

Presentation of the First Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Rajabov Abdurahim at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, January 20, 2005, Kobe, Japan.

**Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!**

**Dear colleagues and members of the Second World Conference!**

Let me express my appreciation to the organizers and participants of the Conference for joint, constructive and fruitful cooperation, and express my gratitude to the **Government of Japan and the UN Secretariat on International Strategy for Disaster Reduction** for organizing such an important meeting.

**Dear Sirs!**

On behalf of the Government of Republic of Tajikistan I would like to express our deep and sincere condolences to relatives and families of the victims and of the injured as the result of tsunami in Southeast Asia, one of the most terrible calamities that hit our planet during the last hundred years.

This disaster in Southeast Asia has signaled a great caution for all countries of the world and it is completely clear, that now it is necessary to pay the most committed attention to the issues of forecasting and prevention of disasters, and the world community should learn lessons from these difficult consequences.

Nowadays the problem of ensuring safety from disasters has become one of the major social, political, economic, social-demographic and ecological challenges. The world experience shows, that any country, irrespective of a level of its political and economic development, can not achieve a significant risk reduction of natural disasters and man-caused catastrophes without combining the international efforts.

Taking this into account, there is a need to pursue unified scientific, technical, economic and legislative bases regarding disasters. I believe that this World Conference on Disaster Reduction could make its own valuable contribution to addressing the given matter.

My proposal to the United Nations is to adopt a Convention on unified disaster management legislation.

In this respect there is a unique experience of the CIS countries in coordination of disaster management policies in the field of prevention and liquidation of disaster consequences within the framework of the “Interstate Council for Emergency Situations regarding natural and technological disasters”, which was established on September 24, 1993.

The Interstate Council is mainly dealing with issues such as drafting cooperation agreements in the field of prevention and liquidation of disaster consequences. It

provides assistance in development and implementation of interstate target oriented as well as scientific and technical programs in the field of disaster prevention, including protection of the population, assets and cultural values and protecting the environment. The council provides assistance in integration of systems and interaction of the authorities responsible for prevention, assists in liquidation of consequences of disasters, assists in trainings upgrading skills of specialists in this area of expertise.

The goal of the Convention could be to:

1. ensure coordinated actions of the member-states for prevention and liquidation of disaster consequences based on unified legal norms and procedures;
2. form unified views to deal with disaster related issues;
3. form unified laws on prevention and liquidation of consequences of disasters.

This will allow development of effective mechanisms for international cooperation, to integrate effective and coordinated measures both at national and international level. This will ensure mutual information exchange and newest technology exchange in the field of disaster prevention and liquidation. This will highlight the priority of norms of international law to ensure human security in emergencies and will confirm adherence of the countries to principles of interaction and cooperation.

Thank you for attention.