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**Statement by the delegation of Republic of Uzbekistan**

made by the Head of Delegation

Mr. Aleksandr Merkushkin

COP 19 and CMP 9

(Warsaw, 21 November 2013)

**Mr. President,**

Distinguished delegates,

Let me begin with expressing our deep appreciation to the Government of Poland for hosting this milestone event on climate change and providing every support to enable the activities of the Conference. I also join others in congratulating Mr. Marcin Korolec with his election as President of COP-19 and CMP-9.

**Mr. President,**

The Republic of Uzbekistan has been consistent in meeting its commitments under the UNFCCC. Climate change mitigation measures have been successfully implemented in the country, in particular through enhancing projects on clean development mechanism (CDM), development of renewable energy sources as well as improving energy efficiency.

Uzbekistan keeps leading CDM position among CIS and Eastern European countries.

The consistent steps were undertaken to develop renewable energy sector in the country. In particular, on 1 march 2013 President of Uzbekistan signed a decree "On measures on further development of alternative sources of energy". It outlines the research, financial and institutional framework for further developments and practical use of alternative sources of energy in Uzbekistan.

On 20-23 November 2013 Uzbekistan is hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Asia Solar Energy Forum (ASEF) on Solar Energy Technology Trends and Opportunities. Ministers and over 100 international developers and suppliers of solar energy projects and others from developed and developing countries are participating in the event. *(Please see <http://asiasolarenergyforum.uz/en/> for more information about the event).*

Uzbekistan approved two NAMA project proposals: "Economics of Climate Change in Central and West Asia" co-financed by the Asian Clean Energy Fund and ADB, and a joint UNDP and International NAMA Facility project "NAMA for Sustainable Rural Housing in Uzbekistan". It's also remarkable that Adaptation Fund Board approved the Uzbekistan's project proposal "Developing Climate Resilience of Farming Communities in the Drought Prone Parts of Uzbekistan".

**Mr. President,**

Uzbekistan attaches high importance to the adoption of a new international agreement on climate change we believe that the long-term joint actions should be guided by the purposes and principles of UNFCCC taking into account the national commitments of the Parties.

We share the views on the necessity of holistic approach to international climate change cooperation and balanced actions both for adaptation measures and mitigation efforts.

In implementing climate change measures the national needs and development tendencies of economies should be taken into account Therefore the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" remains a key in designing future international strategy to combat climate change.

We think that in the new legal document which has to be prepared, and also in our approaches to climate change issues, as a whole, we have to have a clear understanding of the fact that efforts in coping with climate change should be consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

It important to enhance the work on development and transfer of technologies to support actions on climate change mitigation. To advance the Climate Technology Centre and Network, we nominated national agencies for

the development and transfer of technologies.

The importance of ensuring fast and long-term financing of the needs of the developing countries in tackling the climate change challenges should be underscored. Financing should be provided in a fair, equal and geographically equitable manner.

**Mr. President,**

Taking this opportunity let me briefly mention some of the challenges of climate change for my country, and also for our region, as a whole. They include: water resources deficit, decrease in quality of drinking water, land, biodiversity and glaciers degradation , Aral Sea and rivers deltas continuous degradation.

Droughts occur more frequently and become more severe but water demand higher. These circumstances don't allow to harmonize water demand and water availability both for drinking and irrigation needs. In our country, and also in the region as a whole, people are mainly involved in agriculture and their livelihood directly depends on rural sector.

Therefore, we are convinced that in our discussions on climate change due attention for issues of water security and rational use of natural resources should be given.

Let me also add that when we talk about the Aral Sea disaster the key issues are preventing full destruction and protecting remaining the eco system of the Aral Sea, securing the minimum living conditions for people and preserving the available flora and fauna. These issues are in the focus of the “Program of Measures on Eliminating the Consequences of Drying up of the Aral Sea and Averting the Catastrophe of the Ecological Systems in the Aral Sea Region” which has recently been circulated as an official document of the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly upon the request of the Republic of Uzbekistan as a chairing country in the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) ([www.un.org/ru/documents/ods.asp?m=A/68/383](http://www.un.org/ru/documents/ods.asp?m=A/68/383)).

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion let me reiterate my country's commitment to work towards a successful and agreed outcome of international climate change negotiations in designing a new international legal framework applicable to all.