The Republic of Tajikistan during 30 years of independence was able to strengthen the foundations of national statehood, develop and strengthen democracy in the country. It is specific interests and the system of national values and to protect the national policy.
Tajikistan is a landlocked country in Central Asia, bordered by Afghanistan to the south, Uzbekistan to the west, Kyrgyzstan to the north and China to the east. The territory that now constitutes Tajikistan was previously home to several ancient cultures, including the city of Sarazm of the Neolithic and the Bronze Age and was later home to kingdoms ruled by people of different faiths and cultures, including the Orox Valley civilisation, Andronov and various others. Tajikistan is a melting pot of different faiths and cultures, including the Magomed, Manichaeism and Islam. Tajikistan has made steady progress in reducing poverty and growing its economy. Between 2000 and 2018, the poverty rate fell from 83 percent to 27.4 percent, while the economy grew at an average rate of 7 percent per year. The significant reforms have been undertaken by the government in Tajikistan to open up the economy and introduce market-based mechanisms. Special emphasis has been laid on human development issues, notably health and education. The National Development Strategy to 2030 sets a target of increasing domestic incomes by up to 3.5 times by 2030 and reducing poverty by half. To achieve this goal, Dushanbe has transformed its current growth model and given the private sector more opportunities to invest, create jobs, and contribute to the economy. Traditional areas such as improving agriculture, boosting the business environment, rescuing health and education systems; knitting the country together with new infrastructures and communications; and combating the drugs trade, are high on the development agenda. But above all, the government has taken some realistic steps to improve governance, to improve living standards and stability. Tajikistan continues to introduce elements of strategic planning for development of monitoring and evaluation system at the national level. To support these processes the country has developed and operational legal framework and methodological base. At the same time, basic issues of infrastructure and communications also require serious attention. Therefore, a renewed infrastructure has remained a central part of initiatives to boost internal trade and link the whole country into regional initiatives. Tajikistan has abundant freshwater resources, and varied natural resources, as well as favorable conditions for growing organic food products. In addition to that Tajikistan is full of opportunities to bring growth of eco-tourism, which is in line with the fundamental principles of human development in the context of access to natural resources. With a low crime rate, a growing range of home-stay accommodation, and a friendly atmosphere, Tajikistan is keen to push forward and welcome travelers.
On September 9 2021 the government and people of Tajikistan will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the State Independence of the Republic of Tajikistan.” Regrettably at the dawn of its independence, Tajikistan faced not only with complex issues of transition to a multiparty system, pluralistic society and market economy, but also with the extreme difficulties of a civil conflict, which led to the acute economic, social and political consequences. The historic 16th session of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan, held in November 1992 in the ancient city of Khujand, elected the founder of peace and national unity, Hon’ble Leader of the Nation Emomali Rahmon as the Chair of the Supreme Council and laid foundation for the further vital steps aimed at the restoration of the governance, rehabilitation of the economy and social spheres of the country. The most importantly this session has contributed to the appraisal of the real threat to the existence of the country and identified the need for promotion of the unity of the whole nation to preserve its independence as a united and coherent state. The path to peace and tranquility in the country, started from this historical session, was not an easy one and was laid through eight rounds of peace talks and negotiations mediated by the United Nations and its member states. A General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and Unity, concluding inter-Tajik peace negotiations, was signed in Moscow on June 27 1997, which has been celebrated annually as the Day of National Unity.

Over the period 1997-2020 the real GDP of Tajikistan increased by five times and its government effectively implemented several vital infrastructure projects, which contributed to the increase of energy production (2000 megawatts) and its government effectively implemented several vital infrastructure projects, which contributed to the increase of energy production (2000 megawatts) and 220 kilometer roads. Along with this process the government of Tajikistan successfully ensured market-oriented reforms, introduced various forms of ownership, national currency, improved banking and financial system, created favorable conditions for entrepreneurship and investments, as well as for the development of the social spheres. Over the period 1997-2020 the real GDP of Tajikistan increased by five times and its government effectively implemented several vital infrastructure projects, which contributed to the increase of energy production (2000 megawatts) and 220 kilometer roads. Today, Tajikistan as an active member of the international community has established diplomatic relations with 179 countries and has joined many international, regional and sub-regional organizations. The governance reform, introduced in Tajikistan is leading its independent multi-vector foreign policy in a transparent and predictable manner. Based on the principle of “open doors” and aimed at strengthening friendly relations with all countries. Since joining the United Nations on March 2 1992 Tajikistan commenced a series of the global initiatives aimed at the promotion of sustainable development and integrated management of freshwater resources. At the initiative of Tajikistan, the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously adopted in December 2016 its resolution, proclaiming period of 2018-2028 as an International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development.” Building on this success and considering the impact of climate change on freshwater resources, the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon recently proposed an idea to declare 2025 as the International Year for the Preservation of Glaciers, and to define the date of the World Glacier Day. This year Tajikistan is chairing the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). On September 16-17 2021 Dushanbe will host the 20th anniversary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the SCO. It is expected that the Summit will review the activities of the SCO over 20 years and provide venue for exchange of views on pressing international and regional issues, including addressing the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. As the current Chair of the SCO Tajikistan is focusing a particular attention on strengthening practical cooperation in combating terrorism, separatism and extremism, illegal drug trafficking; enhancing trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian ties; promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

On March 30 2021 Tajikistan hosted the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process, which was inaugurated with the statements delivered by the Hon’ble President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and his Afghan counterpart Mohammad Ashraf Ghani. The ninth edition of the Ministerial Conference was held under title “Strengthening Consensus for Peace and Development” and adopted the Dushanbe Declaration, which was welcomed by the high-level representatives of the supporting countries and supporting regional and international organizations. The relations between Tajikistan and India building on lasting common historical and cultural roots, as well as strategically important partnership, cordial and mutual trust at the highest level enabled to further deepen and enhance cooperation between our countries. The relations between Tajikistan and India building on lasting common historical and cultural roots, as well as strategically important partnership, cordial and mutual trust at the highest level enabled to further deepen and enhance cooperation between our countries.

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India - Tajikistan Relations

A FRIENDSHIP BASED ON MUTUAL TRUST AND SHARED VISION OF PROSPERITY

by Viraj Singh, Ambassador of India to Tajikistan

India-Tajikistan friendship finds its roots in the historical warmth of linguistic and cultural bonds between our people. For centuries trading caravans have uninterruptedley carried ideas, traditions and people across both sides and brought the minds together. These exchanges have a deep imprint on our culture, customs and language. Through movement of people, goods and ideas including spiritual in- terfaces, both the nations have enriched each other. The works of medieval Indian poets Bedil, Zebunisso and Amir Khusrav still delight the Tajik people, and the ballads of Mirza Tursunzoda about India continue to inspire people of both countries. Since the establishment of diplomat- ic relations 29 years ago both the coun- tries have extended and deepened their cooperation in all spheres of human en- devor - political, economic, cultural, se- curity, human resource development and people to people contact. In the context of India’s Connect Central Asia Policy, Tajikistan finds a special place in India’s foreign policy as part of our extended neighborhood with India’s focus being on building a long-term partner- ship with Tajikistan, both bilaterally and at regional level. The year 2021 is an im- portant milestone in our history as India celebrates its 75th Independence Day and Tajikistan marks the 30th anniversary of its independence.

Sharing similar world view on peace and prosperity, India and Tajikistan cooperate and work together in a large number of regional and international organiza- tions. Tajikistan has been a key support- er of India’s membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which India joined in 2017, and of India’s per- manent membership in the expanded UN Security Council. Tajikistan has also been actively engaged in India-Central Asia Dialogue, which was initiated in 2010. Our nations also share common view in ensuring peace, stabil- ity and security in the region, including about establishing lasting peace in Afghanistan. Like India, Tajikistan too is a de- veloping country and in the spir- it of South-South Cooperation India has been assisting Tajikistan in its development by sharing its experiences and knowledge, gained over the last seven decades of India’s inde- pendence, in areas as diverse as Information Technology (IT), education, telecommunication, health and agriculture. Over the years, India has undertak- en many development infrastructure projects in Tajikistan. The renovation and modernization of Vazrob Hydropower Plant 1 & 2, credited with stabilizing electric- ity supply to Tajikistan’s capital city of Dushanbe was completed at a cost of $120 million in 2012. In 2006 Bedil IT Center was setup in Dushanbe with Indian assis- tance and trained thousands of IT profes- sionals, who formed the first generation of IT Specialist of Tajikistan. Currently India is executing the first phase of the 8-lane Dushanbe–Chortot Highway Project, which will help improve the traf- fic situation in Dushanbe and which is the first section of proposed Ring Road around Dushanbe city. The Project is be- ing executed under the $20 million grant in aid assistance by Hon’ble Prime Minister of India Ram Nath Kovind during his vis- it to Tajikistan in October 2018. The two sides are also discussing mechanism for the High Impact Community Development Projects in Tajikistan which will directly help the local Tajik communities. People are a nation’s richest resource and India education and training has al- lowed our Tajik brothers and sisters to acquire their knowledge and skill in di- verse areas and disciplines. Under India’s Technical and Economic Cooperation (TEC) Program, more than 1500 Tajik professionals both from government and private sectors have attended short du- 20 years thousands of Indian students have completed their degree in medicine from Avicenna Tajik State Medical University in Dushanbe and returned to India to use their knowledge to help their compatriots. With a view to allow Tajik professionals to keep pace with the ever-evolving techn- ological landscape, India has and is in the process of implementing in Tajikistan a few projects involving IT excellence and industrial training centers. As announced during the visit of Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Tajikistan in 2015, to promote IT education and computer lit- eracy amongst the Tajik students India has setup IT labs in 38 schools across Tajikistan, including in a school which caters to educational needs of the chil- dren of the Afghan refugees in Tajikistan. Recently, high end computing equipment was gifted to Tajik Centre of Strategic Research to enable them to process data and material for their research activities. Currently, the two countries are work- ing to establish the Atil Bihari Vaijapey Information Technology Center of Excellence and Training in Dushanbe in- volving latest technology and equipment, including a Super Computer.

