security, poverty alleviation, agriculture, tourism, science and technology and cultural cooperation etc. Therefore, ACD is well- placed to serve as a link in Asia-wide cooperation. ACD Member States would come together to provide their inputs and to see what they would do for the benefit of their own peoples and regions as a whole.

Mr. Chairman,

Asia possesses enormous potential and the inner strength necessary to build peace and prosperity. Asia is cradle to many of the world's civilizations and major religions such as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Shintoism and Taoism. In antiquity, Asia was a land of great cultural richness. In the present day, Asian culture remains cherished and widely admired world-wide.

In the past, we had the Silk Route that not only physically link Asia together but also help promote understanding, cooperation and tolerance among us. The 21st century is thus the time to reconnect our past and present, to rejoin and find ourselves through this ancient Silk Route by all means necessary, it is interesting to note that the proposal presented by Thailand on regional Connectivity and the enhanced infrastructure facilities to link Asia together is similar to the Ancient the Silk Route.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to stress that in the view of policymakers and economists the world over, the 21st Century belongs to Asia and the main theatre of economic activity is moving from the traditional and conventional centres of growth in the Western world to the Eastern part of the world. It has been estimated that in the next 25 years, Asia will account for 57% of world's GDP. It is prosperous and brimming with opportunities, and more countries are entering the fray. Both regional and extra-regional players are keen to engage. This only serves to highlight the potential we can unleash through effective coopera-

tion through ACD - which is a bridge between two of the most dynamic sub-regions of the Asian continent.

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to note that Asia is the largest recipient of Global Foreign Direct Investment [FDI], According the United Nations Conference on Trade and development [UNCTAD], Asia was at the second highest level in 2012. It has attracted 59% of the world's FDI inflow of USD approximately 4 billion in 2012, which reflects two percent of the Global FDI. Its, contribution to the global GDP is almost closer to thirty percent. Over the next 5 to 7 years medium-term horizon, global FDI will increase about 4 to 5 percentage of GDP. That means, doubling the current level of investment and such inflows will support Asia's growth prospects as well.

Mr. Chairman,

Sri Lanka believes that ACD should include a provision or mechanism to identify Asia's common strengths and opportunities as a strong regional block capable to interact with the rest of the world on a more equal footing on trade and investment. With regard to promotion of investment activity for bilateral and regional economic development, we would suggest for a common template for bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection agreements with provision to ensure sustainable economic development.

Mr. Chairman,

The global food, financial and energy crises has created an unfavourable economic environment with particular ramifications for the rural poor. The core emphasis of our work within ACD is focused on economic cooperation to reap the benefits of natural regional linkages and improving our connectivity in order to make the lives of the people at a continental level.

Today Sri Lanka is steadily moving towards economic development with remarkable progress and promise of growth after a three decade old conflict on our soil that ravaged the country. The domestic economic stability including sound macroeconomic policies have provided sustainable socio economic framework for Sri Lanka to look ahead with promising development. The "Mahinda Chintana" the policy document of the Government, clearly spelt out our vision and the programme of action, aimed at achieving self-sufficiency and development of the rural and agricultural economy.

Energy is one of the most active areas, especially as the need for ACD Members to cooperate in the area of energy is all the more pressing given today's volatile oil prices and the impact of this on the economic growth and development of many ACD Member States. Sri Lanka has identified the necessity for energy independence and we have formulated our Energy Policy in 2008 with the primary focus to reduce our dependency on imported fossil fuel. We are of the view that as ACD Member States we should collectively move forward for a more meaningful dialogue between the energy producing economies and energy consuming economies with a determination to realize our dream for Grid Connectivity among Member States of the Asian Region.

Mr. Chairman,

Sri Lanka's experience also shows the devastating effect natural disasters can have - notably from the December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. But Sri Lanka learned from that experience and has taken number of significant steps to improve its disaster resilience. In doing this, it has drawn on best international experiences and on homegrown solutions such as expertise on landslide hazard management to minimize disaster impact, including climate change.

May I conclude by saying that if ACD can harness the myriad opportunities, it can play a pivotal role in the Asian Miracle of the 21st century, ushering our people to a better tomorrow.

Thank You.

STATEMENT
by the Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs the People's Republic of China Ambassador Chen Mingming

It gives me great pleasure to attend the 11th Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD). I wish to join my colleagues in expressing appreciation to Tajikistan for its gracious hospitality. I hope that with the committed efforts of both Tajikistan as the host and all other participants, this meeting will yield fruitful progress. I also wish to express my appreciation to Thailand and Kuwait for their efforts in and contribution to promoting ACD cooperation.

Countries in the world today are increasingly interconnected and interdependent. Dialogue and cooperation are high on their policy agenda, and the world faces good opportunities for maintaining peace and accelerating development. On the other hand, the global economy lacks growth momentum, some regions suffer from conflicts and turbulence, growth in international trade has dropped, and climate change and other global challenges remain prominent. All this has made it more important and urgent for countries to enhance coordination and boost cooperation.

Asia as a whole has maintained stability and development. As a matter of fact, it has become the most dynamic region in the world and an important force driving world economic growth, Regional and sub-regional cooperation in Asia is thriving, its integration process has picked up speed, and Asia has gained increasing influence on international and regional issues. At the same time, however, some deep-rooted problems in Asia have become more acute, and Asia faces severe challenges in maintaining regional stability and development, We the Asian countries should view things from a long-term perspective, rise above problems and differences, strengthen unity and cooperation, seek mutual benefit and win-win outcomes, and achieve common development and prosperity.

While maintaining robust economic growth, Asia is confronted with increasingly severe constraints and challenges in the areas of the environment, energy, food and water; and achieving sustainable development has become a top priority for Asian countries. Under such conditions, the theme of this Ministerial Meeting, namely, "Through Sustainable Development to Prosperity, Growth and Stability in Asia", is highly relevant to Asia's development. The discussions of the meeting around this theme are important for boosting sustainable development in Asia and the rest of the world. To promote sustainable development in Asia, the ACD may strengthen cooperation in the following areas:

First, carry out cooperation in connectivity. Infrastructure and institutional connectivity will effectively promote personnel exchange, trade and economic growth. As connectivity remains weak in Asia, we should jointly increase investment and speed up construction so as to achieve connectivity in infrastructure, including roads, railways, telecommunications and energy, and in policy institutions and mechanisms. Our goal is to create a network of connectivity that covers the whole Asia and lays a solid foundation for Asia's sustainable development. China supports the Draft Outline of Concept Paper on ACD Regional Connectivity proposed by Thailand. We hope that all parties will identify connectivity constraints Asia faces in infrastructure, institutions and personnel exchange, draw a master plan and blueprint for Asia's connectivity and make preparations for future ACD cooperation in related areas.

Second, strengthen cooperation in energy and food security. Energy and food security is crucial to the survival and development of mankind and to achieving sustainable development. Among Asian countries, there are many important energy producers and consumers as well as food importers and exporters. This gives ACD unique strengths in promoting energy and food security cooperation. ACD member countries should therefore strengthen information sharing and policy dialogue and coordination and jointly protect stability of energy and food prices. ACD can increase technological exchanges and cooperation and promote research and development of environment-friendly technologies in energy and agriculture. This will boost energy and food production, enhance efficiency of energy and food consumption, and reduce the negative impact of such production on the environment through technological advances. Businesses are an important force driving regional cooperation, ACD should actively discuss ways on how to establish more cooperation platforms to facilitate mutually beneficial business cooperation in the energy and agricultural sectors in different countries and boost ACD cooperation. China supports the early adoption of the ACD Energy Action Plan and hopes to see its early implementation. China supports Pakistan and Tajikistan in hosting the ACD Energy Forum and hopes the forum will produce positive outcomes.

Third, deepen financial cooperation. The Asian financial crisis 15 years ago and the international financial crisis five years ago both show that to realize sustainable development, it is vital to increase financial cooperation and maintain stability in regional and international financial markets. West and Central Asian countries have ample surplus funds, while East Asia and South Asia are in urgent need of significant financing support for infrastructure development. We should work closely with each other to deliver win-win progress, Islamic financing has become a major force in regional and international financial markets. To better leverage its role, the relevant countries may consider using it to meet the market demand of East Asia and South Asia and help build ACD connectivity.

Fourth, expand social and cultural exchanges. There is great diversity among Asian countries in terms of civilization, religion, culture and political system. The foundation for pragmatic cooperation in Asia is not strong enough, but there is great potential for social and cultural exchanges. ACD can conduct more dialogues between different religions and civilizations and carry out different forms of cultural exchanges through various channels, expand tourism and educational cooperation, advocate and promote friendly interactions among the youths, and fully leverage the role of business communities, academic institutions, the press and social groups in advancing cooperation. This will reinforce the intellectual and social foundation for boosting cooperation in Asia.

China values ACD cooperation and has taken an active part in it. We have launched a large number of cooperation projects and made positive contribution to ACD cooperation. Since 2008, China has for five years successfully hosted the Workshop on the Theory and Practice of Development (Poverty Reduction) for Asian Countries, providing an important platform for sharing policies and experience. This year, China will host a workshop on inclusive growth and poverty reduction for Asian countries and a seminar on low-carbon model town. They will provide opportunities for Asian parties to exchange policy measures and experience in poverty reduction and low-carbon development. We welcome ACD member countries to participate in these programs. China will maintain close contacts with all parties on ACD cooperation and work together with you to promote stability, development and prosperity in Asia.

Thank you.

STATEMENT
by the Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia
Eng Roland

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan,

Your Royal Higness,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. May I first of all extend the warm greetings of His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, to the esteemed Government and People of Tajikistan and to all of you present here. Due to a prior engagement, the Deputy Prime Minister deeply regrets that he could not be among us at this 11th ACD Ministerial meeting in the beautiful Capital of Dushanbe. On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to the Government of Tajikistan for generously hosting this meeting.

May I take this opportunity to salute H.E former Prime Minister Thaksin-Shinawatrawho has planted the 1st seed of the ACD a decade ago and we highly value the constructive role of the Kingdom of Thailand as our Coordinator.

2. Cambodia also wishes to renew our sincere gratitude to the State of Kuwait for convening the historical 1st ACD Summit on October 15-17, 2012.

3. Cambodia also wishes to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate the Government of Tajikistan as the 159th WTO member inducted on 2 March 2013, which demonstrates the goodwill of the Government of Tajikistan to embrace the global economy in line with the spirit of the ACD.

