

**Your Excellency,
Dear Director General,
Dear participants of the conference,
Dear ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Kyrgyz Republic, let me welcome you and thank you for giving the floor. I am honored to have the opportunity to speak on stage at this important event.

Recognizing the serious potential catastrophic consequences of radioactive contamination, the Kyrgyz Republic places the highest priority on radiation safety and the reclamation of uranium legacy sites inherited by the Kyrgyz Republic following its independence.

We are convinced that efforts in this area need to be significantly strengthened and aligned with the scale of the problem, with the involvement of more substantial financial and other resources.

In my speech, I would like to raise a very important issue for the countries of Central Asia, specifically the Fergana Valley, where the interests of three states intersect and the fraternal peoples of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan live together in peace.

This is the remediation of uranium tailings, which pose a threat to the environmental safety of the entire region.

Dear Participants,

We consider it highly important that the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly adopted a new resolution initiated by the Kyrgyz Republic, titled "The Role of the International Community in the Prevention Radiation Threats in Central Asia," calling for further international support to address the uranium legacy issues in Central Asia.

This action has brought the issue of uranium legacy sites to the forefront of international attention. To address this pressing problem and support Central Asian countries, a multilateral fund was established at the initiative of the European Commission and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development—the Environmental Remediation Account for Central Asia (ERA). We are grateful to the countries that have contributed to the Environmental Remediation Account, especially to the European Commission, Belgium, Switzerland, Norway, the USA, Spain, and Lithuania. Today, the Environmental Remediation Account (ERA) has collected 46 million euros.

The adoption of the updated resolution of the UN General Assembly and the creation of the fund became a solid basis for further attracting international assistance to ensure sustainable development.

In cooperation with the IAEA, a Strategic Master Plan for remediation of uranium legacy sites in Central Asia has been developed and approved. This plan serves as a roadmap for the effective restoration of these areas, including 3 sites in the Kyrgyz Republic, 2 sites in the Republic of Tajikistan, and 2 sites in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

It is important to note that the impact of these sites is transboundary, and in the event of intensified natural and climatic phenomena, it could negatively affect the entire Fergana Valley, where approximately 10 million people are living.

Currently, significant progress has been made in Kyrgyzstan—reclamation work has been completed at two sites (Min-Kush and Shekaftar), and work has begun in Mailuu-Suu.

As a result of the reclamation work, the areas near the populated sites have significantly improved due to the removal of contaminated waste. The environmental situation in the region has improved, safe living conditions and social rehabilitation have been established for over 80,000 residents, and the investment attractiveness of the areas has increased.

In addition, the implementation of the Interstate Target Program of the Commonwealth of Independent States is being completed in Kyrgyzstan, within the framework of which the reclamation of 5 sites is being completed, and in turn, we would like to express our gratitude to the Russian side for its assistance in this matter.

However, we are concerned that the work under the Environmental Remediation Account for Central Asia will not be able to complete its work in full to implement the Master Plan due to a funding shortfall of 40 million euros.

In this regard, we would like to call on the international community and donor countries to support contributions to the Environmental Remediation Account for Central Asia. This is crucial for the comprehensive environmental remediation of uranium tailings storage facilities in the Central Asian region, as it directly impacts the ecological safety and well-being of the entire region.

In conclusion, let me once again express my gratitude for the support provided in the field of radiation safety.

Thank you for your attention!