India has developed robust disaster man- agement practices given the incidence of multiple disasters, both natural and man-made, that impact us frequent- ly. These are being further augmented by niche Indian advancements in space with satellite mapping and weather fore- casting that help to prevent and mitigate disasters. Tajikistan also experiences fre- quent natural disasters and technolo- gy could help reduce the impact of such disasters to a large extend. In this con- text India and Tajikistan are successfully collaborating in use of space technolo- gy to tackle similar critical environmen- tal challenges. The cooperation which started in 2017, with training of 60 Tajik specialists at Indian Space Research Organisation in various space technologies is now being vigorously pursued through established institutional mechanism. One of India’s biggest strength is its niche capabilities in the pharmaceuti- cal, health care and hospitality sectors. Owing to availability of affordable world- class treatment, India has emerged as the preferred destination for medical tour- ism for Tajik citizens. India’s pharmaceuti- cal products which offer high efficacy at affordable price, occupy approx. 30% of Tajik pharmaceutical market. Even during this Covid-19 pandemic, when the world has witnessed closing down of borders and transit connectivity, the pharmaceutical trade between India and Tajikistan has not only flourished in 2020 but has doubled over 2019. Businesses have turned more innovative and have started utilizing direct chartered cargo flights to bring in high value and low vol- ume pharma products into Tajikistan. In the time of Covid-19 pandemic, India supplied essential medicines to Tajikistan of approx. 14.5 tones. Furthermore, further 192,000 doses of Covishield vaccines, manufac- tured by Serum Institute of India, were supplied to Tajikistan under the COVAX mechanism. India has also decided to gift its indigenously developed Cancer treat- ment system Rhabhotan-II to Tajikistan for treatment of cancer patients. Despite the two countries being geo- graphically so close to each other, unfor- tunately the bilateral trade is far below its true potential. Starting from a meager $1.53 million in 1996–97, today the bilat- eral trade has increased by more than 30 times and reached $48 million in 2019–20, with a zenith of $75 million in 2017– 18. Land route connectivity remains a major bottleneck but the two countries are working on various solutions to en- hance regional integration and connec- tivity including use of Chabahar Port and International North South Transport Corridor. The India-Central Asia Business Council, which has been established in 2020, is working with major trade associ- ations of India and the five Central Asian countries to strengthen our economic cooperation and investment. As far as investment are concerned, there are Indian companies involved in the construction of power plants and road construction, India has offered a $1 billion Line of Credit to the five Central Asian countries and Tajikistan has shown interest in using this facility for carrying forward the construction of the Roghun Hydroelectric Power Project. The year 2020 has been a fresh impetus to India-Tajikistan relationship. The year has seen numerous high-level exchanges on both political and business fronts. These visits have al- lowed the two sides to take stock of the current status of relationship and ex- change views of the way forward. Needless to say, many more areas of co- operation and collaboration are there that remain to be explored between our two beautiful nations and there are a number of geographical and logisti- cal barriers to our progress forward. However, the motto, Ziyamat navsar Dushanbe (Dusti Sarhod Nadodari) - Friendship knows no border will contin- ues to inspire people of both countries in even stronger bilateral relationship.

Celebrating Children’s Day on November 14, 2020 through paining on the theme - Victory of Light of Uttar Karmans organized by the Indian Embassy
TWENTY YEARS OF THE SCO: COOPERATION FOR STABILITY AND PROSPERITY

The world has once again become convinced that the member states of the organization are committed to the values and principles of the “Shanghai Spirit.” It is its feasible contribution to ensure security and peace, the establishment of beneficial international cooperation and constructive dialogue, and takes the advantage of the capabilities of international and regional organizations to enable the sustainable development of the country and strengthening its position in the international arena.

This year Tajikistan celebrates the 30th Anniversary of state independence. During this short period by historical standards, our country has established full-fledged diplomatic relations with 179 countries of the world and has become an active member of prestigious international and regional organizations.

By establishing partnerships with the world community within the framework of international and regional organizations, Tajikistan has expanded cooperation with the UN and its specialized agencies, SCO, CSTO, OSCE, ECO and OIC, as well as with other development partners, international and regional financial institutions. In the framework of multilateral diplomacy, Tajikistan pays particular attention to the development of fruitful relations within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter referred to as SCO/organization). It is no coincidence that the current Foreign Policy Concept of the Republic of Tajikistan notes: “Active participation of the Republic of Tajikistan in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization aims to strengthen good-neighborly ties, friendly and amicable relations among the member states and observers of the organization, as well as ensuring security, stability and sustainable development in the region.” Therefore Tajikistan perceives priority areas of its activities within the framework of this organization not only in the spheres of security and economic collaboration but also in the development and improvement of multilateral cooperation in the cultural and humanitarian fields. Tajikistan also supports the involvement of observer states in the sphere of combating the contemporary challenges and threats within SCO. It should be highlighted that SCO, the twentieth anniversary of which we are celebrating this year, has confirmed from the first day of its activity that it is a dynamic organization and a reputable international institution not only in the region but also at the global level. Over its twenty-year history, SCO has turned into one of the most influential international organizations of a new type, into a unique regional structure that has repeatedly proved its universal character in resolving topical world issues. The course of events in the era of globalization has clearly shown to all political actors that no state alone is capable of effectively dealing with modern challenges and threats. Under such circumstances, only coordinated measures and joint efforts of all states can be effective. A popular proverb says, “A friend in need is a friend indeed.” SCO member states in the most difficult times of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic have demonstrated their solidarity, provided effective support to each other on many problematic issues. The world has once again become convinced that the member states of the organization are committed to the values and principles of the “Shanghai Spirit.” SCO has gone through a long process of formation to reach the current stage of development and become a powerful international organization. To establish the organization as such, it was essential to go through a period of fruitful and multifaceted cooperation.

Considering the development of the international situation and the surge in security threats in the region at the end of the 1990s, the “Shanghai Five” member states faced the crucial decision. It was necessary to agree on the creation of a new, improved organization as one of the most important tools to counter the new threats and challenges that are gaining strength. Taking into account the real state of affairs, the Heads of State decided to initiate the foundation for creating a more complete structure based on the “Shanghai Five,” which could unite China, Russia and all the Central Asian countries into a single regional organization. Considering the identified tasks an intergovernmental commission was established, which carried out immense consultative work. On August 25, 1999, the fourth summit of the “Shanghai Five” was held in Bishkek. At this forum, it was decided to transfer the initiative to hold the fifth summit of Heads of State to Tajikistan. The presidency of the Republic of Tajikistan in the “Shanghai Five” lasted from September 1999 to July 2000.

The presidency of the Republic of Tajikistan in the “Shanghai Five” lasted from September 1999 to July 2000. During the presidency, we carried out comprehensive preparatory work on holding the summit of the “Shanghai Five,” to which the leadership of Uzbekistan was invited. The meeting of the Heads of the “Shanghai Five” countries, which took place on July 5, 2000, in Dushanbe, became a remarkable event of particular significance. The “Shanghai Five” was called the “Shanghai Forum” in Dushanbe. It was this Dushanbe decision that laid the foundation for the creation of SCO.

Thus, a proposal to transform the “Shanghai Five” into a regional international organization, which is currently known as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, was introduced in Tajikistan. The Dushanbe Declaration of 2000 laid down the fundamental ideas about the goals, objectives and main directions of activities of the future prestigious regional international organization (SCO), which today has taken a worthy place in world political reality. Later, on June 15, 2001, a meeting of Heads of State took place in Shanghai during which a Joint Declaration on Uzbekistan’s accession to the “Shanghai Cooperation Organization” was signed. The document discusses the goals and principles of the organization and the practice of its activities.

Since the early days of gaining its state independence, Tajikistan, based on the principles of the “open doors” policy, peacefulness and objectivity established and subsequently extended and strengthened friendly, equal and mutually beneficial relations with most countries of the world and with number of them established strategic partnership. One of the priorities of the international strategy of Tajikistan is the policy of good-neighborliness and multilateral cooperation with the Central Asian states. The creation of an atmosphere of credibility and security along the entire perimeter of the country’s borders is one of the key goals of this policy.
Flags of all Shanghai Cooperation Organization member countries.