Your Excellency Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. The most notable outcome of the 1st ACD summit recently convened in Kuwait was the creation of a milestone document for the ACD: The Kuwait Declaration sets out to define new era for ACD, providing us with a roadmap to further advance ACD's vision in vital areas of common interests related to sustainable development as well as making substantial contributions to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In this regard, Cambodia wishes to pay tribute to the State of Kuwait for initiating the mobilization of US $2 billion dollars, starting with its own contribution of US$300 million dollars, to finance development projects and fight poverty. These initiatives will elevate the ACD's role and influence on global policymaking while enabling each of its members to take a more active and direct role at the regional and national levels

Indeed, we cannot lose sight of the MDGs to which we have been committed tosince the signing of the Millennium Declaration in 2000. The deadline of 2015 is fast approaching, and the ACD has an important role to assist its members to reach the MDGs on time.

Your Excellency Mr. Chairman,
Your Royal Highness,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

<u>MDGs</u>

5. Since the historic United Nations Millennium Declaration in 2000, the MDGs have represented a unifying vision of development with measurable targets and specific indicators for the wellbeing of people. This ambitious program has inspired many of us and deepens our understanding of sustainable development. The lessons learned from the MDGs initiatives are of paramount importance and are inclusive - no country should be left out from achieving the MDGs goals and targets by 2015. Much progress has been made on each of the MDG indicators. According to the UNDP, "the proportion of people living in extreme poverty of $1.25 US per day is now half of what it was in 1990 and the world is within reach of seeing every child enrolled in primary school. Considerable progress has also been made on HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB. "However, the UNDP also noted that despite considerable progress, the Official Development Assistance (ODA) has once again declined, and many developing countries still face major challenges in addressing hunger and undernourishment, poor sanitation and high maternal death rates. Therefore,

Cambodia recognizes the critical importance of the ACD's contribution to these endeavors.

6. Cambodia is proud to be among one of the 1st countries in the Pacific region to join the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) which was launched in 2010 to identify pragmatic solutions to speed up progress on lagging MDGs and to reduce disparities in progress. Through the MAF, Cambodia focused on women's economic empowerment by upgrading technical and vocational education to enable them to take advantage of the new opportunities in the trade and tourism sectors.

7. Cambodia is also proud to be among the top five countries that have made significant progress toward the MDG targets with poverty lowered by 20% in 2012; as well as being among the 15th fastest growing economy in the world, and the 5th developing countries that can achieve the MDGs and ranked 1st in the Asia-Pacific terms of improving social indicators. As we move forward with our Rectangular Strategy's new five year National Strategic Development Plan (2013-1018), we are actively engaging with the private sector to promote sustainable and lasting growth.

Your Excellency Mr. Chairman,
Your Royal Highness,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. The ongoing debt crisis in Europe and the slow economic growth in the US could have spillover effects characterized by sudden capital flow reversals and weaker exports to which we are not immune, itrepresentsa major concernfor developing countries. To this effect, the ACD should encourage preventive measures and further deepen our economic integration to safeguard our region from any other potential risks.

Sustainable development

9. The ACD also has an important role to play in implementing the recommendations articulated in the final document that arose from the R10+20 held last June 2012, on Sustainable Development to respond to the challenges of achieving prosperity in the developing countries and reducing poverty, while providing for a healthy environment.

10. We all know that economic growth in developing countries is closely related to energy use and its cascading effects on climate change. Therefore, it is vital to accelerate the technology transfers, to assist the poorest on adaptation and mitigation and promote investment related to renewable energy. Meanwhile, the ACD members should also encourage world oil- producing countries to ensure that oil prices remain affordable for the most vulnerable

countries, and to provide the developing countries a chance to grow while they make the transition to a more energy efficiency.

11. Despite many external and global adversities, Cambodia's strong economic growth has been based upon the Royal Government Rectangular Strategy particularly on the central role of energy and infrastructure while concurrently promoting a business environment conductive for the private sector to contribute to Cambodia's socio-economic development which has enhanced food security and improved the livelihoods of the people in rual areas/ The city of Phnom Penh in Cambodia, meanwhile, has become a world leader in preventing waste water.

Your Excellency Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Climate Changes

12. The challenge we faced is a matter of survival for humanity. The multiplication of extreme weather events in recent years affecting millions of vulnerable people, coupled with widely accepted projection of sea level rise and changes in weather patterns, also represent a real threat to international peace and stability.

13. It is tragic that international community remains divided and indecisive on a concerted and critical global response that will minimize the changes and impacts on the world's most vulnerable populations. Many of the commitments pledged during Copenhagen-2009 (COP15), Cancun-2010 (COP-16) and Duban-2011 (COP-17) are yet to be delivered in a timely fashion – Losing this war may be mankind's most epic defeat. The world's leader must wake up and respond promptly to this clear, common and present danger.

14. Cambodia, where 80% of the population lives in rural areas and employed small-scale agricultural has pro-actively incorporated Adaption and Mitigation into our National development plans priorities. Among the various efforts, Cambodia who welcomed 3.58 million tourist in 1012, had launched on February 27, 2013 a «One Tourist, One Tree campaign» to promote Green Tourism and create a minimum of 5 hectares garden in 11 provinces. Cambodia hopes that the numbers of new trees will match the average tourism growth of 24% per year visiting the country.

15. Cambodia also adopted on March 1, 2013, "A Strategic plan for Green growth 2013-2030 is to promote Cambodian economy towards the green economy, to balance between economic development and environment, society, culture and sustainable consumption of natural resources in order to enhanced peoples well-being and living conditions.

16. Climate change is one example where ACD countries can take the leadership and encourage developed nations to fulfill their commitments to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and assisting developing nations to tackle climate change in accordance with the principle of "Common but differentiated responsibilities".

Disaster Relief Management

17. More and more severe natural disasters around the world are compelling many countries to prepare themselves now for emergency interventions. Disaster relief management shall be integrated into the new SDGs (Sustainable Developments Goals) to reflect the consensus reached at RIO+20.

18. In This context, we are of the view that natural disaster management and cooperation mechanisms should be further developed and strengthened among ACD members. The creation of an ACD platform to coordinate disaster management and reduction at the regional level and assist ACD countries at the national level will be a welcome start.For its part, ASEAN has established the ASEAN Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA) to respond effectively and decisively during times of urgent need and we stand ready to cooperate with ACD in this particular effort.

Your Excellency Mr. Chairman,
Your Royal Highness,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

How to advance ACD

19. The planet continues to face soaring social inequity and growing environmental problems. In order to steer through today's turbulences, The ACD must continue to strengthen our cooperation in areas of common goals and priorities toward a shared prosperity and stability thus contributing to global peace and security. Cambodia strongly supports Multilateralism in Trade such as the WTO which represents one of the foundation of global prosperity allowing emerging countries to access global markets. We are in the view that more than ever we need to new era of Trade under the Doha rounds of negotiation to improve the lives of vulnerable people in the developing world.

In this spirit, we welcome the SOM meeting last March 3-4 in Kuwait suggesting the creation of a Provisional Secretariat of the ACD until the next ACD Summit in Thailand in 2015.

To conclude my remarks, I wish to reiterate our gratitude to the Government of Tajikistan forhosting the 11th ACD Minister of Foreign Affairs' Meeting and I am confident that together we shall be able to overcome the multifaceted challenges we face.

Thank you.

STATEMENT
by the Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore
Zainul Abidin Rasheed

Your Excellency, Foreign Minister Hamrokhon Zarifi,

Your Excellency, Vice Foreign Minister and ACD Coordinator Jullapong Nonsrichai,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen.

This is my first visit to Tajikistan and I am very impressed with what I have seen. Like what I told Mr Zarifi, this will not be my last, as I look forward to see more of the Tajik history, heritage and its resilience, and learn more about its people and country. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the hard work put in by Tajikistan to make this Meeting possible, and for the warm hospitality accorded to all delegates.

I would also like to take this opportunity to join my colleagues in thanking Thailand for its tireless efforts as the ACD Coordinator for the last 11 years. We are grateful for your efforts in promoting ACD cooperation.

I also want to express our appreciation to Kuwait for its leadership in hosting the 1st ACD Summit last October and its important contribution in advancing ACD cooperation, by kindly and generously offering to host and finance the Provisional ACD Secretariat, and for pledging US$300 million to the ACD Development Fund.

The theme of Tajikistan's Chairmanship, "Towards Economic Growth, Stability and Prosperity in Asia through Sustainable Development", is especially salient for all Asian countries. With economic growth and rapid urbanization, many governments will have to grapple with the challenge of balancing growth needs and environmental considerations.

As a small island nation with limited resources, Singapore is no stranger to the challenge of sustainable development. One of the cornerstones of our sustainable growth efforts has been our strategy of integrated long-term land use planning. This involves the use of innovative initiatives to create green spaces within our urbanized environment. For example, we are encouraging the use of vertical greening and rooftop gardens to absorb heat and lower building temperatures, all in a bid to save energy for cooling while creating an aesthetically-pleasing environment.

We are also actively encouraging energy efficiency. The government provides schemes such as a Grant for Energy Efficient Technologies, which provides funding for companies to offset part of their investment costs for energy efficient equipment. We also have policies in place, such as the Green Mark scheme, to encourage more environmentally friendly buildings. All new buildings are required to meet minimum Green Mark standards.

As a country with no indigenous water resources, Singapore has had long experience in dealing with water related challenges since our independence. We have invested significant resources into research and innovation of water technology, especially in reverse osmosis and desalination technology. Over the years, we have also promoted demand-side management through water conservation campaigns. As mentioned by both HE President Emomali Rahmon and FM Zarifi in their opening remarks, calling for greater cooperation among ACD members in this area, we will be happy to share our experiences with ACD member states. This is an important issue for many ACD member states, and we warmly invite all to attend the Singapore International Water Week, which will be held in conjunction with the World Cities Summit in June next year.

Issues on sustainable development are complex, and no one country has all the solutions to the growing challenges faced by us all. In this regard, continual dialogue and the exchange of ideas through platforms such as the ACD are important so that together we can come up with creative solutions to our common challenges.

We have had a fruitful dialogue today here in Dushanbe, and we look forward to Bahrain's hosting of the 12th ACD Ministerial Meeting in Manama in November 2013.

Thank you.

STATEMENT
by the Minister for Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development of Sultanate of Oman
Salem Ben Nasser Al-Ismaily

Your Excellency Emomali Rahmon,
the President of the Republic of Tajikistan and

Chairman of the 11th ACD Council of Ministers Meeting,

Excellences,

Distinguished delegates,

Colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to extend to you and the people of Tajikistan a belated Nowruz Mubarak!

In harmony with the rebirth of nature, Nowruz, always begins on the last day of despair and the first day of hope. It is the End and the Rebirth; Good and Evil. It is time when we clean and rearrange our souls and spirit and await the world refresh and ready full of energy and positive attitude to meet our challenges and with only one thing in mind; no matter how high the mountain will be, with our desire and determination we will reach the peak, God willing, Amen.

May I take this opportunity to convey personally and on behalf of the Omani delegation, our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, for hosting this important event, and the excellent arrangements that have contributed to the success of the meeting. We truly appreciate the warm hospitality that has been accorded to our delegation since

our arrival, in this beautiful city of Dushanbe and thanks to the organizers for their outstanding contribution in preparing this event.

