

Mr. President,
Excellency's,
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan it is my pleasure to join you here today to address the **fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly.**

I would like to express our gratitude to the UNEP Secretariat for having made it possible for all of us **to come together** to focus on achieving tangible results.

The Republic of Tajikistan, as a mountainous landlocked country, forms about **sixty percent of the water resources** of Central Asia and is the main location of regions' glaciers, where the bulk of the region's water resources are formed, thus playing an important role in ensuring sustainable development in the entire Central Asian region.

The contribution of our country in terms of **GHG emissions** is minimal. Yet nevertheless, Tajikistan in its updated version of the Nationally Determined Contribution in 2021 undertook enhanced **commitment to reduce GHG emissions.**

Which will mainly be achieved through the **development of extensive hydropower** resources in our country. With the global community's new aspirations to achieve net-zero ambition, we commit to doubling our hydroelectric capacity by 2050.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the past 5 years **we have planted more than 9 million trees** in our country and our intension is continuing this trend in the upcoming years to **increase the carbon-capturing capacity of Tajikistan.**

Furthermore, the total territory of **protected areas and national parks** has been **increased from 2,8%** of country's total area in 1991 to **22%** by 2021. Practically, the area of protected areas and national parks were **increased by 2,7 million hectares.** And we will continue establishing new national parks to ensure sustainable use of ecosystem and natural resources.

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to draw your attention to the **three following Tajikistan's initiatives.**

First, I would like to reiterate **the proposal of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan** to proclaim 2025 as the International Year for Glaciers Preservation.

Tajikistan repeatedly **appeals** international community to create an **International Fund for Glaciers Preservation**, through which we could mobilize efforts and resources for practical steps to preserve glaciers - the most important source of fresh water in Central Asia.

Second, we are currently working on adopting Green Economy Strategy, therefore we emphasize that efforts must be stepped up in **technology transfer and climate finance** to support Tajikistan in its transition to Green Economy.

Third, Tajikistan looks forward to working with the Presidency and development partners to enhance ambitions on resilient development pathways, a strong post-2020 framework for protecting our precious biodiversity, and a commitment to managing chemicals and tackling plastic pollution together.

Thank you!