Pakistan. Earlier in 2004, status was granted to Mongolia. The geographical expansion of the organization made it possible to rise its international significance.

Later in 2007, SCO countries signed an Agreement on Long-Term Good Neighborhood, Friendship and Cooperation. In 2009, a decision was taken to grant the status of a dialogue partner to Sri Lanka and Turkey became a dialogue partner. In the same year, Pakistan, Nepal, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan became dialogue partners.

In 2012, SCO leaders adopted a Declaration on Building a Region of Long-Term Peace and Shared Prosperity. In the same year, 2012, India and Pakistan to membership in the organization, and resolutions were also signed on granting of SCO member state. The summit of the Heads of State of the member states in Dushanbe laid a solid foundation for the elaboration of a legal basis for the procedure for granting the status of SCO member state. This procedure was further discussed and finalized at the next summit of Heads of State.

In 2015, the leaders of SCO countries approved a decision to commence the procedures for admitting India and Pakistan to membership in the organization, and resolutions were also signed on granting the status of a dialogue partner to Sri Lanka and Turkey.

In 2017, Tajikistan chaired the Council of Heads of Council of Heads of States of SCO member states. The summit of the Heads of State of the member states in Dushanbe laid a solid foundation for the elaboration of a legal basis for the procedure for granting the status of SCO member state. This procedure was further discussed and finalized at the next summit of Heads of State.

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In 2020, the presidency of the organization was passed to Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia and Nepal. Thus, SCO has promptly evolved from a standard regional organization into a large international organization. Such a rapid expansion of the organization over just two decades, in structure and in the variety of activities, demonstrates precision in determining the goals and good intentions of SCO. The new conditions required the newly formed regional international organization - SCO, to operate differently, more actively contribute to the solution of regional and international problems. The new conditions required the newly formed regional international organization - SCO, to operate differently, more actively contribute to the solution of regional and international problems.

The interaction of countries in the fight against crime, in the spheres of culture and education, science and innovative technologies, as well as in such areas as health care and the agro-industrial complex is also gaining strength.

Twenty years of SCO’s activity confirms that this organization is a reputable and influential platform for discussing and solving pressing regional and international issues. Accordingly, Tajikistan is involved in its activities, including in the Program of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation of SCO member states and interacts in the implementation of various projects and in other areas.

Over twenty years of its activity in the field of international politics, SCO has been a hallmark of an effective organization and has won great authority in the fast-growing world. Its recognition as an observer in the UN General Assembly as well as effective cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States and ASEAN testifies to the growing status of the Organization in world politics.

On the other hand, further progress and expansion of SCO depend on many regional and international factors. This is, primarily, the geopolitical situation in the world, cooperation in matters of regional security and trade and economic development. It would be appropriate to state that the role of Tajikistan, as one of the founders of SCO, is essential in the process of formation and development of the organization.

Tajikistan chaired the Council of Heads of State in 2008 and 2014, and the Council of Heads of Government of SCO member states in 2006, 2010 and 2018. We will expand our activities within the framework of the organization and strengthen our relations with its members, continue our joint activities within SCO in the field of countering modern challenges and threats, in particular, terrorism and extremism, drug trafficking and other manifestations of transnational organized crime.

SCO member states should not only preserve the traditions of good-neighbourliness but also find new ways of responding to emerging problems of a socio-economic nature. To date, our countries have achieved positive results in overcoming the challenges of a rapidly changing world, should not stop there, but move forward and solve topical issues of a political, economic and social nature. Together we should strive to ensure security in the region and the peaceful coexistence of all countries of the world. In 2020, the presidency of the organization handed by Russia to Tajikistan. Accordingly, the jubilee summit of the Heads of SCO States will be held in Dushanbe on September 16-17 2021. This is very significant since the initial decision to establish SCO was taken in the capital of our country.

We are confident that after celebrating its anniversary, SCO will continue to be an active structure, an effective platform for exchanging views, developing common positions and agreeing on various points of view, and will also improve its policy following the demands of the times.

SCO’s activities fully comply with the basic principles of the foreign policy strategy of our state. We are interested in further strengthening its role in solving the key tasks of strengthening peace and security, expanding trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian ties.

SCO’s activities fully comply with the basic principles of the foreign policy strategy of our state. We are interested in further strengthening its role in solving the key tasks of strengthening peace and security, expanding trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian ties. We would like to note that from the very beginning of its foundation, SCO has been striving to establish, develop and strengthen its role in the arena of regional security. Its cooperation with many years of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization’s activity, which coincided with a very difficult period in international relations, have shown that the Organization has become a real force in the arena of global politics. SCO member states have achieved a high degree of co-operation and trust in resolving the issues of policy, economy and security.

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SCO FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL MEETING

On July 13-14 2021, Dushanbe hosted the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Foreign Ministers Council (FMC) meeting chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Sirojjiddin Muhriddin. The SCO FMC meeting became a key event towards the SCO jubilee summit to be held in Dushanbe on September 16-17 2021.

Prior to their meeting the foreign ministers were received by the President of Tajikistan, Chairman of the SCO Heads of State Council, Emomali Rahmon. The heads of foreign policy offices exchanged views on the SCO activities summary during the 20 years and discussed the steps for further development of intergovernmental organization of a new type and powerful part of the international relations system. The ministers agreed that joint work on the progressive advancement of all issues on the multifaceted agenda of the SCO contributes to strengthening the development of the Organization and increasing its international reputation.

During the meeting, they noted that in accordance with the SCO Main Events Plan, as of today, over 50 events, including seven ministerial gatherings have been held by various SCO mechanisms of interaction. In this context, the ministers expressed their readiness to cooperate closely to hold nearly 30 other events of the SCO bodies, including 12 at the level of heads of ministries and departments at a high substantive level by September of this year.

The Tajik side informed the participants that according to the decision of the Organizing Committee, all persons, without exception, involved in the preparatory work for the summit, have been or are being vaccinated in a mandatory manner. During the meeting, the ministers stated that sustainable development in the SCO space is impossible without ensuring an adequate level of security. The Ministerial Council attached special attention to the situation in Afghanistan. Prolonged concern was stated at the prospect of deterioration of the situation in that country as a result of the withdrawal of the coalition forces. The heads of delegation discussed issues of further stronger economic cooperation. The ministers adopted as a basis the Plan of joint Measures to overcome the negative socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on national security Moeed W. Yusuf, the Security Council Secretary of Kazakhstan Asset Issekeshev, the Security Council Secretary of Kyrgyzstan Marat Imankulov, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on national security Moed W. Yusuf, the Security Council Secretary of Russia Nikolai Patrushev, the Security Council Secretary of Tajikistan Nasrullo Mahmudzoda, Deputy Secretary of the National Security Council of Uzbekistan Bobur Usmanov and Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure Junakhon Ghloyosov attended the meeting.

Related to cooperation in jointly addressing threats posed by international terrorism, extremism, separatism, religious radicalism and transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking and arms smuggling, President Emomali Rahmon noted that Tajikistan attaches the greatest importance to the meeting of the Security Council Secretaries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member nations. It was noted that the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure could play an important role in ensuring regional security and strengthening ties between member states in countering modern threats and challenges. While discussing the issues of cooperation between the SCO member nations in ensuring reliable information security and jointly combating cybercrime, they also touched upon on biological and food security and the alarming tendencies of its escalation.

The meeting deliberated on the issues of strengthening the positioning of the SCO in the international arena. It highlighted the dynamically strengthening reputation of the SCO at the external track and issues of cooperation between the Organization and the UN and its specialized agencies. The ministers welcomed the adoption of the Resolution “Cooperation between the UN and the SCO” during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly.

The ministerial council exchanged views on expanding the SCO Dialogue Partner institution membership. They signed Ministerial Council decisions on granting this status to Saudi Arabia and Egypt to be submitted for approval by the Council of Heads of State. The ministers approved the SCO Secretariat Report for the past year and the draft SCO Secretary General Report on the Organization’s activities for the reporting period.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the foreign ministers expressed confidence that the meeting would make a worthy contribution to the further strengthening of good-neighborliness, friendship, cohesion, mutual trust and mutually beneficial cooperation between the SCO member states.

The Founder of Peace and National Unity, Leader of the Nation, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon met with heads of delegations taking part in the meeting of the 16th session of Security Council Secretaries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member nations held on June 24 2021.

The National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of India Ajit Kumar Doval, the Assistant to the President and Security Council Secretary of Kazakhstan Asset Issekeshev, the Security Council Secretary of Kyrgyzstan Marat Imankulov, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on national security Moed W. Yusuf, the Security Council Secretary of Russia Nikolai Patrushev, the Security Council Secretary of Tajikistan Nasrullo Mahmudzoda, Deputy Secretary of the National Security Council of Uzbekistan Bobur Usmanov and Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure Junakhon Ghloyosov attended the meeting.