We can say with confidence, based on our previous experience that, by continuing to work together we can ensure that our initiatives and cooperation in all proposed projects will enable ACD countries to create the necessary synergies to ensure sustainable economic development and prosperity for the people in this important strategic region for many years to come.

The Sultanate of Oman believes that ACD is currently the best available platform connecting the Asian continent. It is important to therefore intensify the connectivity among our countries for the benefit of the region. It is without doubt that dialogue like this will serve as a vehicle to facilitate mutual understanding, foster political interests and strengthen partnership within our region. We in the Sultanate of Oman stand for improving the efficiency of joint programs and making our interaction more focused and target oriented.

Mr. Chairman,

If long-term regional cooperation have to be attained one has to take into consideration all the fibers of life that when weaved together would reflect the fabric of our historical heritage, economic development and political interests. We should therefore exert all of our efforts in strengthening the mechanisms that will promote and protect the inter-regional flow of investment by creating an environment that is conducive to doing business in all member states of ACD. Only when investors have enough conf idence in our governments' programs, will they invest in our countries and create the needed job opportunities for our people.

The ACD countries can learn from one another the challenges they face and solutions needed. We can also draw on other regional and subregional experiences to enhance and consolidate economic, trade and investment cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

A number of initiatives have been presented to the delegates during the last couple of days here in Tajikistan. We believe cooperation in the field of transportation and shipping will enhance multilateral trade between the member states by easing the movement of people, goods and services.

To project any of our achievements we should have in place means and ways of early warning for prevention and management of natural and man-made

disasters. Let us hope that by working together and exchanging experiences on multi-hazard threats and early warning systems in the future our vulnerable communities and those of our neighbors will be much better prepared to deal with such disasters.

It will be difficult to guarantee any future prosperity in our region if we cannot even secure food for our people. It is widely acknowledged that our region has been blessed with abundance of natural resources including human capital. Unless we tap into these resources we will not be able to unleash our potential. Through joint collaboration, particularly in the field of agriculture, we probably could stand a chance in security food for our people. Some member states have been blessed with arable land but lack the monetary resources to develop their agriculture sectors. By putting our resources together such as knowledge and funds we could overcome threats of desertif ication, improve our agricultural yields and add value to many domestically produced agro products.

No country can be competitive if its people are not educated and well trained to meet current challenges of the fast growing emerging economies driven by information technology. In our region there are countries that have it and those that don't. This digital gap can be narrowed if we invest in our people through training programs particularly in vocational and technical areas. The Sultanate of Oman is keen to work together with ACD countries in different human resources development and training programs including investing in scientif research and technology.

There would be no harmony in our region unless we learn not only to tolerate, but also to respect each other's values and culture as our own. We are a part of the global economy, despite of our individual identities, we cannot afford to live in isolation, confined to people who only understand our culture or speak our language. We need to be proactive in our approach and reach out to other cultures, understand their values and speak their languages. Only then might we succeed in this global village.

In a world in which it is easier to meet stranaers, must also become a world in which it is easier to see strangers as no different from ourselves. We should not see in strangers, foreign values as walls of separation, but we should seize them as an opportunity to celebrate our differences. Promotion of the dialogue among civilization can only serve to create harmony among the people in our countries.

Progress sometimes comes with its own list of challenges. With well-developed road networks keeping them safe is an uphill battle.

Currently in the Sultanate of Oman, road accidents are among the leading causes of death and unfortunately among the young and productive population. The Sultanate of Oman welcomes any collaboration within the member states in this field.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we would once again like to thank the Republic of Tajikistan for sparing no efforts in making this meeting a success. We also would like to thank the Kingdom of Thailand for its efforts as the general coordinator for the Asian Dialogue forum. We would also like to thank the State of Kuwait for hosting the first dialogue summit and the new secretariat. Finally we wish the bes1 of luck and success to the Kingdom of Bahrain in its preparation for the next meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

STATEMENT
by the Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Bakhtyor Khakimov

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Dear Colleagues,

At the outset I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Tajik friends for their warm hospitality and excellent organization of our meeting.

Enhancing participation in intergovernmental dialogue associations in Asia is one of priority vectors of the Russian foreign policy. We see as our main objective effective contribution to establishing such a system of relations between Asian countries which would guarantee a long-term security and sustainable development. It is important to put on a wider scale partnerships between dialogue forums, seek synergy in their activities and develop networking interaction.

We regard our participation in Asia Cooperation Dialogue exactly from this point of view. This forum proved itself to be a useful mechanism for strengthening commercial and economic relations, investment, humanitarian and cultural ties between member-states. The ACD is gaining a foothold as a platform for free exchange of views between member-states on a wide range of issues.

The objective of our meeting today is to analyze the outcomes of the ACD Kuwaiti Summit, undertake measures for further development of the forum. We are in favor of making it more practically-oriented, increasing efficiency of joint cooperation projects. It is important to consider a complex of measures which would really contribute to economic growth of member-states, establish sustainable business relations between them.

Realization of these objectives is consistent with the priorities of the Russian Presidency in "G20". The core objective of the Russian Presidency is to

concentrate the efforts of G20 - a forum of the world's largest economies - on developing a set of measures aimed at boosting sustainable, inclusive and balanced growth. Stabilization of the world economy including strengthening of international financial architecture, effective economy regulation, increase of confidence and transparency between member-countries is a motto of the Russian Presidency.

We intend to focus on reforming of international financial architecture, reinforcing of international institutions, reorganizations in the sphere of financial markets regulations. We put in the center of our program elaboration of decisions which could accelerate global economic growth and increase employment. It is the most urgent task nowadays given the continuing slowdown in the world economic growth.

Russia is ready to contribute actively to ensuring development of world and regional economy. We are open for wider cooperation in the interests of strengthening regional and international economic links, improvement of world system of commerce and finance.

Our country emphasizes the need to increase development dynamics, to attach more task-oriented character to dialogue process within the forum. In this context we support the Kuwaiti and Thai initiative to set up a temporary ACD secretariat. We think that the creation of a compact structure which could fulfill technical functions and provide assistance in organization of events would have a positive impact on functioning of the ACD. At the same time the process of creation of a permanent regulatory mechanism requires careful, balanced approach and consideration of the opinions of all member-states. ACD should be maintained within its framework of flexible, politically unengaged dialogue based on the principles of consensus, step-by-step and voluntary approach.

We stand up for a wide discussion in the forum of the issues of energy security which could be ensured through reliable traditional energy supplies, increase in efficiency of their use along with environmental protection, exploration and exploitation of new energy sources. A whole range of initiatives can be considered here including the Russian global energy initiative. We welcome the idea of holding the ACD Third Energy Forum.

In the context of realization of the Thai initiative on ensuring regional connectivity Russia is ready to participate in development of roads and railroads infrastructure, avia and maritime connections as well as diversification of supply chain routes. Utilizing Russian transit potential could be one of the possibilities for cooperation. For example, we can consider improving Asian transport corridors and itineraries through modernization of Trans-Siberian Road, Baikal-Amur Railroad and Russian ports on the Pacific and development of new maritime itineraries in addition to traditional rotes through Malacca Strait and Suez Canal.

Our country provides an active contribution to multilateral interaction in the sphere of disaster management and relief. The main cooperation vectors extend from assistance to the countries which suffered catastrophes up to the creation of early warning systems. The Russian Ministry for Emergencies elaborated the Working Plan for establishing a multilateral international mechanism for overcoming technogenic and natural disasters. One of the elements of this Plan is the development of national emergency centers and merging them into an international network. It is being assumed that in the future the Emergency Center in Moscow will become one of the elements of this network along with similar centers in other capitals including New-Delhi, Beijing and Jakarta. Our proposals are discussed within APEC, Russia-ASEAN dialogue partnership format and ASEAN Regional Forum. We think that they can be utilized also in the ACD especially since the ideas of our Tajik partners to create the ACD Coordination Network among the Early Warning Centers are consonant with our approach.

We support the outcome document of our today's meeting - the Dushanbe Declaration.

Thank you for your attention.

STATEMENT
by the Special Envoy of the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Quoc Dzung

Your Excellency Foreign Minister Hamrokhon Zarifi,
Excellences Ministers,
Distinguished delegates,

It is my honor to attend the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting on behalf of H.E. Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Foreign Minister of Viet Nam. First of all, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Tajikistan for the excellent arrangement of this meeting and for the warm reception and hospitality extended to our delegation. I also thank the Government of Thailand for the valuable contribution as the ACD Coordinator.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellences,

The theme of our meeting today «Through Sustainable Development to prosperity, growth and stability in Asia» is an excellent choice as it reflects the inevitable trend of global development and the overarching goals of all countries regardless of their development level. For the Government of Viet Nam, sustainable development has always been a main driver in our national development strategies. With this approach, we have implemented various sustainable development activities, models, and initiatives and achieved important gains shown in economic, social, and environmental fields. Currently, Viet Nam is developing its green growth strategy aimed at accelerating the process of economic restructuring towards the efficient use of natural resources, improving competiveness of the economy, reducing greenhouse gases emissions, coping with climate change, and contributing to poverty reduction. We have also honored our international commitments on sustainable development by integrating them into development plans and programs at all levels for the execution.

Excellences,

We have learnt through our experiences that efforts at national level could be greatly complemented and supported by international cooperation and coordination. I believe that, with a broad scope of cooperation, diversified membership and a vast pool of national experiences and expertise, ACD is well positioned to support its member countries in pursuing sustainable development and to contribute to the prosperity and stability in Asia. With this in mind, I would like to make the following suggestions on ACD future cooperation:

First, ACD should focus on facilitating and promoting intra-Asia trade and investment. Taking 'building blocks' approach, ACD can help connect existing regional cooperation frameworks such as ASEAN, East Asia Cooperation, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Central Asia Cooperation Organization (CACO).

Second, seamless connectivity should be given priority to provide backbone for economic integration, sustained economic growth and poverty reduction. I would like to commend Thailand for developing the Concept Paper on ACD Regional Connectivity and consider it as a good start for our cooperation in this area.

Third, ACD need to assist its members in addressing development challenges, especially those are related to climate change and the water-food- energy security nexus.

Fourth, ACD should continue to support member countries in developing high quality labor forces through concrete cooperation programs and activities in higher education, vocational training and management skills.

Finally, it is imperative that ACD establishes an efficient working and coordinating mechanism as well as a stable funding flow for its projects. In this regard, I would like to thank the Government of Kuwait for the proposal to set up Asian Development Fund and the generous financial contribution to the Fund. I would also like to express our support for the establishment of a provisional Secretariat, whose running will help inform our decision in the future.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellences,

Our meeting today is an important step in implementing the mandates given to us by our Leaders. I am confident that with such pace of work, we will have much to report to our Leaders in 2015. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Viet Nam's commitment to the Asia Cooperation Dialogue and our willingness to work closely with ACD towards peace and prosperity of the continent.

