Statement
of Mr. Nurbek KASYMOV, Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan, on agenda item 19
"Sustainable development"

Mr. Chairman,

Today we all aim to reach sustainable development which is a key factor in addressing the global challenges of poverty eradication, climate change and food and energy security. Despite the fact that the implementation of a number of basic documents in this area yielded significant benefits and strengthened the process of development, humanity continues to suffer from poverty and inequality. Multiple global crises, climate change and natural disasters threaten to undo many years of successful development. We believe that global tasks can be reached effectively, if they are included in each country's development strategy among core priorities. Kyrgyzstan has taken its part on it. This is reflected in the National Sustainable Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2013-2017, which identifies five-year targets and the plan for transition to sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

Climate change is a serious danger to the future of humanity and it continues to have an increasing impact on ecosystems, water resources and food security. It is also generating frequent natural disasters. For the Kyrgyz Republic, which is in a vulnerable position as a developing and a landlocked country, with the territory more than 90% covered by mountains, climate change poses a number of serious problems. The rapid melting of glaciers - the main sources of fresh water in the region is of particular concern to us. Due to global warming Kyrgyzstan’s glaciers have already shrunk by 30%. According to preliminary forecasts, unless urgent measures are taken, there will be no glaciers and snowfields in the country’s territory by the year 2100. We believe that the developed countries should take more ambitious commitments to reduce emissions and to continue to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries for mitigation of climate change, adaptation, transfer of technology and capacity-building. For its part, Kyrgyzstan made a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 by 20%.

For the Kyrgyz Republic, which has limited reserves of hydrocarbons, water is a strategic natural resource for sustainable socio-economic development. We are of the view that complex use of water resources in our region should be determined by a system of measures aimed at development of the economies of all countries of Central Asia, the creation of conditions for sustainable economic development on the basis of a rational and mutually beneficial and efficient use of water. Therefore, the Kyrgyz Republic has given priority to the development of
hydropower and regional cooperation in this field. We believe that Central Asia's hydropower
development can contribute to the solution of many social and economic problems in the region.
The construction of large and small hydropower stations should be considered as one of the most
effective mechanisms for clean development and environmental security. Expanding the
potential of renewable energy sources, alternative energy and promoting the use of solar and
biogas plants are also among main priorities of Kyrgyzstan.

Sustainable mountain development is an important issue to us. We support further
promotion of development goals for mountain regions in accordance with the decisions taken at
the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20. We do also whole-
heartedly support the draft resolution on sustainable mountain development to be adopted this
year. A few mountainous landlocked countries have special needs for development. High levels
of poverty, isolation, the burden of transportation costs and a large amount of debt – these are the
basic range of problems they face. In these conditions, it is very difficult to achieve the
Millennium Development Goals and to fulfill the commitments laid down in the UN documents
on sustainable development. This is why we hope that special needs, problems and challenges of
mountain countries will be properly addressed in the post 2015 development agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

Remediation and securing the safety of uranium waste and other radioactive and toxic
materials, which today total more than 8 million cubic meters in our territory and more than 800
million tons in the Central Asian region, remain one of the acute problems to us. The situation is
aggravated by the fact that most of the tailings ponds are located in seismically active, mudflow-
prone areas, areas prone to flooding and with high ground water levels, as well near river banks
that form the basis of Central Asian water supply. The potential consequences of ineffective
solutions would have an impact on lives and health of millions of people in Central Asia. That's
why in order to raise awareness of the international community on this problem and to attract
additional assistance to its solution my delegation included this year under agenda item 19
"Sustainable development" new sub-item 19 (j) entitled "The role of the international community
in the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia" and initiated the relevant draft
resolution. I'm pleased to inform you that after several rounds of informal consultations
conducted under chairmanship of Kyrgyzstan the text of the draft resolution is now agreed by
delegations and we are hopeful that it will be adopted by consensus by this august Committee
very soon. We would also like to invite delegations to cosponsor the draft resolution.

I thank you.