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On January 26, 2021, the President of Tajikistan, the Leader of the Nation, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon delivered an annual address to the parliament of the country, where key priority areas of domestic and foreign policy of the country for 2021 were highlighted. In his speech, the President made an overall assessment and emphasized the achievements of the country since its independence, the 30th anniversary of which is being celebrated on September 9, 2021.

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DUSHANBE, A FASCINATING CAPITAL
by Rustam Emmomali, Mayor of Dushanbe

Dushanbe, the capital of sovereign Tajikistan, is the political, economic and cultural center of the country, a city in which the breath of the fabulous East is felt. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the return to the city of its historical name “Dushanbe.” The capital, located in the embrace of picturesque and flowing foothills, in the vast emerald valley of the turquoise river bed, connects all regions of the country through highways, railways and airways. The majestic gates, created in four directions of the capital, personify the traditions of urban planning and a sustainable system of urban governance, the noble qualities of philanthropy, brotherhood and hospitality of the inhabitants of the capital.

The area of the city, located in the fertile Gissar valley at an altitude of 930 meters above sea level, on both sides of the Dushanbekha River, is 203.2 square kilometers. The city has four administrative districts: Ismoili Somoni, Sino, Firdausi and Shokhmansur. The unique and immutable nature of Dushanbe with many monuments of nature, culture and history can rightfully contribute a particle of its knowledge and experience to the general palette of ideas that expand and enrich the cultural space of the Commonwealth.

Within the framework of the program of the capital city of Tajikistan, the capital has developed a special plan for holding international events which included a set of measures aimed at giving the city a new image. It should be emphasized that the capital of Tajikistan - Dushanbe is a member of the International Assembly of Capitals of the Commonwealth of Cities. The capital was included in the list of 10 safe cities in the CIS, as well as in the top ten cities of tourism. In honor of the 30th anniversary of the republic’s independence, it is planned to build and reconstruct more than 4200 objects for various purposes. Currently, Independence Square is being built in the city, 7 modern hotels, a stadium for 30 thousand seats and much more are under construction. Today, guests of the capital of Tajikistan will find comfortable accommodations.

The symbol of the city is embodied in the memorial complex of the National Unity and Revival of Tajikistan with the monument to such world famous scientists and great thinkers and literature. The capital is also famous for its cool fountains and lush colorful flower beds across the city.

Dushanbe’s largest park “Rudaki”.

The 18th century Hisor Fort on the outskirts of Dushanbe.
President further emphasized that the activities of the “Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process” from its establishment in 2011 to the present day, have undoubtedly played an important role. “Tajikistan fully supports the implementation of a comprehensive international strategy to ensure stability and restore peace in Afghanistan,” he said and added that “We hope that the international community, with its new initiatives and proposals, will further improve the mechanism of cooperation and assistance to Afghanistan.”

The Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process is a regional initiative of Afghanistan and Turkey, which was launched on November 2, 2011 in Istanbul, with the motto “Istanbul process on regional security and cooperation for a secure and stable Afghanistan.” The process aims to promote regional security, economic and political cooperation centered on Afghanistan through dialogue and confidence-building measures. Following the conference the Dushanbe Declaration adopted.

According to it, the participants supported the ongoing efforts for the peace process and the continuation of the negotiations between the government of Afghanistan and the Taliban. While recognizing the importance and contributions of neighboring countries and regional and international partners, they called upon them to maximize their efforts for the success of the peace process. The participants welcomed the renewed diplomatic efforts by all countries to accelerate the peace process through a meaningful peace negotiation, including the ongoing negotiations in Doha, the Moscow “Troika plus” meeting, and diligent preparations for a high-level meeting in Turkey.

At the outset of his address, President Emomali Rahmon stressed that Tajikistan and Afghanistan are linked with many civilization commonalities and strong neighborliness ties. We have a common language and culture with the noble people of this brotherly country, and our common historical roots date back to several millennia. “Therefore, it goes without saying that we are not indifferent towards the destiny of our Afghan brothers. Any pain and suffering experienced by the people of Afghanistan resonates in the hearts of the Tajik people,” noted the President. He personally called upon the international community in all international fora related to Afghanistan to help solve the Afghan issue, because the crisis in this country is an international problem.

The participants recognized that a comprehensive political and comprehensive ceasefire will enable all sides to reach an agreement on a political settlement, and in this regard, they affirmed that any political settlement must protect the rights of all Afghans, including women, youth and minorities. It should also respect the strong desire of Afghans to achieve durable peace and prosperity, and must respond to their strong desire to sustain and build on the economic, social, and political development achievements. A comprehensive and integrated strategy to address this common challenge.

The participants called upon the international community to continue to assist the government of Afghanistan in capacity building, in particular of the security forces. The participants were concerned about the high level of illicit cultivation and production of opium in Afghanistan, the volume of drug trafficking, illicit drug trade, trafficking of precursors, the new prevalence of methamphetamines, the rising demand for illicit narcotics and the rising drug abuse in the region and beyond. This posed a threat to the socio-economic development, security and stability not only in Afghanistan, but also in the surrounding region and the world as a whole. Further eradication of opium cultivation, promotion of alternative livelihoods, law enforcement, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and public information efforts are required as part of a comprehensive and integrated strategy to address this common challenge.

The participants called upon the international community to continue to assist the government of Afghanistan in implementing its National Drug Control Strategy and National Drug Action Plan and its efforts to eliminate the cultivation and production of, trafficking in and consumption of illicit drugs, increase support for Afghan law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, agricultural and rural development for the creation of improved alternative, licit livelihoods for farmers and demand-reduction support, increase public awareness of counternarcotics issues and build the capacity of drug control institutions, and care and treatment centers for drug users.

The participants welcomed the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework, but aligned with the Afghanistan Partnership Framework as part of the new aid architecture adopted at the 2020 Afghanistan Conference in Geneva, setting out the strategic policy priorities of the Government of Afghanistan and guiding its reform activities within the three pillars of Peace-building, State-building and Market-building, in the pursuit of increased self-reliance by the end of the Transformation Decade in 2034. The participants reaffirmed that regional economic cooperation and integration offers broad opportunities for socio-economic development, and can assist with exploiting and developing the long-term economic potential that exists in Afghanistan and the wider region, and they stress the need for further advancing regional economic cooperation as an effective way to confront common challenges and improve stability in Afghanistan.
Industrial achievements in 30 years of independence

MINING AND PRECIOUS METALS INDUSTRY

Tajikistan is a mountainous country, 93% of its territory is mountainous, which is rich in mineral resources. To increase these resources, geological surveys are being carried out in the country, as a result of which hundreds of mines of non-ferrous, ferrous, rare and precious metals, precious and decorative stones, construction material; chemical and mining materials etc. have been discovered. There are a number of mining and processing complexes in the country, as well as several joint ventures with foreign investment. Tajikistan’s metallurgical industry is also successfully developing and growing from year to year. During this period, enterprises in the mining and precious metals industries under the “Programs for the Development of the Gold and Silver Processing Industry for 2002–2010,” “The Program for the Development of Jewelry, Precious Stones and Decoration for 2009–2015,” and the “State Program for the Development of the Sector. Gold and silver mining and processing industry for 2012–2016” and fully implemented its approved plans. Based on sectoral programs, the total production of gold in Tajikistan by 2022 is estimated to increase by 7 times and silver by more than 5 times due to the commissioning of new industrial capacities and enterprises.

Non-ferrous metallurgy occupies a leading position among other industries. The development of this sector is based on a huge source of raw materials and the growing demand for non-ferrous metals around the world. The share of the mining sector in the total industrial output was 8.0% in 1991 and 25.1% in 2020. During the period from 1992 to 2019 in the mining industry of the country on average 35 enterprises were established, including 23 mining and processing enterprises and 8 jewelry enterprises and 7 enterprises for the extraction and processing of precious and decorative stones in a new form of ownership and management. It should be noted that 100% of precious metal products are sold in the country. With the efforts and direct support of the Head of State, President Emomali Rahmon, a number of joint ventures with foreign investment have been established during this period.

At present, a limestone plant with a capacity of 10,000 tons per year, a sorting and crushing plant with a capacity of 10,000 tons of ore per day, an area of leaching of 35,000 m2 for processing at least 2.5 million tons of low-grade ores in 1 year and is fully operational. During this period, the first and second workplaces, construction of a calculator with a capacity of 2,000 tons of ore per day and a refinery for gold and silver with a capacity of up to 10 tons per year (refining) were commissioned. According to the “Program for the Development of Jewelry, Processing of Precious and Decorative Stones for 2009–2015,” it was planned to establish 10 jewelry and stone processing enterprises in the country. At present, 5 stone and jewelry processing enterprises are working.

Light and cocoon industry

One of the priority sectors of the country’s industry is light industry. Processing of local raw materials - cotton, leather, wool, furniture, finishing, technologies in production has achieved significant results. According to statistics, 57 enterprises in the industry in 2020 produced 4,342.45 thousand units of medical masks. Also in the reporting year, 19 enterprises of light industry produced 61,229 pieces of special protective gowns and transferred them to health facilities. During the 30 years of state independence of the country, more than 50 large enterprises of the sector have been opened. Among these: 17 enterprises in Khujand region, 15 enterprises in Sughd region, 10 enterprises in Dushanbe, 4 enterprises in cities and districts of the republics sub-ordination and 3 enterprises in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region.