Thank you for your attention.

STATEMENT
by the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of Tajikistan Amjad Hussain B. Sial

Your Excellency Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi,
the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor for me to represent Pakistan at this august Forum.

My delegation conveys its heartiest facilitations to the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting.

We are grateful for warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to Pakistan delegation.

Pakistan enjoys close, fraternal relations with the Republic of Tajikistan. These relations are moving from strength to strength with every passing day.

The arrangements for the ACD meetings are immaculate and commendable.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan attaches great importance to the Asia Cooperation Dialogue and has actively participated in its activities since 2002. My delegation kept itself fully involved in the Senior Officials meeting yesterday and would contribute constructively to make this conference a great success.

As Prime Mover for the Asian Institute of Standards and Co-Prime Mover for Agriculture and Tourism, Pakistan would continue to play an active role in these areas and other areas of common interest to the member countries.

Asia has emerged as an economic power and it is important that we are able to sustain the momentum of progress we have achieved thus far.

While we can take pride in our achievements, we cannot ignore the challenges that have the potential to derail this progress and impede our march forward.

The economic crises of the 90s and the last decade are still fresh in our memories.

The world is so integrated today that one part cannot remain immune to developments in another. The current example of economic woes of the Euro Zone has already impacted upon economies in many countries.

Our vulnerability to economic fluctuations is a symptom of structural weaknesses. It is important that we wisely utilize our resources to generate economic growth and sustain it as well.

The Asian countries, therefore, need to coordinate closely their policies and strategies in order to offset the impact of the financial and other crises in the future.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Several Asian countries are prone to natural disasters.

Pakistan has suffered a lot during the past successive years, sometimes due to earthquakes and sometimes due to floods, causing heavy human and material losses.

The ACD member countries can devise a common strategy aimed at disaster management.

Poverty alleviation is another gigantic task.

We are required to feed the rising world population. This entails ensuring food security and tackling the rising food prices.

We need sufficient energy resources for our people and to run our factories and businesses. This would not be possible without energy security.

Water is becoming such a scarce commodity. Our water resources need to be prudently used and preserved for the future.

Our development at a fast pace is causing environmental hazards with serious consequences. The environment-related stresses have to be overcome.

We are mandated to fulfill our commitments under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The presence of so many complex and interrelated challenges makes it an uphill task.

In these circumstances, it is vital that Asia rises to the occasion and synergizes its abilities so that united we rise.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Asia is a continent of promise. The opportunities are abundant.

Pakistan's location at the confluence of south, east, central and west Asia as well as the Arabian Sea gives the country a unique advantage.

It can act as a pivot to facilitate connectivity as well as energy and trade corridors.

Infrastructure remains one of the top priorities for the Government of Pakistan. We are already working on infrastructure and connectivity with the neighboring countries.

Despite challenges, Pakistan's commitment to the peace and development in the country and beyond remains unwavering.

Our achievements, however, will go waste if an environment of peace and stability does not exist.

It is crucial that we avoid conflicts and work together to promote peace and stability in the region and beyond. I wish to underscore this message, in particular.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We look forward to a successful outcome of this meeting.

In conclusion, I assure you, Excellency, of our fullest cooperation in making the Ministerial Meeting a great success.

Thank you.

STATEMENT
by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the State of Kuwait (Dasho) Tashi Phuntshog

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me and my delegation to be here in the fabled and beautiful city of Dushanbe. Allow me to express our deep appreciation to the Government of Tajikistan for the warm hospitality being extended to us.

I would also like to join the other delegations in felicitating you, Mr. Chairman, as you assume the Chair of our organization. I am confident that the ACD process will receive renewed impetus and dynamism under your able leadership. May I also express our deep appreciation to the Government of Kuwait, the outgoing Chair, for having guided the work of our organization over the past year in an exemplary manner, and the Government of Thailand for continuing its arduous task of ACD Coordinator.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the theme for the meeting "Through Sustainable Development to Prosperity, Growth and Stability in Asia" Sustainable development is central to the Royal Government's development policies and strategies as it is in line with Bhutan's development philosophy of Goss National Happiness or GNH.

At Rio+20 last year UN member states acknowledged that advancing human development and protecting the planets eco-systems must be approached as two sides of the same coin. The conference outcome document also called for sustainable development goals which are "coherent with and integrated into the UN Development Agenda beyond 2015". The theme, therefore, assumes particular significance with the MDG deadline fast approaching and numerous consultations being undertaken at various levels among the international community in the development of a post-2015 global development agenda.

The imperative now is that the global debate and search for a development vision and strategy post 2015 must be built on the MDGs and guided by a new development paradigm, which promotes human happiness and the well being of all life forms within a sustainable environment.

Towards this collective endeavour, Mr. Chairman, may I assure you of Bhutan's fullest support and engagement.

Mr. Chairman,

The Asia region is playing an increasingly important role in global production, trade, capital formation, and productivity growth. With more than half of the world's population the prospects for our region is perhaps better today than any time in history. Despite a weaker global economic environment our countries are still experiencing sustained GDP growth and resilience in economic indicators. This potential can be harnessed to promote further growth and to remove socio-economic deprivations by developing greater connectivity in the region and by harmonizing mutual strengths.

Connectivity is not new to Asia - until the 13th century, the ancient silk route of Asia was the world's most important cross-border artery for commercial, cultural and technological exchanges between the east and the west.

Connectivity both in terms of physical as well as through communication linkages is vital for regional integration and tangible cooperation. Bhutan wholly supports any initiative towards enhancing regional and global connectivity, and we welcome the Concept Paper on ACD Regional Connectivity prepared by Thailand. We look forward to participating in the working group discussions on the concept paper and the modalities. ACD connectivity may indeed be a herculean project but it would be the necessary step towards building a sustainable ACD community, and a significant milestone for our cooperation.

Likewise, the energy sector is one of the sectors through which the process of integration in ACD can be deepened. There are tremendous opportuni-

ties for cooperation among our countries ranging from capacity building to awareness building, research and development to possible integration of energy production systems. Enhancing energy security and stability is a necessary ingredient for economic and social development. The goal must be to increase regional energy security and advance the transformation of the region's energy sector towards a more sustainable energy developmental path. The ACD Energy Action Plan, designed to address critical issues like energy security, affordability, energy efficiency, and renewable energy is an important step forward in the development of energy cooperation. We would like to thank the Prime and Co-Prime movers under energy cooperation for their work.

Mr. Chairman,

We also believe that the fruition of any cooperation or initiatives ultimately boils down to the availability of financial resources. In this regard, we welcome the proposal towards the creation of the Asian Development Fund and the readiness of the Government of Kuwait to contribute USD 300 million towards the Fund. We are hopeful that the Fund will be fully realized and operational once the modalities on how to administer and access the fund is finalized.

Creation and growth of such Fund would greatly benefit the less developed countries in their goal of achieving self reliance.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is happy to the note the reinvigoration of the ACD through initiation of various activities by many member countries. As the trend now is more towards making ACD a structured organization, we should start on a careful note so that we do not fall into the same traps that many regional organizations fall into. We need to ensure that our actions go beyond the declaratory phase and tangible results are achieved. Rather we should deliberate and come up with mechanisms to make ACD more result based and action oriented. We should also measure the advantages and disadvantages of our initiatives in light of the financial imperatives.

The absence of an institutional mechanism to follow-up on decisions taken and in coordinating the various programme activities under the agreed areas of cooperation, has also hampered progress of our organization. We, therefore, welcome the decision of the Senior Officials Meeting to set up a Provisional Secretariat and the offer of the Government of Kuwait to host the Provisional Secretariat. It is but an essential arrangement to consolidate the activities and

further strengthen the cooperation of our organization for the benefit of our peoples. We must build upon this momentum and expeditiously begin the work of setting up the Provisional Secretariat to move our common agenda forward.

For Bhutan, we believe that ACD can make a big difference to the peoples of our region if we prioritize our efforts in certain areas namely improving connectivity, people to people contacts, sharing of information, best practices and transfer of technologies; facilitating trade, investments and economic cooperation amongst many more. The vast continent of Asia with diverse resources both natural and intellectual can achieve miracles if we can put together our strengths together for our common goal. The beginning of the Asian century will only accelerate if ACD becomes the vehicle of the change and prosperity that we envision.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, may I reiterate that we must continue to pursue a pragmatic and result oriented agenda towards achieving a meaningful, sustainable and human centered development, that places the well-being, livelihood and welfare of the people at the centre of the ACD initiative, and reaffirming our common future through a diverse and evolving entity.

Thank you and Tashi Delek.

STATEMENT
by the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of Uzbekistan Jeon Dae-wan

Allow me to first express my deepest gratitude to H.E. Minister Zarifi and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for their warm hospitality and all the efforts made for the successful hosting of this meeting.

Furthermore, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand, the coordinating country for the ACD, for its efforts to strengthen cooperation among the ACD member countries. Let me also thank the State of Kuwait for its efforts to further promote discussions on the institutionalization of the ACD as the chair country last year.

Since its inauguration in 2002, the ACD has served as a most comprehensive platform for dialogue in Asia, upholding its core value of 'informality' and non-institutionalization Moreover, cooperative projects in a wide range of areas are under way in the ACD framework as well as the dialogue, providing opportunities to promote substantial cooperation between the member countries.

Korea, as the prime mover for the IT cooperation, is pursuing various ICT cooperation projects and learning programs. Such activities are indeed expected to contribute to reducing the digital divide in Asia, sharing Korea's experience and knowledge in ICT with member countries.

As a result of the cooperation over the past decade, the first ACD Summit was held last year, providing an excellent venue for fruitful discussions on ways to enhance cooperation in various fields and institutionalize the ACD. At the Working Group meeting in Kuwait, held pursuant to the Communique of the Summit, it was agreed that Kuwait shall host a provisional secretariat of the ACD until the 2nd Summit in 2015. The ROK believes that the operation of the provisional secretariat will indeed serve to forge closer relations between the ACD countries.

The ROK also welcomes Thailand's efforts to enhance Connectivity between the member countries. The ROK believes that the Concept Paper on ACD Regional Connectivity, prepared by Thailand, will usher in further development of Asia, and we will participate actively in the related discussions.

With the hope that the meeting today will represent an excellent occasion for the exchange of constructive opinions for prosperity, growth and stability of Asia, I would like to offer some reflections on a number of issues that require our collective efforts for the sustainable development in this region.

First, I would like to reflect on the green economy. The international community has been trying hard to find ways to accomplish the goal of "sustainable development" since the UN Conference on Environment and Development was first held in 1992. The most recent progress of such efforts is that the Rio+20 Conference last year recognized green economy as one of the important tools for achieving sustainable development.