The new facilities were built and put into operation mainly in the areas of processing cotton and cotton fiber, leather, medical cotton, sewing products, socks, furniture and sacks. The number of light industry enterprises, including spinning, weaving, sewing, hosiery, processing, leather processing, and footwear and furniture production increased from 63 in 1991 to more than 486 in 2020. At present, there are 18 spinning mills in the country with a capacity of more than 80 thousand tons of cotton fiber processing in three shifts per year.

It should be noted that the products of a number of enterprises in the industry are also gaining ground in foreign markets, and men’s and children’s pants, jeans, trousers, men’s shirts, sportswear and kilim monos are exported to Russia, Belarus and the European Union. The construction material industry is one of the most important industries in the country and makes a significant contribution to the development of the country’s diversified economy.

Mohr cement processing unit in the Jalaliddini Bahiri. In order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, a number of light industry enterprises during the reporting period launched a new list of products that are a substitute for imports, including gauze, masks and special medical protective gowns. According to statistics, 57 enterprises in the industry in 2020 produced 4,342.45 thousand units of medical masks. Also in the reporting year, 19 enterprises of light industry produced 61,229 pieces of special protective gowns and transferred them to health facilities. The carpet weaving industry is an integral part of the light industry. In the textile industry and has been gradually developing since the independence of the country. Four enterprises have been launched in the production of wall and floor coverings, 1.3 million square meters have been added to the industry’s capacity. It should be noted that significant progress has been made in the implementation of this program. Thus, compared to 2014, the production of carpets increased by 1.5 times, from 1 million 708 thousand square meters in 2014 to 2 million 812 thousand square meters in 2020. The furniture industry is one of the fastest growing industries; the enterprises of the sector are equipped with new machinery and equipment and have the ability to produce different types of furniture. Construction materials industry

The construction material industry is one of the most important industries in the country and makes a significant contribution to the development of the country’s economy. Dozens of enterprises operate using local raw materials to meet the needs of construction, hydropower, road construction, and housing. The main basis for the development of the sector is the availability of local raw materials and the improvement of living standards. In the 90s of the last century in the construction materials industry of the country there were 32 industrial enterprises and service organizations; in 2019 the number of enterprises and workplaces reached 517 units. The number enterprises in 2013 reached 260. In 2014, the cement production reached 1.4 million tons, wall material 200 million tons, sand and gravel 1.0 million cubic meters. In 2021, 1 million 22 thousand tons of cement were exported, including 637.9 thousand tons to Afghanistan, 249 thousand tons to Uzbekistan and 115.5 thousand tons to Kyrgyzstan. Imports of cement this year amounted to 43.9 thousand tons. Production of gypsum board as a substitute for imports amounted to 1.5 million tons, of which 74.9 thousand tons of gypsum board was exported to Afghanistan. This year, production of cement amounted to 1 million 91 million tons, bricks - 811 million pieces, gas blocks - 36.9 thousand cubic meters, non-metallic materials - 1.5 million cubic meters, gypsum board - 1.4 million pieces and slate - 1.3 million pieces. There are 10 enterprises for the production of decorative materials in the country. In the first year of the 2020-2021 period, 13.9 thousand square meters of marble slabs, 2.1 thousand square meters of decorative stones for the facade of buildings, 2570 pieces of poles, 219 tons of marble were produced. In general, in 2019, 25 enterprises of the industry produced 52.9 thousand square meters of decorative stones. In the near future, there are plans to establish cement plants in Dushanbe, production of construction glass, brick factories and sand and gravel processing in the cities and districts of the country at the expense of domestic and foreign investors. To celebrate at a high level the 30th anniversary of state independence of Tajikistan, entrepreneurs plan to build many enterprises in the field of construction materials, which is aimed at the well-being of the country’s citizens. Creative ideas are being taken in the field of food industry.

The food industry of the country mainly covers the production of canned fruits and vegetables, oil, non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks, cigarettes, confectionery, salt production, flour and bread production and meat and milk. Its strategic goal is to provide a stable and guaranteed supply of safe and high-quality food products to the population of the country, and during the 30 years of state independence through the introduction of innovative technologies the Tajik food industry has achieved a number of significant achievements. We will recall that according to official statistics, in 1999, there were 94 enterprises in the food industry in the country. During the period of state independence
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A new food processing line launched by Khujand-Agro Enterprise in the food industry from 6 to 81, reaching 525 enterprises in 2021.

In order to improve the system of production, enterprises of the food industry have actively participated in national and international events and achieved success, including the production of domestic enterprises due to the high quality of the food products. The food industry has produced more than 88 new enterprises for the production of medicines and medicaments, and in their capacity, the food industry has been recovering, with a significant increase in production. Since then, a number of initiatives and recommendations have been approved within the framework of the UN General Assembly and other important UN bodies, which have not only helped to expand and deepen knowledge in the field of water resources but also to take practical steps and actions towards achieving sustainable use of water resources. Over the recent decade, the objective of achievement of sustainable development at the world, regional and national levels have become of primary importance, and the world community undertakes serious steps in this direction.

It is well known that water is essential for the survival and productivity of life and ecosystem, and almost all spheres of human activity are closely connected to water resources. Indeed, water is indispensable for human development, health and wellbeing. Even the current coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19) which has emerged as the most severe global health crisis in our history and imposes also extra pressures on water and sanitation systems, proved it. Therefore, water is a fundamental element that helps the world and regions to restore their capacities for mastering the current crisis and its consequences and to become more resilient when facing a future crisis. As a result of increasing economic, social and environmental pressure and crises, since the 21st century the issue of water resources has not only helped to expand and deepen knowledge in the field of water resources but also to take practical steps and actions towards achieving sustainable use of water resources.

Some UN data: around 2.2 billion people lack safely managed drinking water, 4.2 billion people lack safely managed sanitation, 3 billion people have no access to handwashing facilities at home, and 700 million persons are displaced due to scarcity of water by 2030. These figures indicate a concerning trend, but also an immense opportunity to bolster progress towards the attainment of all SDGs.

Since independence, Tajikistan is consistently carrying out water diplomacy and actively promoting the water issue on the global agenda to attract attention of governments and various international organizations. This diplomacy in the light of constructive water initiatives, as our country has been the initiator of the most UN “water” resolutions in the recent decades, has been welcomed and supported by the international community.


Consistent initiatives of my President aimed at attracting world attention have become a bright reflection of national needs perception and consideration of the concerns of countries in the region and worldwide. To facilitate the implementation of these initiatives, since 2003 the government of Tajikistan has been cooperating with the United Nations and support of various international organizations has been convening high-level international events in Dushanbe and we have already organized a total of 9 international events on the water issue. In the context of the International Decade for Action Freshwater, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan under UN support has hosted International Fresh-Water Forum in Dushanbe in August 2003. One of the main suggestions supported by the Forum participants was announcing years 2005-2015 as International Decade for Action “Water for Life.” Then, the same year, on
23 December 2003 UN General Assembly adopted the resolution proclaiming the period from 2005 to 2015 International Decade for Action “Water for Life.” Efforts of Tajikistan as the initiator country of the International Year of Freshwater and International Decade for Action “Water for Life – 2005-2015,” have resulted in attracting the world community’s attention to the vital problems related to water resources, within the framework of cooperation on development, management and rational use of water resources.

To continue these efforts, at the 60th (in 2005) and the 63rd (2008) Sessions of the UN General Assembly, the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon suggested hosting a Dushanbe International Forum, in 2010 on the occasion of five years of implementation of the International Decade for Action “Water for Life” to discuss the progress of implementation of plans and programs. Thus, the growing influence of modern challenges and global changes to the state and availability of water resources oblige the world community to focus more attention on the solution of water issues, consolidating common vision and actions with the use of appropriate and effective approaches and implementation tools.

The International Year of Freshwater (2005), the International Decade for Action “Water for Life” (2005-2015) and the International Year of Water Cooperation (2013), as well as the measures adopted by countries at national, regional and global levels on their implementations, undoubtedly, made a significant contribution to the solution of today’s water problems. The International Decade for Action “Water for Life” was widely supported by all UN member states due to special importance of the water as a strategically vital resource and deep understanding by the International community of the growing importance of water issues. Besides, this new Decade is aimed to continue implementation of the indicated steps of the previous years to gain an integrated level and the need to give high priority to address them in the name of sustainable socio-economic development, to ensure environmental stability, and on the whole, constructive development.

After completion of the first Decade 2005-2015, President of Tajikistan speaking at the World Water Forum (April 2015, the Republic of Korea) proposed the new initiative for the proclamation of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development,” which would build on the previous platform and promotion and coordination of all efforts to address the issues and problems related with water resources.

Considering that in December 2016 the UN General Assembly declared the years from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action on “Water for Sustainable Development,” the Government of Tajikistan convenes in fulfillment of its engagements and serves to provide impulse, support and comprehensive actions and partnerships in response to the Water Action Decade at national, regional and international levels. This “Dushanbe Process” builds on the momentum of the international forum in Dushanbe, four Water Action Decade Conferences, which the Government of Tajikistan convenes in fulfillment of its engagements and serves to provide impulse, support and comprehensive actions and partnerships in response to the Water Action Decade at national, regional and international levels.