In order to join these efforts of the international community towards green growth, the GGGI, Global Green Growth Institute was launched as an international organization last year. The ROK, as a country which led the establishment of the institute and in which its headquarters is located, is willing to provide utmost support necessary for the GGGI to develop into a permanent asset for the international community.

Together with the GGGI, the ROK is expecting the GCF, Green Climate Fund secretariat to play a crucial role in dealing with climate change in Asia, considering that the last COP 18 selected the ROK to host the GCF Secretariat.

Another important tool for realizing the green economy is water cooperation. The ROK, as a host for the 7th World Water Forum in 2015, welcomes all kinds of efforts to strengthen water cooperation at both the regional and global level including the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Bangkok, Thailand in May and the High level meeting in Dushanbe in August this year.

In particular, the ROK is going to host the 7th WWF Kick-off meeting on May 13-15 this year. In this regard, I would like to ask for your attention and cooperation for the meeting.

Secondly, I would like to mention energy security. Stable energy supply is a key to sustained growth. However, energy security today is faced with challenges such as high oil prices, the spread of neo resource nationalism, and heated competition for energy resources among countries. In order to achieve sustained growth in the Asian region, continuous cooperation to save energy, enhance efficiency and to develop renewable energy among ACD member states is required.

In this context, the 22nd World Energy Congress is to be held this October in Daegu, Korea, attended by about 7,000 energy related figures to share ideas

on regional and global energy issues. Let me, if I may, urge the attention and active participation of the relevant high ranking officials and business people from ACD member countries.

In order to ensure sustained growth in Asia, disaster management is also one of the key tasks which calls for close cooperation among ACD member countries. More and more natural disasters have been occurring due to global climate change. It is necessary to build a system for international cooperation to address large-scale disasters and to guarantee prompt and effective humanitarian assistance.

In an effort to join the cooperation among Asian regions to tackle natural disasters, the ROK will co-host with Thailand the Third ARF Disaster Relief Exercise this May in Chaam. I would like to call for the attention and support of ACD member states in this regard.

The annual growth rate of East Asian countries remains high despite the global financial crisis. It is well known that one fourth of the world's natural gas are in Central Asia and that the seven Middle East countries have 40% of the known oil reserves.

The ACD is a consultation mechanism that comprises these member states with huge potential and capacity. If the member states could cooperate with one another within a more effective framework and thereby maximize the Asian capacity, Asia will continue to stably lead the global economy.

Thank you.

STATEMENT
by the Ambassador of Malaysia to the Republic of Uzbekistan (concurrently accredited to Tajikistan) Abd. Aziz Harun

His Excellency Hamrokhon Zarifi,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan,

Your Excellencies Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue Member Countries,

Ambassadors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to convey the greetings of the Foreign Minister of Malaysia who is unable to be here due to pressing domestic considerations. I would like to join speakers before me to extend the appreciation of my delegation to Your Excellency and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for the hospitality made available to us upon our arrival in Dushanbe. I am confident that under your able stewardship, we would be able to achieve the objectives of our meeting today based on the agenda at hand. I wish to reassure Your Excellency of Malaysia's commitment to contribute and share our views to ensure the success of our meeting.

Your Excellency,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. The theme of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting, "Through Sustainable Development to Prosperity, Growth and Stability in Asia" resonates well for our member countries as Asia undergoes a transformation and an unprecedented growth in the many facets of our development. Of major concern today is indeed the impact of our development on the environment. To address

this issue, we have worked at all levels in juggling between economic growth and sustainable development.

3. The Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) is a unique forum for Asian countries to work together. The foundation that it was built upon encourages member countries to work closely together in areas that they find beneficial for themselves without rigid bureaucracy and unnecessary procedures. It is also an amalgamation of member countries with different backgrounds and levels of development with one aim, that is, to improve our socioeconomic development for the betterment of our people, and along the way, to meet the MDGs. These efforts do not come easy. Over the last few decades, we experienced the ups and downs of economic situation in our region. However, we have managed to overcome those challenges thanks to our pragmatic polices.

4. When it comes to striking a balance between economic development and protecting the environment, Malaysia is no exception. We underscore the importance of such measures to enable us to forge ahead as we thread on our self- imposed challenges to be the next developed countries by the year 2020. With less than a decade to go, time is our vicious enemy. To know how well we do, or whether we are on the right track to achieve our target, it is important to align our domestic policies with international goals.

5. One of the yardsticks we used is the Millennium Development Goals. Through various initiatives, Malaysia has achieved, or, is on track to attain the MDGs at the aggregate level by 2015. This has been made possible due to strategic and proper planning, as well as investments in physical infrastructure, primary education and primary healthcare over the last four decades. For example, a Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA) rural development scheme was established to eradicate poverty through planned and coordinated development of land mso-bidi-font-weight: normal;font-size: 10pt;quot;helveticaand socioeconomic activities. It is also aimed at ensuring economic development goes hand in hand with social development, together with other poverty eradication efforts. Our decades of efforts and hard work have been fruitful. Malaysia has successfully reduced poverty from 17 percent in 1990 to 3.8 percent in 2009. In 2012, the percentage has been reduced further to 1.6 percent. By 2015, Malaysia hopes that it will be able to eradicate poverty in its entirety.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

6. This year, we are in the second decade of the ACD. When we met last year in Kuwait, we agreed that it is time to push it further forward by the pro-

posal to establish a secretariat that will oversee the ACD process. Senior officials then met in Kuwait just early this month to work on the details of the establishment of the secretariat and we have agreed for a provisional secretariat as we iron out the details of a more permanent secretariat. We have agreed for the secretariat to commence operations by the end of the year and for the details on the permanent secretariat to be worked out before 2015 when Thailand hosts the 2nd ACD Summit. May I assure all our member countries that Malaysia remains committed to this process and will work together with our colleagues to ensure that our objectives are met, as mandated by our leaders during the First ACD Summit in Kuwait last year.

7. Also, at the end of our meeting today, we will have an important outcome document, the Dushanbe Declaration that exemplifies our positions and views towards ensuring a sustainable development throughout our continent. Malaysia commends the effort by our senior officials to reach an agreed document, taking into account various opinions and views concerning the contents of the Declaration. In this regard, Malaysia wishes to support this document.

8. Before I end my remark, I wish to once again express my gratitude and appreciation to Your Excellency and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for convening this meeting and I look forward to our meeting again in New York.

Thank you.

STATEMENT
by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey
Naci Koru

Your Excellency President Emomali Rahmon,

Former Chairman of the ACD, Prime Minister Al Sabah,

Chairman of the ACD, Minister Zarifi,

Coordinator of the ACD, Vice-Minister Jullapong Nonsrichai,

Distinguished Ministers and Colleagues,

I would like to congratulate our Tajik friends for hosting the 11th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial meeting. I thank them for their hospitality.

I would also like to congratulate them on their successful leadership during their term of office.

ACD is an important organization with a broad membership covering the whole Asian continent.

The main idea behind the organization was to establish a new tool for regional cooperation, which would eventually establish a "bridge" between Asian regional forums, such as the ASEAN, the SAARC and the GCC.

This cooperation contributes to the expansion of Asian trade and increases Asian countries' global economic competitiveness.

It is significant that, since the idea of the ACD was first proposed by our Thai colleagues in February 2002, the membership has extended from 18 countries to 32 within a decade.

Since its establishment, the ACD has also made an important progress on its stated goals.

It has been instrumental in identifying Asia's strengths and challenges and promoting mutual understanding and economic cooperation among the Asian countries.

I am therefore particularly honored to be here today upon the kind invitation extended to us by our Tajik friends as a "Special Guest".

In fact, this Ministerial Session of the ACD marks the first occasion where Turkey is represented at an ACD forum.

We wish to avail of this opportunity and closely follow the development of the ACD and its members' collective activities.

Distinguished Participants,

Our government has set a clear goal in its foreign policy. First and foremost we seek peace, prosperity and security in our neighborhood and beyond.

We are determined to intensify our relations through vigorous multilateralism across all parts of the world.

But our home of course is Eurasia.

We highly value our historic, linguistic and cultural ties with a wide range of countries along the ancient Silk Road.

The countries in the region have traditionally seen Turkey as a natural gateway between Asia and Europe.

And the center of gravity between those regions is shifting. Indeed, the rise of Asia is one of the defining characteristics of the 21st century.

The "Asian Renaissance" has led to incredible economic growth, lifting millions out of poverty.

But it cannot stop now.

We now need to set up the institutional structure to realizing the full potential of our collective capabilities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Asian countries can remain safe and secure only if they effectively and genuinely cooperate among themselves and with the international community.

Globalization brings interdependence, but at the same time makes us more aware of varying interest.

Thus, in a world defined by globalization, the need for a dialogue is greater than ever.

Therefore, we should coordinate and combine our efforts for an effective and result-oriented engagement among the countries of the continent.

We already observe that economic integration efforts are gaining pace in parallel with the evolving political and security environment in Asia.

Accordingly, Turkey is increasing its engagement with the region as a reliable partner.

We strive to further develop our good relations with the Asian countries at the bilateral and institutional levels.

Thus, Turkey regards the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as an effective platform for cooperation.

Our accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation of ASEAN (ASEAN-TAC) in 2010 was a milestone in the process of forging institutional ties with the organization.

Our flourishing cooperation as a Dialogue Partner of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization can be seen as part of our general approach to foster closer ties with Asian regional mechanisms.

Moreover, through our Chairmanship of CICA, we are currently working towards cultivating a culture of confidence-building in Asia to establish an effective mechanism for dialogue.

It is also worth mentioning that Turkey actively participates in the work of other multilateral institutions operating in the Eurasian area, such as ECO, Turkic Council, D-8, BSEC and TRACECA

Dear Participants,

Our Ministry has been working on a new Asia-Pacific Strategy. It is based on political, economic and people-to-people engagement with the regional countries.

The Asia-Pacific constitutes one of the strategic pillars of our multi-dimensional foreign policy.

We intend to enhance and institutionalize our cooperation with the countries in the region.

Our main tools for such cooperation are effective use of mechanisms like joint economic commissions and business councils.

Enhancing its presence in the region, Turkey has opened embassies in Myanmar and Sri Lanka in 2012, to be followed by Cambodia and Brunei in the near future.

During the last decade, high-level bilateral visits with the Asian countries have intensified and the number of scholarships allocated to the countries in the continent has been increased.

Furthermore, Turkey has accelerated its efforts toward cultural exchanges, especially youth exchange programs and dialogue among civilizations.

Our main carrier, Turkish Airlines, has also been increasing its destinations and flight frequencies in the region.

TIKA, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, has enhanced its development projects, especially in the Pacific Island countries and the LDC's.

Distinguished Guests,

As you know, we share common ethnic, cultural, historical and linguistic ties with Central Asian countries.

This affinity has served as a valuable foundation for the development of our relations.