The objectives of the decade are a greater focus on the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources and on the implementation and promotion of related programs and projects, as well as on the furtherance of cooperation and partnership at all levels.

As a consequence, the First High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, was held in Dushanbe on June 20-21, 2018. The Dushanbe Declaration has become an outcome of the conference, reflecting the key points of the discussions and many important conclusions and recommendations. In particular, the document stresses the importance of the decade and its role in promoting efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for all Member States, UN, and other regional and global partners to actively participate at all levels for the achievement of actions for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

“Water for Sustainable Development,” which would become a solid platform and promote coordination and all efforts to address the issues and problems related with water resources.

Fisheries and aquaculture farms in Vakhsh region.

There are many interlinkages between water and climate change in the context of water resources management as a key factor for climate adaptation and mitigation. It would be also appropriate to mention a new initiative of my President. As it is well-known, many glaciers are the main resource of fresh water. Therefore, accelerating melting, coupled with an increase in water consumption associated with population growth and economic development, poses a threat. Unfortunately, due to the climate change impact, the glaciers began to melt intensively, not only in our region but in the world as a whole. For example, in the 20th century, there were more than 14,000 glaciers in Tajikistan. Today, more than 1,000 glaciers of my country have completely melted. The volume of the mass of the country’s glaciers has decreased by almost a third over a relatively short period. Given this critical issue should be in the special focus of the world community, on March 18 2021 my President, speaking at the opening of the “High-Level Meeting on the implementation of the water-related goals and targets of the Agenda 2030,” proposed to declare 2023 as the International Year for the Preservation of Glaciers. Tajikistan is convinced that this initiative would give impetus to a new global movement to take the necessary collective action and to protect glaciers from intense melting and disappearance, as well as this initiative organically fit into the mainstream of the measures currently taken by the world community within the framework of the New Agenda 2030, as we think that the UN Conference on Water Action Decade -2023 provides a good platform and can play a key role in integrating water and climate issues, contribute to their comprehensive solution to achieve sustainable development.

Tajikistan attaches great importance to water resources and as a part of its international commitments and contributions will continue to carry out its water diplomacy in promoting global water agenda and providing a platform for political dialogue, partnership, action, and organizing, with the support of the United Nations and other partners, high-level international conferences throughout the Water Action Decade.
Glaciers of Tajikistan

The Source of Fresh Water in the Region

By Sheralizoda Bahodur Ahmadjon, Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

Tajikistan is a mountainous country and, of course, mountains, despite their inaccessibility, make Tajikistan unique in its beauty and attractiveness. Maybe the secret of the beauty and kindness of the people of Tajikistan is also hidden in this, but mountains are also the country’s wealth: flora and fauna, deposits of precious stones, ore, and coal are naturally a potential source of Tajikistan’s enrichment. However, the main natural wealth of Tajikistan must be considered fresh water reserves - the basis of life on earth. About one third of the people on Earth already experience a lack of drinking water. Every year this deficit increases, since, on the one hand, industry, agriculture and a constantly growing population consume more and more water, and on the other hand, humanity, through rash actions, pollutes lakes, rivers and reservoirs - sources of fresh water. It should be noted that for each hectare of irrigated land in Tajikistan, there are more than a hectare of glaciers, or about six hundred thousand cubic meters of ice. Tajikistan occupies one of the first places in the CIS, both in terms of glaciation area, and in terms of ice volume and size of glaciers. The solid, frozen water accumulated by nature for centuries is of vital importance for Tajikistan and the Central Asian region. Although Tajikistan occupies about a tenth of the area of the entire Central Asia, more than half of the flow of the entire region is formed on its territory. The glaciers of Tajikistan annually provide more than 13 km3 of water - almost a quarter of the total flow of rivers in Tajikistan. Glaciers are not only accumulators, but also moisture regulators: they soften fluctuations in river discharge, lower the runoff variation coefficient, which is beneficial for all sectors of the country’s economy.

On the territory of Tajikistan, the morphological types of glaciers are very diverse and are determined by the relief, orography, climatic and other factors. For Tajikistan, as a country with arid and semi-arid climates, hydro-meteorological data and climate scenarios provide sufficient evidence that water resources and agriculture are highly vulnerable to climate change and can be subject to impacts with a wide range of consequences for both the population and ecosystems. As it is known, Tajikistan is rich in water resources. The main source of these waters is the region’sglacial resources, more than sixty percent of which are located on the territory of Tajikistan. Glaciers are the main freshwater resource. Their accelerated melting, coupled with an increase in water consumption associated with population growth and economic development, can lead to very negative consequences. Analysis of the trend of the impact of climate change and population growth shows that if in the sixties of the last century, the per capita water supply in Central Asia was more than eight thousand cubic meters per year, today this indicator has decreased by more than four times - to 2.1 thousand cubic meters per year. This, in turn, can pose a threat to the life and well-being of the inhabitants of the region. It is obvious that this critical issue should be in the special focus of the world community and, especially, political leaders. In this regard, at the first meeting of the High-Level Panel on Water and Climate, in his speech, President of Tajikistan, Leader of the Nation, distinguished Emomali Rahmon proposed to declare the International Year for the Glaciers Conservation, and to determine the date of the World Glacier Day.

In this context, it was also proposed to create a special International Fund for the Conservation of glaciers, which could mobilize financial resources from various sources to take the necessary actions and implement tasks in this direction. These and other related initiatives will give impetus to a new movement at the global level to take the necessary collective action and to protect glaciers from intense melting and disappearance.

Monitoring facts:

Zeravshan glacier - Monitoring of the Zeravshan glacier in 2019 showed that over the past 40 years, the glacier retreated by 1,700 meters. The retreat rate of the glacier, taking into account the already melted area of “dead ice,” was 43 m/year along the entire front of the glacier tongue. According to the observations, an unambiguous conclusion can be made. The Zeravshan glacier continues to retreat. The area of melted ice, taking into account the areas of “dead ice” both in the right bank and in the left bank, according to monitoring data carried out in 1979, 1991, 2009, 2019, was 1.34 km2. According to the data, the volume of melted ice was 2.04 km3. The course of the continuing retreat of the end of the glacier tongue is evidenced by numerous cracks, gaps, wells located both on the tongue part and on the stem part of the glacier body. Garmo glacier - The Garmo Dendrite Glacier is one of the largest glaciers in the Pamirs. It is located between the high spurs of the Peter the Great and Darvaz ridges and is bounded from the rear by the Academy of Sciences ridge. The highest peaks of Tajikistan are located in its upper reaches. The Garmo river flowing out of the glacier, taking Kirgizob on the right, and Bohud on the left, gives rise to the Obkikongou river - the left component of the Vakhsh, one of the main waterways of Tajikistan.

The last time the glacier was monitored in 1991. According to the results of the monitoring, the specialists predicted the dismemberment of the tongue part of the glacier due to cutting by lateral tributaries. In 2021, specialists from the Agency for Hydrometeorology of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan carried out monitoring on the Garmo glacier and during the research it became known that the glacier was in the stage of active degradation and thus justified the forecast of 30 years ago. Over the past 30 years (1991-2021), the glacier tongue retreated by 6.3 km at a speed of 210 m/year. The reason for such an active degradation of the Garmo glacier, along with the cutting of lateral tributaries, is also considered to be the influence of climate change. The proof of this is the thick moraine cover and many lakes on the tongue part of the glacier. (The author is Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan)
Mirzo Tursunzoda has a special place among the descendants of our nation, who opposed oppression and promoted peace. The creative works of Mirzo Tursunzoda began in the 1930s with mainly patriotic poems. At the same time, he is also well known as a supporter of peace, solidarity, and friendship among peoples. Moreover, Mirzo Tursunzoda recognized as a voice of the world without any oppression, war and bloodshed, a compassionate world with a strong desire for human happiness.

This great poet is famous not only in Tajikistan and Central Asia, but also all over the world, especially in Asia and Africa. His good name is still remembered today, since his words and poems able to reach the hearts of the peoples of the world.

Peace and security is born in my land, and we love it as homeland. This beloved and pacificist poet visited Delhi for the first time in 1947 on the eve of India’s independence to participate in the international conference of the “Asian Nations.” He made remarks in the introduction of a collection of 20th-century Indian poetry titled “The Poems of Indian Friends,” he wrote “For the first time, I was able to visit the Indian people in the historic and memorable days, when this great country achieved its long-awaited freedom.”

One year later, for his poems “Ballade of India,” “Ganges River,” “The Western Guest,” “Tara Chandri,” “The Hanging Garden,” and “In One’s Memory” Mirzo Tursunzoda was awarded the state award by the Soviet Union. During those days a Global Peacekeeping Committee was established, which was mainly represented by scientists, scholars and intellectuals from all over the world. Among them Tursunzoda joined the Committee and served until the end of his life. In 1951, when global struggle for peace and friendship was on the rise, Tursunzoda wrote the following in one of his articles: “Millions of people around the world look to us with hope and we will continue to hold on to the banner of fight for peace and we will extend a band of friendship to all the honest people of the world.”

Later in 1958, when the Asian-African Solidarity Committee established the International Literature Organization, Mirzo Tursunzoda was among of the original initiators. Mirzo Tursunzoda became world famous for his achievements and was awarded many prizes, including the International Jawaharlal Nehru Prize for Peace Building, which was presented to him by then the Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi in 1967. In 1961, he was granted with the honorary title of a National Poet of Tajikistan and in 2001 he was awarded the title “Hero of Tajikistan” for his great and noble services in building the foundations of his country, for patriotism, development of literature and culture, for the promotion of culture peace and friendship among nations. In other words, indeed Mirzo Tursunzoda can be considered the greatest example of the people’s representative as a champion of peace and friendship. (The author is a researcher at the Southeast Asia Department Institute for Asian and European Studies NIAT)

Tajikistan has achieved significant success in this strategically important area and acquired a special reputation in the international arena. Membership of Tajikistan in the World Tourism Organization, the entry of the capital, the city of Dushanbe into the World Federation of Tourist Cities, the declaration of Dushanbe as the tourist capital of the Economic Cooperation Organization for 2020-2021, the inclusion of the historical site “Sanuzum” and “National Garden” and the intangible cultural heritage “Chaksa’” in the art of embroidery of Tajikistan, “Osh Palov” and “Music by Shashmakom” in UNESCO are live examples of the tourist image of Tajikistan. In order to further improve the investment climate and encourage foreign entrepreneurs investing more than $1 million in Tajikistan, a multiple-entry five-year visa and to facilitate the movement of compatriots born in Tajikistan, a multiple-entry three-year visa was issued. To maximize the attraction of tourists and citizens of foreign countries, a multiple-entry tourist visa of up to 60 days has been created. The introduction of an electronic visa and visa-free regime with 12 countries of the world, the introduction of a simplified visa regime with 112 countries, as well as the cancellation of internal registration of tourists will allow tourists to submit documents online without contacting the consulates of Tajikistan, Just visit www.evisa.tj to get an e-visa and come to Tajikistan.

According to international assessments, the electronic visa system of Tajikistan is among the five best visa systems and ranks fourth in the world. In Tajikistan, the contribution of law enforcement agencies to ensuring the safety of domestic and foreign tourists is significant, and ensuring safe recreation and tourism for tourists is always in the spotlight. The Department of Tourist Police under the Ministry of Internal Affairs has been operating since 2018. There is direct cooperation and communication between this department and travel companies, which meets the needs of tourists.

Currently, there are more than 200 travel companies, 188 hotels, 26 hotels and motels, 45 sanatoriums, 8 health centers and clinics, 10 rest houses, 1 boarding house, 1 camping and 4 recreation and tourism centers; in total there are 389 tourist facilities. The climate of Tajikistan is continental and subtropical, with moderate and cold temperatures in the mountains. In a short time, you can visit the snow-covered foothills of the eastern Pamir in the Shahrinub region of the southern part of the country (Khantun region) with a temperature of 40 degrees. For example, the banks of 947 rivers, lakes, reservoirs, mineral springs, foothills, mountainous regions of Tajikistan, Karategin, Darvaz, mountain glaciers of the Pamirs, waterfalls, natural and historical sites, favorable climate, flora and fauna of mountainous areas will become a stable basis for the territorial organization of tourism. In the process of development of domestic and international tourism in Tajikistan, more than 3000 registered monuments of history and culture, a large number of ecological resources are being studied for...
entertainment of the city of Dushanbe. Along with this, the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region is one of the most attractive tourist destinations and is famous for its beautiful rivers and lakes, mountains and unique landscapes. The existence of historical and medical sites such as Lake Sarez, Garmchashma, Avi, Yanchun, Dzholendel, Bibi Fatima Zukhro, the highest mountain ranges in the world and the Pamir glaciers are worth a visit. Every year, many tourists and climbers visit the peaks of Ismoil Somoni, Istiklol, Kohruzen, Abuali ibn Sino, Fedchenko glaciers, Kherson, lakes - Karakul, Sarez, Yashilkul, Burunkul, healing springs Dzholendel, Garmchashma Park, Avi, Bibi, the Republic of Modion Zukh, Tajikistan, Zorkul Nature Reserve, Pamir Botanical Garden. Also, tourists visit the historical and cultural sites of the region, including the castles of Kakhyab, Yuchon, Karen, Vamar, mausoleums and museums, as well as learn about the ancient culture and traditions of local residents. Goat Murkhor is one of the rare animals of Tajikistan bred in this region. The number of goat hunters and the number of tourists who want to see the beautiful landscapes of Tajikistan are growing every year. One of the most attractive tourist destinations in Tajikistan is the northern part, Sughd region, which is famous for its beautiful rivers and lakes, mountains and unique attractions. The development of tourism in the region includes the presence of such historical and cultural places as Sarmav, which is more than 5500 years old, ancient Penjikent, the birthplace of the founder of the classical Tajik and Persian literature, master Abasudullo Rudaki in the village of Panjud, Panjxie and Archamaidan mountains, the fabulous lakes of Hafkul and others.

The Museum of the 2700th Anniversary of Kulob is the best museum in the country, where visitors can get acquainted with pottery and stone carving, master Abuabdullo Rudaki in the village of Panjud, Panjxie and Archamaidan mountains, various coins of the Great Cyrus, Ismoil Somoni periods, the Tumurid dynasty and copper coins of the 17th century. Notable are men’s armor, some elements of women’s jewelry (rings, bracelets), armor and spears, as well as weapons from the times of Alexander the Great. One of the most popular tourist destinations in the Hissar Valley is the Historical Museum of the 100th Anniversary of the Abuali ibn Sino Museum, which is located in the city of Dushanbe, the main gate of Tajikistan, with its history, nature and cultural heritage attracts the attention of many tourists. Attraction of foreign investment in the construction of five-star hotels, medical institutions, parks of culture and recreation, modern residential and commercial buildings, tea houses, decorated with national motives of palaces built in a modern style, libraries and museums, unique in Central Asia, are priority areas for the development of tourism in Dushanbe. … The city of Dushanbe, as the main gateway for tourists and hundreds of thousands of foreign guests, annually makes its mission a comfort for tourists heading to Badakhshan, the beautiful landscapes of Khato, Zeravshan, Romit and Varzob. There are many historical and architectural sites in Dushanbe. Of course, the tourist attractions of Dushanbe, despite the small size of the city, are very rich and there is no place without attractions. Culture and traditions of hospitality, rich national monuments, museums, markets and monuments of Tajik and Persian writers...

Because the juicy and organic fruits of Tajikistan, including grapes, peaches, apricots, cherries, apples, pears and picking them right in the orchards, fresh vegetables, melons and watermelons, dried fruits, delicious honey, fruit and vegetable juices and other environmentally friendly products are the basis for the development of agrotourism.

Gastronomic tourism in Tajikistan is developing steadily. The announcement of the Years of Rural Development, Tourism and Folk Crafts has laid a favorable foundation for the development of gastronomic tourism. Tajik national cuisine has revived, domestic and foreign tourists enjoy national dishes. Regular holding of festivals and celebrations, including the festival "Oshli Palav," the festival "Food and balloons," the spring festival of national dishes. "Navruz," the spring festival of ancient dishes, "Ziidozham," "Khurishkoimill," "Ice cream and water quenching thirst" and others holidays, gives a serious impetus to the development of gastronomic tourism and attracting more tourists.

One of the main attractions of gastronomic tourism in Tajikistan is Navruz dishes, including sumanak and hafsin-hafshin, which are prepared on the occasion of the International Day of Navruz. Navruz is presented as a travel brand. In Tajikistan, Navruz, Mehrgan, Sada, Tigon, holidays of honey, apple, pumpkin and other sites are promoted as a tourist brand in order to attract more tourists. Tajikistan is known as the habitat of the mountain sheep Marco Polo and is considered suitable for the development of hunting tourism. In addition, the protected area of the country is home to many different and rare species of animals that attract thousands of hunting enthusiasts. The conservation and population of the Marco Polo ram, mountain goat, Bukhara mountain goat, brown bear and other rare species allow this species to be hunted in our republic. The area of specially protected territories in Tajikistan is 31.3 million hectares, which includes 4 state natural reserves and nature reserves, 37 natural monuments and other objects. Currently, in the reserves, natural parks and wildlife reserves of the country, 85 species of rare animals are protected and there are 85 species of rare animals, such as the free tiger, red wolf, Bukhara deer and gazelle, Bukhara mountain sheep, argali, mountain goat, juul, mistan silos, which are of great interest.