Currently we operate through High Level Strategic Council mechanisms with Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Cooperation Council mechanism with Tajikistan.

Turkey was the first country to recognize their independence and first to open embassies in their capitals.

In the last 21 years, we have closely worked together in assisting them to consolidate their achievements as sovereign and independent states.

Today, our region is turning into a major hub for gas and oil pipelines and trade corridors, stretching in all directions connecting China, Russia, Europe, the Caucasus, the Indian Ocean and the Middle East.

Dear Colleagues,

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to say a few more words with respect to our bilateral relations with Tajikistan as the host of this meeting.

Turkey has strong and deeply rooted historical and cultural ties with Tajikistan. Turkey and Tajikistan, as two brotherly countries enjoy excellent relations. Mevlana Jelaleddin Rumi, who was famous for tolerance and support for dialogue is an important figure in our common cultural heritage, as many of you will recall.

I would like to thank you once again for the invitation and wish you every success in your deliberations.

STATEMENT
by the Country Representative of the Asian Development Bank for the Republic of Tajikistan C.C. Yu

Dear Ministers/Vice Ministers,

Heads of Delegations,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Asian Development Bank, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the opportunity to participate in this important meeting.

As several earlier speakers noted, Asia's rapid economic growth is transforming the region. In 1950, the region accounted for only 15% of global GDP, today that number has increased to 35%. According to a study commissioned by ADB - Asia 2050 - with enabling policies and strong reform measures, Asia is expected to contribute more than 50% of global GDP by 2050.

Asia's rapid growth has contributed to a dramatic decline in poverty. In 1990, more than half of developing Asia's population lived below the extreme poverty line of $1.25/day. That proportion had declined to less than one-quarter by 2008. In 1980, developing Asia's per capita GDP was below $1,000 in purchasing power parity terms; in 2011, it was over $5,000.

Part of Asia's success story is due to growing regional cooperation and integration (RCI), and to growth in intraregional trade and investment.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the region's leading multilateral development institution, ADB is uniquely positioned and has a proven track record on RCI. ADB's long term strategic framework - Strategy 2020 - aims to reduce poverty in the region by pursuing RCI as one of the three complementary agendas. In collaboration with member countries and other development partners, including ACD members, ADB has mobilized over $37 billion

for connectivity projects in transport, energy, trade and human resource development with a focus on sub-regional projects. These investments have brought significant benefits to the region. In the Central Asian region, 79% of the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation or CAREC road corridors have been constructed or rehabilitated as of 2011. Over 1,150 km of electricity transmission lines have been installed. In the Greater Mekong Subregion, since 1992, per-capita incomes have more than tripled. Export volumes have grown more than ten times since 1992 while intra-regional trade has been growing at over 20% annually between 2000 and 2010. ADB is playing a crucial supporting role as an honest broker, technical advisor, and co-financier for GMS and CAREC, as well as other major sub-regional cooperation programs such as South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation and Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area. Recently, ADB worked with ASEAN and established ASEAN Infrastructure Fund.

ADB continues to explore ways to expand support to broader pan-Asian cooperation. With significant reforms in Myanmar, the potential land based connectivity and trade between India, China and ASEAN could change the economic landscape of South and Southeast Asia and the broader region.

Another key agenda under ADB's Strategy 2020 is inclusive growth. Despite Asia's rapid growth, income and non-income poverty persists and there is rising inequality in the fastest growing Asian economies. Across developing Asia, 1.7 billion people or 45% of the population have no access to sanitation and 680 million people have no access to electricity. In addition, Asia's infrastructure investment needs in energy, telecommunication, transport, and water and sanitation are huge - estimated at about $8.3 trillion between 2010 and 2020.

The Asia Cooperation Dialogue provides an excellent platform for pan-Asia cooperation in the areas of development. Recognizing the benefits of an integrated Asia to link diverse economies to boost productivity and collaborate on inclusive development, ACD has been working in over 20 areas of cooperation since it's inauguration in 2002. Moving forward, given our complementary mandates, ADB and ACD can and should seek synergies on broader pan-Asian cooperation through enhancing regional connectivity and other regional mechanisms to promote public goods.

In this context, ADB welcomes calls for the mobilization of financial resources in the form of a development fund to support regional development. We particularly welcome the announcement by the Kuwaiti Government of the contribution of $300 million towards this fund and the target of $2 billion through contributions from member states of the ACD Forum. ADB has had valuable experiences in working with different donors administering a variety of development funds. We have developed comprehensive due diligence and safeguards procedures, staff expertise, and a strong results culture. ADB will be honored to work closely with the ACD partners and assist effective use of these funds to address the region's most urgent development needs.

Thank you for your attention.

DUSHANBE DECLARATION
of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting
March 29, 2013

Towards Economic Growth, Stability and Prosperity in Asia Through Sustainable Development

We, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other Heads of delegations from Member States of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), namely, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, the State of Kuwait, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Sultanate of Oman, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Singapore, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Kingdom of Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam gathered in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan for the Eleventh ACD Foreign Ministers Meeting on 29 March 2013;

In view of the in-depth discussion on important regional and international issues, and review of the role of the ACD and the progress made since the 1st ACD Summit as well as the challenges and opportunities lying ahead and directions to pace up progress in various areas, we declare the following:

1. We recognize that our region has maintained overall peace and stability in recent years and that countries in the region have generally chosen to adopt policies of good-neighborliness, friendship, dialogue, cooperation and common development. Many economies in the region have been booming, and Asia has become a major driving force for global economic growth and an indispensable force on the global arena. We reaffirm the need to enhance unity, expand cultural exchanges and deepen

pragmatic cooperation to promote common development and prosperity and contribute even more to peace, stability and development in the world;

2. We reaffirm the commitment to cooperate in developmental endeavors by building upon Asia's potentials and strengths through expanding the existing cooperative frameworks. We reiterate the special role of the ACD whereby Asian Leaders and Ministers convene to exchange views and promote cooperation in various areas of mutual interest while upholding the constructive values of the ACD, namely, positive thinking, informality, voluntarism, non-institutionalization, openness, respect for diversity, the level of support of Member States, the evolving nature of the ACD, positive work and participation of Member States in various cooperation programmes;

3. We acknowledge the significance of regional cooperation as an essential mechanism to accelerate realization of the three pillars of sustainable development, which include social development, economic development and environment protection, as well as stability in the Asian region with its vast and diverse natural and human resources, rich and historical heritage and economic and social potential;

4. We appreciate the steps made by the Prime and Co-Prime Movers to realize important initiatives and involve ACD Member States in their implementation, which would further strengthen the ACD as an effective mechanism for regional economic cooperation;

5. We recognize the grave threat posed by maritime piracy to regional and international trade and economic development, and reiterate our joint commitment to combating such piracy through meaningful international cooperation, based on United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions;

6. We express support to the position of the Human Rights Council as expressed in the Resolution on Religious Intolerance, namely, at the growing manifestation of intolerance based on religion or belief that can generate hatred and violence among individuals from and within different nations that may have serious implication at the national, regional and international levels and, in this regard, emphasizing the importance of respect for religious and cultural diversity, as well as interfaith and intercultural dialogues aimed at promoting a culture of tolerance and respect among individuals, societies and nations. We commend all efforts in this regard, in particular the establishment of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICID) in Vienna;

7. We encourage ACD Member States to undertake common efforts for continued cooperation and consolidation in the area of sustainable development;

8. We realize that the population of the Asian region is a resource that can be harnessed by enhanced investments in health and education sectors and promoting rapid economic growth in order to provide productive employment for all. In order to deal with demographic change in a forward-looking way, we em-

phasize the need to systematically consider population trends and projections in our national, rural and urban development strategies and policies;

9. We are convinced that the international financial and economic crisis and the resulting downturn in global economic growth severely affect economies of Asian countries, inter alia, through decrease in trade and FDI and increased contractions and high costs of credit, thereby negatively impacting on the realization of the right to development, constraining social investment, deepening poverty and raising unemployment rates;

10. We recognize that the ACD region faces challenges to achieve poverty reduction and promotion of human development. We call for strengthening joint efforts to explore the possibility of setting up mechanisms for exchanges and cooperation in the region in order to promote poverty alleviation and create conditions for sustainable development, and to address the issue of imbalances within the region;

11. We acknowledge that the ACD with its potential and pragmatic approaches should intensify its project-driven and project-orientated activities in the various areas, including sustainable development, enhancing economic cooperation and promoting regional integration through vigorous intra-regional trade development, promotion of investment activity for bilateral and regional economic development, utilization and management of natural resources and exchange of technologies and information;

12. We realize that strengthening of partnerships and development of innovative sources of financing can play a role in complementing sources of financing for sustainable development. ACD Member States need significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and effective use of financing in their efforts to promote sustainable development;

13. We recognize that it is imperative to achieve economic integration by various ways, inter alia, promoting free trade and investment and removing barriers to trade and investment among Asian countries. In this context, we invite ACD Member States to undertake initiatives to enhance the exchange of information, increase interaction among chambers and harmonize standards in relation to trade and investment;

14. We emphasize the need for ACD Member States to work together to meet challenges posed by climate change, enhance measures to promote climate change adaptation, improve natural disaster management, including disaster risk reduction, create conditions for mitigation of the effects of natural disasters and promote disaster risk reduction. We consider establishment of the ACD Coordination Network among the Early Warning Centers in the countries of the region to assist them in facing natural disasters as a necessary measure in providing humanitarian, financial and technological assistance to the affected countries. For this purpose, we propose that ACD Member States' experts on natural disasters meet in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, or any other country which is willing to host the meeting to discuss the establishment of the coordination network and make recommendations;

15. We see the need to take action at national, regional and international levels, that aims to counter the effects of climate change, including dust and sandstorms, that negatively impact the whole world, in accordance with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

16. We underline the need for enhanced global cooperation for addressing the adverse consequences of climate change, including adequate financing, transfer of technology and capacity support from the developed to the developing countries, particularly to the least developed and the most vulnerable countries. The provision of finance should be in addition to the existing commitments for official development assistance;

17. We call on ACD Member States to review the outcomes of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with a target date of 2015, with a view towards understanding what goals have been achieved and which goals need to be addressed with focused solutions. We recognize that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth in developing countries is a key requirement for eradicating poverty and hunger, and achieving the MDGs;

18. We note the global discussions on the post-2015 development agenda through various mechanisms and thematic consultations. We encourage ACD Member States in drafting the post-2015 development agenda in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals to be built on the MDGs and guided by a new development paradigm, which promotes human happiness and the well-being of all life forms within a sustainable environment. We feel that inclusive growth and poverty eradication should be the main focus in the post-2015 development agenda;