Among these objects, the National Park of Tajikistan is unique for its magnificence in the sense of historical monuments and rare flora and fauna in Central Asia. Located in the central part of the Pamirs and Alay, this fantastic site covers an area of 2.6 million hectares and in 2013 it was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List as a unique natural site. And it should be noted that there are many such beautiful places as "Dushjum," "Romit," "Tiger Forest" with their unique nature. Tajikistan has attracted many foreign tourists and travel lovers, since gaining in independence, the image of the region has become calmer; has found better opportunities for the development of tourism and, according to influence of international organizations and the media, occupies a prominent place: British travel magazine "Wanderlust" announces Tajikistan as one of the 10 most attractive countries for tourists; the Russian edition of the popular National Geographic magazine "Globo" ranks Tajikistan among the top ten most attractive countries for adventure tourists; the Russian edition of the popular National Geographic magazine "Globo" ranks Tajikistan among the top ten most beautiful reads in the world; The Independent has recognized the capital of Tajikistan, Dushanbe, as one of the ten safest places to ensure night safety; Tajikistan takes 7th place and is one of the ten best countries in the world in the rating of the British society "British Backpacker Society" in terms of opportunities for adventure and hiking; the US State Department of Tourism recommends Tajikistan as one of the safest countries to travel; in the framework of the World Tourism Exhibition Berlin - 2018, the award ceremony **"100 best world leaders in protecting national culture, traditions and involving people in tourism in 2018" was held. Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region of Tajikistan was included in the top 100 countries of the Asia-Pacific region and ranks 1st; "Financial Times" includes Tajikistan in the list of eight countries recommended for tourists; Tajikistan is included in the list of the safest countries in the world. The rating was compiled by the international financial magazine "Global Finance." The American analytical center "Gallup" in a survey of citizens of 142 countries put Tajikistan in second place in the list of the safest countries in the world; British newspaper "The Telegraph" mentions "Mt. Aloob" in Tajikistan; "Kokli Navruz" located in the capital of Tajikistan is presented as a modern national festival, the development of tourism and is one of the 8 wonders of the SCO; in the poll of the prestigious international magazine "Lonely Planet" among the 10 best regions for travel and travel on the Silk Road in Central Asia, Tajikistan takes first place.
National holidays of Tajikistan

SADA, MEHRGON AND NAVRUZ

These ancient customs of the Aryans, re-

of Navruz, Tirgon, Mehrgon and Sada.

sion and customs. Part of this heritage

Tajiks, are proud of the great heritage of

October 2020 in Dushanbe, President

tific symposium “Research of Ancient

In his speech at the international scien-

- have the status of timeless significance.

- eternal movement and continuation of life

- have the status of timeless significance.

- emergency ceremonies, and etiquette.

According to written sources, the ancient

Sanction not from the world of means

- must be joined by something from another

- to become festive, they

er and beauty, the philosophical founda-

- are a kind of means of

- are symbols of the solidi-

- the deification of nature, the emergence

- are based on the idea of an eternal strug-

- the archaism, semantics and symbol-

- and Navruz, arose among the farmers of

- ancient occupation of Tajiks.

- and Navruz, arose in the era of pre-class

- the life of ancient farmers was based on the

- the highest aesthetics, pagan

- with the emergence and development of

- the highest goals of human exis-

- in the art of Tajikistan. Human culture has a certain ar-

- also mentions the idea of the sacredness of the sphere of

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- the sphere of absolutes and shrines,

- with the emergence and development of

- the agrarian business and the establish-

- ment of its calendar cycle. Navruz was

- with preparation for arable work, a

- person’s dream of warmth, the end of

- frost, for which he never ceased to pray to

- the higher powers. All three of these hol-

- idays belong to the cycle of calendar hol-

- idays associated with agriculture - an

- ancient occupation of Tajiks.

- is one of the oldest holidays, which

- falls from the night of 30 to the day of

- January 31. The Garden Festival is, first of

- all, a festival of fire, and its name is taken

- from the numeral one hundred - a garden

- covering 50 nights and 50 days before the

- arrival of Navruz. As the famous scientist

A traditional table spread for Mehrgon celebrations.

During Mehrgon people dance, play folk music and organize bazaars of local producers.

People celebration festival of Sada on the streets of Dushanbe around bonfires.

Numerous historical sources indicate that festival Sada and the worship of fire and the Sun by the ancestors of the Tajiks and other Aryan people dates back ten to twelve thousand years ago.

Abuzaibish Beruni believed, ancestors of Tajiks counted day and night sepa-

ately. Sada is a celebration of the pass-

ing winter and a herald of the approach of

spring. Sada is a symbol of the victory

of light over darkness. On January 30, ev-

everyone gathers in the street and kindles

fires, prays and sings musical or theatric-

al performances are held. Numerous historical sources indicate that the worship of fire and the Sun

by the ancestors of the Tajiks and oth-

er Aryan people dates back ten to twelve

thousand years ago. On this basis, the

seasonal holidays of Shabi Yaldo and

Seda and the worship of fire and the Sun by the ancestors of the Tajiks and other Aryan people dates back ten to twelve thousand years ago. On this basis, the seasonal holidays of Shabi Yaldo and Seda later appeared, associated with the kindling of large fires. On the night of the 11th Bahman (from January 30 to January 31), everyone, to the best of their ability, was busy collecting firewood, brushwood, piling up large and tall piles of fuel and then setting them on fire, so that the flame could be seen at a very great distance. In his speech, President Emomali Rahmon on the occasion of the Garden
During the three days of celebration of Navruz, traditional food is prepared and games are played by adults and children alike.

Navruz is one of the greatest holidays of the Tajiks, which is like the New Year for them and is celebrated annually in the spring of March - the day of the astronomical balance of day and night. The Navruz holiday has more than 3 thousand years of history and it is also celebrated in Turkic countries along with Persian countries. The name Navruz itself is formed from two Tajik words “Nav” and “Ruz,” which means in Russian as a new day. Navruz differs from Islamic traditions. Navruz is included in the list of intangible world events of UNESCO and is recognized as an international holiday (from 30.09.2009). Navruz is the most ancient and humanistic holiday on earth and is distinguished by a number of original features, which makes it a unique global phenomenon. Navruz is a nationwide holiday as a whole not of a protest nature, it is a powerful unifying force and is designed to restore the former ancestral human bonds. It is the Navruz holiday that is the most typical phenomenon of the Tajik-Persian (Iranian) culture, for it represents its living and traditional achievements. Moreover, this holiday, as a condensed spirituality of generations and eras, personifies the core of the philosophy of the history of Tajiks (Iranian peoples), continuity. Human life is associated with the material and spiritual achievements of the past. The development of society, education and the use of the heritage of the past are vitally necessary for every generation therefore, its transmission to the younger generation is the duty of every person.
ISTARAVSHAN IS A MUSEUM CITY OF TAJIKISTAN

by Sharifjon Habibulloev

Istaravshan is one of the ancient cities of Central Asia, sprung up more than 2500 years ago. The city is situated at an altitude of about 1000 meter above sea level on the Akso mountain range at the western side of the Turkestan Ridge. It is believed that Istaravshan was founded by Persian king Kirdar. It became an extreme point of his great state in the North-West of his territory and suburbs are represented more than 150 historical, cultural and art monuments. Among them are:

Mug-tepe (temple of fire (4-7th cc. B.C.)

The ancient building consists of a center room surrounded by corridors on every side and strengthened by four corner towers. Kôk-gumbaz madrasah (the first half of the 16th century, turned into madrassa in the middle of 17th century) with the central domical hall, Bobo Tago Mausoleum (the 16th century), Sari-Mazar historical complex (16-19th cc.), wire frame houses of the 18th- early 20th centuries with ornament patterns are also of big historical interest. The city was founded in the sixth century BC by an Akhemenid king Cyrus who fortified the settlement by means of three wall lines and a citadel.

In the second - seventh centuries BC the ancient settlement Mug - tepe was located on the territory of Istaravshan. Mug - tepe was the residence of the local aristocracy who erected there numerous palaces distinguished by original expressionist architecture. The evidence of that is the tomb of St. Khazrati Shokh - the place of the honored religious figure appointed in this place.

The mausoleum itself being one of the most ancient landmarks of Tajikistan is a part of the historical - architectural complex “Khazrati Shokh” located in the old part of Istaravshan. The complex consists of three cult structures: Khazrati Shokh Mausoleum, Khudoyar Valami Mausoleum and Khazrati Shokh Mosque (also known as Namozgoh) built in the 19th century. All three structures stand in a semicircle. Each of them was erected at different times and has its own history of creation and purpose. In the past the city cemetery and the madrassa were also a part of the complex.

Today Khazrati Shokh Mausoleum is a modest two-dome brick building with a tomb (gurkhan) and a chapel (ziyaratkhana) which has been repeatedly restored. In front of the mausoleum there is a spring the water in which is considered holy and medicinal. According to a legend the spring was formed after Caliph Ali dropped his crosier into a high mountain lake. The crosier emerged at the feet of Khazrati Shokh buried in Ura-Tube.

The main bazar of Istaravshan.

Tyube right where the spring was born. It was from this spring that the history of the mausoleum started. According to the scientists the Moslems consider a spring as a source of life; this is why the burial place of the honored religious figure appeared there. Later the mausoleum was erected above his tomb. The complex is dated the 18th century though historical it emerged much earlier – in the 10th – 11th century.
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