19. We realize the necessity to ensure access of the people to the healthcare services, including to safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, vaccines and medical technologies, and through strengthening health infrastructure and systems towards universal health coverage as well as raising public awareness on environmental and sanitation issues. We call to intensify dialogues and joint efforts to build joint prevention and control mechanisms against cross border pandemics and the spread of epidemics, for example, through provision of medical assistance or using regional and international frameworks for cooperation in the health area and epidemic control;

20. We consider green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development. We support the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference on the green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. We call upon ACD Member States to accumulate positive experiences in adopting green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication for the voluntary exchanges of best practices as well as capacity-building in the different areas of sustainable development;

21. We underscore food security and sufficient nutrition to be an important component of the sustainable development. In view of the predominantly agricul-

tural economy in many Asian countries, we call to intensify dialogue on agricultural policies and practical agricultural techniques and enhance regional cooperation in the area of food security and nutrition, support to the agricultural and rural development sectors, transfer of technologies and exchange of knowledge;

22. We call on all ACD Member States to be alert to the fact that efforts in areas such as alternative energy, without proper consideration to the food supply situation, may have unintended consequences on food security;

23. We recognize that water is at the core of sustainable development as it is closely linked to a number of key global challenges. We, therefore, reiterate the critical importance of water and sanitation in sustainable development and reaffirm the commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation as well as the development of integrated water resource management, ensuring water recycling, capacity-building against drought, flooding, and disaster reduction as well as rational and sustainable water use;

24. We highlight our commitment to the 2005 – 2015 International Decade for Action "Water for Life" and fully support Member States' efforts to realize the commitment, including through mobilization of resources from all sources, capacity-building and technology transfer. We encourage participation of ACD Member States at the High Level International Conference on Water Cooperation, which will be held on 22 August 2013 in Dushanbe in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution entitled "Implementation of the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013," and note the convening of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Chiang Mai, Thailand, during 16-20 May 2013;

25. We reiterate that the ACD is aimed at enhancing energy security and sustainability in the region. We reaffirm support for the implementation of national policies and strategies, based on individual national circumstances and development aspirations. We call for enhanced support for national initiatives and activities aimed at utilization of renewable energy sources as well as cleaner and energy efficient technologies and encourage ACD Member States to diversify and use appropriate energy mix to meet their respective development needs. We take note of the Energy Action Plan, express appreciation to the Prime and Co-Prime Movers for their work, and call for its adoption by the next ACD Ministerial Meeting in November 2013. We also welcome the offer of Tajikistan to convene the next ACD Energy Forum and the hosting of the International Exhibition "Expo – 2017. Future Energy" in Astana by Kazakhstan;

26. We commit ourselves to promote networking and strengthen cooperation by establishing partnership links between the ACD and other regional organizations and fora in various areas, including food, water and energy security, climate change, natural disasters, desertification, environment and ecosystem preservation;

27. We take note of the draft Outline Concept Paper on ACD Regional Connectivity prepared by Thailand, which aims at building intra-regional linkages within the region and helps promote Asia's inclusive economic and social development by

enhancing trade, investment, regional competitiveness and better understanding among peoples in Asia. We agree to consider its proposals further at the Working Group on Enhanced ACD Regional Connectivity to be convened by Thailand in June 2013;

28. We stress the importance of greater people-to-people contact for promotion of peace, understanding and amity that are vital for sustaining any outcome of our cooperation. In this regard, we call for increased exchange in culture, education and training among ACD Member States;

29. We encourage enhancement of participation and effective engagement of all governments, civil society, private sector and other relevant stakeholders to implement sustainable development and to take appropriate and effective measures to strengthen coordination and cooperation in order to integrate sustainable development into public and private investment, decision-making and the planning of humanitarian and development actions;

30. We endorse the results of the ACD Senior Officials' Meeting held in Kuwait on 3 – 4 March 2013 concerning the setting up of an ACD Provisional Secretariat. We appreciate Kuwait's offer to host and bear responsibilities for all necessary cost of the headquarters and personnel of the Provisional Secretariat until the next ACD Summit in Thailand in 2015;

31. We take note of the proposal by the State of Kuwait for the mobilization of USD 2 billion for an Asian Development Fund and deeply appreciate Kuwait's pledge of USD 300 million initial contribution. We call for experts to meet to discuss the establishment and implementation of this proposal. Kuwait encourages other ACD Member States to make voluntary contribution to the fund;

32. While welcoming the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its capacity as Prime Mover of ACD cultural cooperation, we call upon Member States to participate in the ACD Ministerial Meeting on Cultural Cooperation which will be held in Tehran on 7 and 8 May 2013. Furthermore, we appreciate and welcome the holding of the 1st ACD Regional Seminar on Culture and Globalization in Asia which was held in Tehran on 12-13 February 2013;

33. We welcome the generous offers of the Kingdom of Bahrain to host the 12th Ministerial Meeting of the ACD in Manama, of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 13th Ministerial Meeting of the ACD in Riyadh and of Thailand to host the 14th Ministerial Meeting of the ACD and the 2nd ACD Summit in 2015;

34. We express our appreciation to the Government of Tajikistan for the warm hospitality and the arrangements made for the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting.

Adopted in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 29 March 2013.

STATEMENT
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi at the Press Conference on the Outcome of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting

Distinguished representatives of Mass Media,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The 11th Ministerial Meeting of the Member States of Asian Cooperation Dialogue, which continued during two days under the slogan of "Towards sustainable development for the better future in Asia" in "Somon Palace" of the governmental residence in Dushanbe, has concluded its work.

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon attended and made a speech at the opening ceremony of this important Meeting.

It should be noticed that 32 high level delegations of ACD Member States participated in the Meeting.

The multiple vector tasks of the Ministerial meeting were considered during plenary and it's working Group meetings, as well as unofficial meetings. During these meetings all the parties concerned had an opportunity to express opinions and share ideas about positive experience between governments, various organizations on regional integration with regard to achieving sustainable development, Millennium Development Goals and other strategic programmes, which were agreed by the international community.

At the beginning of the Meeting the Kuwaiti side, who was chairing the ACD during 2012, made a comprehensive report on the ACD activities curried out in recent year.

As you might be aware Tajikistan is a Chair of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue in 2013. In this regard, Tajikistan in the statement of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon at the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Asian Cooperation Dialogue Member States presented the content of the concept of its ACD chairmanship.

As it comes out from the slogan of our chairmanship in ACD, this concept dedicated to the issue of sustainable development in Asia.

During that the attention of the ACD Member States delegations were drawn to the need for poverty reduction, attraction of sustainable patterns of consumption and production, protection and proper use of natural resources. On the whole, the abovementioned measures could prevent the challenges that constitute a threat and danger.

This Meeting proved that all participated countries are like-minded on finding ways and means of achieving sustainable development goals, including poverty reduction, providing sustainable patterns of production, establishing "green" economy, food security, having access to new technology, recognizing human rights to fresh water, the role of renewable energy and others.

On this base, there were given a special attention to regional cooperation in the direction of proper use of natural resources, in particular getting more benefits from its renewable resources.

This common view has been reflected in a concrete way in the outcome document of the Meeting – "Dushanbe Declaration-2013" and its adoption by consensus is a vital outcome of the Meeting.

In the Declaration the Member States were urged to take practical measures against economic, financial and natural crisis, supporting use of renewable energy resources.

It should be noticed that Member States while recalling their commitments in the framework of "International Decade of Action "Water for life" 2005-2015", expressed their support in using all capabilities, additional potential and exchange of technology, know-how in this direction.

In this regard, the Tajik side taking into account the importance of water issue and the need for strengthening cooperation in using water resources, proposed that in the framework of Asian Cooperation Dialogue to be declared 21st area of cooperation – "Water for life".

We are confident that Dushanbe Declaration as a further step in follow-up of our today's Meeting outcome for ensuring sustainable development of ACD Member States and on the whole promote regional integration in

Asia and can laid a solid foundation for establishing long-term cooperation in development of mutually beneficial relations in this direction.

We can say with confidence that the outcome of Dushanbe Meeting will give ACD a practical character, facilitate timely implementation of concrete programmes in all directions of cooperation.

Dear participants,

We express our appreciation to ACD Member States for supporting Tajikistan's efforts in preparation of and holding this Meeting in Dushanbe and thank them for their valuable contribution to successful outcome of it.

Distinguished representatives of Mass Media,

The work of the Meeting has been reflected by 200 domestic and foreign reporters. Through their constructive work the international community had an opportunity to timely get information about process and outcome of the event.

I would like to thank all of you for reflecting the Meeting. I hope you also will support the initiatives to ensure sustainable development and prosperity of Asian countries, as well as contribute to providing life of dignity for the people of the region.

I thank you for your attention.

MEETINGS
in the margins of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting

(Dushanbe, March 28-29, 2013)

Meetings
of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon
with distinguished participants of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting

Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Erlan Idrissov

On March 28, 2013 the President of the country Emomali Rahmon received the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Erlan Idrissov, who paid an official visit to Tajikistan.

The issues of wide-ranging Tajik-Kazakh cooperation were reviewed at the meeting.

President Emomali Rahmon called the cooperation of Tajikistan with Kazakhstan "as a good example of constructive regional cooperation" and expressed confidence that further friendly relations between the two countries will strengthen.

Erlan Idrissov characterized the accession of Tajikistan to the WTO and the holding of the ACD session of Foreign Ministers in Dushanbe as an evidence of enhancement of international prestige of our country and congratulated the Head of State Emomali Rahmon and the Tajik people on important global achievements.

Meeting with the Foreign Minister of Kyrgyz Republic Erlan Abdyldaev

On March 28, 2013 the President of the country Emomali Rahmon also received high-level representatives of a number of Asian countries, who visited Dushanbe for participation in the Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

At the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan Erlan Abdyldaev the issues of bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the two countries have been reviewed.

Erlan Abdyldaev extended to the President of Tajikistan two letters from the President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambaev. As it was noted, by these letters the Head of Tajik State Emomali Rahmon is invited to pay an official visit to Kyrgyzstan and also attend the next meeting of heads of state of Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Emomali Rahmon accepted the invitation of his Kyrgyz counterpart and stressed an interest of Tajikistan "in the development of stable and long-term relations with Kyrgyzstan". It was also highlighted that "the expansion of ties with neighboring Kyrgyzstan is among the important directions of foreign policy of Tajikistan".

Meeting with the Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Minoru Kiuchi

On March 28, 2013 during the meeting of the President Emomali Rahmon with the Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Minoru Kiuchi the issues of bilateral cooperation were reviewed.

The Head of State Emomali Rahmon highlighted "a sincere interest of Tajikistan in strengthening and expanding long-term wide-range cooperation with Japan".

Satisfaction was expressed over the disinterested aid of Japan in socio-economic development of Tajikistan, which is realized through investment projects in different spheres of social life. It was also noted that Japan International Cooperation Agency alone has allocated amount of 300 million USD for grants and technical aid to Tajikistan.

The sides mentioned that also 2 new documents on technical aid of Japan in road construction and healthcare sectors of Tajikistan would be signed in the margins of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting.

Meeting with the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Abdelaziz bin Abdullah Al-Saud

On March 29, 2013 during the meeting of the President Emomali Rahmon with the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Abdelaziz bin Abdullah Al-Saud the issues of bilateral cooperation were discussed.

"Tajikistan pays a particular attention to the strengthening of friendly relations with Saudi Arabia, and we are satisfied that our political ties, including in the top-level, are based on confidence, mutual respect and constructiveness. And we greatly appreciate it", stated President Emomali Rahmon.

A constructive exchange of views was also held on the issues of political, trade, economic and cultural relations.

Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran Ali Akbar Salehi

During the meeting the President Emomali Rahmon with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran Ali Akbar Salehi the issues of wide-ranging cooperation between the two countries sharing one language and culture were discussed.

Much attention was focused on the preparations for official visit of President of Iran Mahmud Ahmadinejad to Tajikistan and the ways to implement important agreements on the completion of Sangtuda-2 HPP and beginning of Aini HPP, construction of power transmission lines, water, gas and oil pipelines, and connecting Tajikistan and Iran through a railway.

Meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

At the meeting of the President Emomali Rahmon with the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, Sheikh Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah the issues of bilateral and multilateral cooperation were discussed.

"Tajikistan, in the framework of its "open-doors" foreign policy" focuses priority attention to the development of friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation with the Arab countries, particularly the State of Kuwait and other countries of the Gulf", stressed the President.

Particular attention was paid to the establishment and enhancement of mutual cooperation in economic, trade and investment fields.

The confidence was expressed that the forthcoming visits on the highest level between Tajikistan and Kuwait would further strengthen this process and other aspects of bilateral cooperation.

Meeting with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar Khaled bin Mohammed Al-Atiya

At the meeting of the President Emomali Rahmon with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar Khaled bin Mohammed Al-Atiya the issues of developing cooperation between the two friendly countries were discussed.

"We attach a particular significance to the development of friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation with the State of Qatar and we feel the same approach from Qatar with regard to Tajikistan", - stated President Emomali Rahmon.

Much attention was focused on construction of Dushanbe Grand Mosque and residential and commercial area of Diar Dushanbe, which is being conducted by the direct investment of Qatari Diar Real Estate Company.

Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan Zalmai Rassoul

At the meeting of the President Emomali Rahmon with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Zalmai Rassoul the issues of bilateral relations increasing over the recent years between the two countries, have been considered.

The Sides reviewed an effective interaction between the relevant public authorities of the two countries for the prompt implementation of great regional projects, including the construction of railway line between Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, CASA-1000 power transmission line and other projects which have regional importance.

Meeting with the Deputy Foreign Minister of Indonesia Yuri Octavian Thamrin

At the meeting of the President Emomali Rahmon with the Deputy Foreign Minister of Indonesia Yuri Octavian Thamrin a constructive talk was conducted on the importance of the 11th ACD Meeting of the Foreign Ministers and the relations between the two countries.

Yuri Octavian Thamrin highly appraised the level of preparations for the conference and in this regard noted increase of Tajikistan's prestige in the region and the world.

The bilateral relations of Tajikistan and Indonesia were characterized as having good prospects. The Sides expressed their interest to further develop mutually beneficial relations.

Meeting with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain Ghanim Fadhil Al Buainain

At the meeting of the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain Ghanim

Fadhil Al Buainain preparation and interest of the two countries in the establishment and development of mutually beneficial cooperation, including within the regional organisations, were discussed.

Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples` Republic of Bangladesh Navaz Dipu Moni

At the meeting of the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples` Republic of Bangladesh Navaz Dipu Moni the establishment of regular ties and cooperation between the two countries was discussed.

Foreign Minister of Bangladesh noted increase of regional and international prestige of Tajikistan as remarkable and stressed interest of her country in strengthening and enhancing bilateral cooperation.

Meeting with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates Anwar Mohammed Gargash

The President Emomali Rahmon also had a constructive talk with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash.

The Head of State expressed satisfaction with the multidimensional cooperation between the two countries and highlighted the need to further realization of abundant untapped opportunities.

Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey Naci Koru

A constructive meeting of the President Emomali Rahmon with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey Naci Koru was held on 29 March 2013.

Naci Koru extended the greetings of the President of Turkey Abdulla Gul to the Head of the Tajik State Emomali Rahmon and named the relations between the two countries and its top-level leadership "particular, close and brotherly".

The Sides expressed confidence that there were all potential to further unprecedentedly develop mutually beneficial relations between Tajikistan and Turkey.

Meetings
of the Minister of Foreign Affairs the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi
with distinguished participants of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting

Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Erlan Abdyldaev

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi, in the framework of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting in Dushanbe, met with the heads of some delegations participating in the meeting.

In this regard, on March 28, 2013 talks between the Foreign Minister Hamrokhon Zarifi and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Erlan Abdyldaev were conducted.

During the meeting the sides discussed issues of trade and economic cooperation, including rational use of water and energy resources and implementation of regional projects, as well as aspects of cross-border cooperation.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the level of bilateral relations, as well as cooperation in the framework of regional and international organizations, and reiterated the need to further coordinate their foreign policy activities to address the majority of regional and international issues.

Following the talks, the Foreign Ministers signed the "Program of Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic for the year 2013".

Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Erlan Idrissov

On March 28, 2013 the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Erlan Idrissov. The talks were also attended by the delegations of the two countries.

During the meeting the sides discussed bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, trade, water and energy and humanitarian spheres, as well as in the field of labour migration.

Furthermore, the Ministers noted the proximity and similarity of positions of Tajikistan and Kazakhstan on resolving the majority of regional and international issues, expressed satisfaction over the mutual support of regional and international initiatives and reaffirmed the need to further coordinate their foreign policy activities on issues concerning the interests of the two countries.

Following the talks, the Foreign Ministers signed the "Program of Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the year 2013".

Meeting with the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey Naci Koru

On March 28, 2013 the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi met with the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey Naci Koru.

The sides noted with satisfaction the current level of cooperation between the two friendly states. They discussed the further development of mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation using the untapped potential of both countries.

Meeting with the Special Representative of the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Singapore Zainul Abidin Rashid

On March 28, 2013 the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi hold a meeting with the Special Representative of the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Singapore Zainul Abidin Rashid.

The sides have considered the ways to further develop bilateral relations, particularly in the sphere of education and trade, economic and business promotion.

In the course of the meeting the parties exchanged views on the aspects of regional and international cooperation, as well as cooperation in the framework of international organizations.

Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bangladesh Dipu Moni

On March 28, 2013 the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bangladesh Mrs. Dipu Moni.

During the meeting the Ministers discussed the different directions of the mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation and their prospects, as well as the regional and international problems.

Meeting with the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Minoru Kiuchi

On March 28, 2013 the Minister of Foreign Affairs Hamrokhon Zarifi received the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Minoru Kiuchi.

The parties discussed issues of the state and prospects of further development of bilateral relations, establishment of the mutually beneficial cooperation in the economic and trade spheres and creation of favorable conditions for investments.

During the meeting the sides exchanged views on the expansion of multilateral cooperation in the framework of international organizations, including UN, as well as the aspects of interaction aimed at restoring peace and economic stability in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Meeting with the Foreign Minister of Iran Ali Akbar Salehi

On March 29, 2013 the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ali Akbar Salehi.

During the meeting the sides have noted the high level of bilateral relations between the two friendly countries. The counterparts exchanged views on issues concerning the construction and completion of the Sangtuda-2 HPP and the Istiqlol tunnel. The Ministers also discussed other issues, including the construction of building of the Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in Tehran.

Meeting with the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Zalmai Rassoul

On March 29, 2013 the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi met with the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Zalmai Rassoul. During the meeting the parties discussed issues

of further strengthening bilateral cooperation, including in spheres of economic and trade, as well as border, security, transport and energy sectors.

The Foreign Minister of Afghanistan expressed satisfaction over a meeting he had with the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahmon where the valuable proposals, including attraction of the Afghan private investment to Tajikistan and expansion of the economic and trade cooperation between the two neighbouring countries were made.

As for the situation in Afghanistan after 2014, Zalmai Rassoul noted that the Government of Afghanistan was able to assume responsibility for ensuring security and stability in the country.

During the meeting the parties also focused on issues expanding legal and treaty base between the two states as well as on ways and means of implementing the signed agreements, particularly in the sphere of transport and communication.

Meeting with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates Anwar Mohammed Gargash

On March 29, 2013 the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi met with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash.

During the meeting the sides discussed the state and prospects of bilateral cooperation and paid attention to the economic development, investments attraction, energy generation, renewable energy development. The State Minister noted that UAE Chamber of Commerce and Industry was going to send a large delegation of entrepreneurs and businessmen to Tajikistan in order to expand the economic cooperation.

The sides also focused on cooperation directions in the framework of international organizations and exchanged views on regional issues. In this regard, they concerned the issue of assistance in revival of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister called for a greater involvement of the UAE in the restoring Afghanistan in order to strengthen peace and prosperity there.

Meeting with the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand Jullapong Nonsrichai

On March 29, 2013 the Minister of Foreign Affairs Hamrokhon Zarifi met with the Vise Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand Julapong Nonsrichai. The sides discussed prospects of bilateral cooperation in the different spheres, including in the framework of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue.

The Vise Minister, as a representative of the ACD coordinating state, appreciated the conducting of the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting in Dushanbe and expressed gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for sincere hospitality and creation of necessary conditions.

During the meeting the parties have stated that the high level visits would give a new impetus to the expansion of bilateral cooperation. In this regard, seizing this opportunity, the Vice Minister of Thailand extended invitation to the President of the Republic of Tajikistan for attending a Water Forum to be held in Thailand.

Meeting with the Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India Shri E. Ahamed

On March 29, 2013 the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi met with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of India Shri E.Ahamed. Issues concerning the implementation of agreements signed during a recent official visit of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon to India were in the focus of the meeting.

The meeting also discussed the main directions and prospects of bilateral cooperation, as well as regional important issues. The sides agreed that cooperation in such spheres like economy, trade, energy, culture, education and information technologies were actively continued. They particularly discussed the issues of Varzob-1 HPP reconstruction, as well as support to Indian entrepreneurs in the sector of the industry of Tajikistan, especially small and medium production enterprises.

Meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

On March 29, 2013 the Minister of Foreign Affairs Hamrokhon Zarifi met with the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Expressing satisfaction over the current state of Tajikistan-Kuwait relations, the sides noted that bilateral cooperation between the countries had been upgraded, and so new levels and horizons should be explored. Particular attention was drawn to the way and means of strengthening legal and treaty base between Tajikistan and Kuwait.

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11th ACD Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs

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