**REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN**

**NATIONAL Development COUNCIL AND**

**DEVELOPMENT Forum**

3 July 2018

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

1. The National Development Council meeting and Development Forum aimed at reviewing the intermediate outcomes of Tajikistan’s *National Development Strategy 2016-2030* (NDS) and *Mid-Term Development Strategy 2016-2020*. As such, this event provided a platform to discuss the implementation status of the NDS priorities. The Council was chaired by the President Emomali Rahmon and attended by over 80 participants, including senior Government officials and representatives of development partner organisations[[1]](#footnote-2), while Prime Minister Kohir Rasulzoda led the Forum-level discussions.
2. **Introductory Statements**
3. **The President, H.E. Emomali Rahmon**, welcoming participants, highlighted the issues to be reviewed during the Development Council—in particular, principal outcomes in implementing the national goals and priorities, viz., improving living standards through sustainable development. He presented the achievements of the country during the two years, pointing to average economic growth having reached 7 per cent, allowing the poverty rate to fall from 31 to 29.7 per cent, reflecting, in part, increased expenditures in social sectors. He stressed the importance of preserving macroeconomic stability, focusing on poverty reduction, and increasing the middle-class population, while outlining main achievements in education and health services, improvements in the demographic situation, the increase of financing the capital stock, and the mobilisation of public financial instruments to the NDS priority areas and—in cooperation with development partners—Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He emphasised the necessity of prioritising economic development to achieve long-lasting results, underlining the importance of adapting social policy over the mid- to long-term horizon.
4. Looking forward, he recognised that Tajikistan remained vulnerable to external political and economic shocks, which might hinder the development process. He suggested that the major objective for developing and implementing these strategically important documents over the mid- to long-term period was to mitigate the vulnerability of the Tajik economy from potential external shocks, explore and develop effective mechanisms and internal sources of sustainable economic growth, ensure sustainable economic growth, expand productive employment, stable access to energy and create a favourable business environment. In addition to this, strengthening social protection, ensuring access to quality foodstuff, improving water and sanitation, nutrition, ensuring social cohesion and reducing gender inequality in its all forms, and environmental sustainability would remain important areas in the activities of all government branches. In this regard, the effective and efficient use of human and natural resources, including the diversification of the national economy and improvement of its competitiveness, as well as the transition from an agrarian to an industrial model of development are among the most important tasks of the government.
5. Given these directions, President Rahmon acknowledged development partners’ (DPs) important contributions to Tajikistan’s overall development and restated the Government’s commitment to working with DPs more actively on resolving a number of long-standing issues in the pursuit of the country’s development objectives until the next Development Forum. Finally, he instructed the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, in its capacity of NDC Secretariat, and the Executive Office of the President as coordinators of the process, with support from others line ministries and State institutions, including the Ministry of Finance, the Statistics Agency under the Office of the President, the State Committee for Investment and State Property Management and Aide to the President on Economic Affairs to facilitate the process with Development Partners. [President Rahmon’s opening and closing statements are provided at Annex 3 and Annex 8 respectively.]
6. In summarising the discussion, President Rahmon**,** reflecting on DPs’ remarks, expressed his agreement with what was said and, most importantly, the “criticism”, even though expressed very diplomatically, urging the Government and DPs to work together to resolve, in a constructive way, outstanding issues related to business climate improvement. He suggested not to wait until the next National Development Council Session to have the solution in place to improve the overarching situation. He reiterated that the context had changed, and there were no more excuses that some regional projects would not be possible due to tense relationships between Tajikistan and neighbouring countries. He therefore instructed the Government to work closely with DPs on regional projects related to connectivity improvement. He thanked the World Bank for the support with the CASA-1000 project and explained that such an important transition line, if operational early next year, would provide new opportunities and new sources of revenue for Tajikistan, to be derived from the sale of extra energy produced by Rogun’s first turbine, expected to be operational by mid-November 2018. He requested all participants of international organisations to invite their respected heads of agencies to the Rogun first turbine opening ceremony envisaged for 16 November 2018. He highlighted that possible revenues from Rogun would be approximately US$200 million annually, which would be directed to improve the socio-economic situation in Tajikistan. All incomes starting from revenue collection to distribution would be organised in transparent way and even could be outsourced to third parties.
7. **Mr. Hikmatullozoda, Minister of Economic Development and Trade,** delivered a presentation on “The Interim Results on Mid-Term Development Strategy as a First Phase of Implementation of the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan until 2030 within the Framework of the Sustainable Development Goals”. The Minister emphasised that remaining key priorities of Tajikistan for the period until 2030 included (i) ensuring energy security and efficiency; (ii) shifting to becoming a transit country; (iii) providing food security by means of access of the population to quality food; and (iv) enhancing productive employment and human development. He outlined the achievements made across various sectors, emphasising that a lot still had to be done to ensure poverty reduction and an increase in the middle class. Finally, he presented the analyses of how the current MtDS/NDS was aligned with SDGs and how intermediate results were to be discussed along with the potential means to overcome the bottlenecks and to reach the indicators set. [Mr. Hikmatullo’s full presentation is at Annex 4.]
8. **Ms. Pratibha Mehta, Resident Coordinator, United Nations** commenced with congratulating the Government on preparing the first progress report on the implementation of the NDS in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the excellent presentation made. She outlined that the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, adopted by Tajikistan along with all the other UN Member States in September 2015, aimed at ending poverty in all its forms through 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including the “unfinished business” under the earlier Millennium Development Goals. It envisaged a world free of poverty and ensuring human rights, equality and non-discrimination with a core principle to “leave no one behind” by targeting development response and resources. She brought to the audience’s attention that, in Tajikistan, those at risk of being left behind included 17 per cent of children suffering from stunting, due to malnutrition, 50 per cent due lack of safe drinking water and inadequate sanitation, 12 per cent of the population in rural areas having access to adequate food supplements and the rest deprived of that, gender balance and underrepresentation of women in the leading role within the Government and parliament, and girls are dropping out of school earlier, high proportion of youth out of education and without jobs, people with disabilities face unique challenges. Looking forward she suggested that targeted actions and resources would be needed to each of these population groups and many more who are at risk of being left behind. She outlined that a lot was achieved, however, there were less than 13 years remaining to achieve the SDGs. According to recent UN estimates, nearly US$118 billion would be required to implement the NDS and the SDGs by 2030. Therefore, it was necessary to provide stronger public finance management, investing in Rogun to generate revenue for social spending; transferring remittances from consumption to entrepreneurship; implement the reforms aimed at conducive and rule-of-law led private sector development, contributing to diversification of economy and employment creation. Effective NDS/SDG implementation should be based on reliable and timely data and evidence-based decisions in the field budgeting and policy reforms. Currently, there were many stand-alone data systems that were not linked. Streamlining the data and monitoring systems, backed by well-capacitated institutional framework, would go a long way in reporting on NDS/SDGs progress and adopting corrective measure where necessary. [Full statement is at Annex 5.]
9. **Mr. Jan-Peter Olters, Chair of the Development Coordination Council** (DCC) in Tajikistan, expressed DCC members’ support to the socio-economic transformation agenda, formulated along the lines of the National Development Strategy 2030 and a shared vision on the need to adjust to the changed context of economic policy-making, such as (i) the opening of the neighbouring markets; and (ii) the decision to construct the Rogun hydropower plant, potentially transformational in its socio-economic development impact and the opportunities it could bring to Tajikistan socio-economic development. He stressed that these changes opened a unique window of opportunity, if embedded in the right policy framework, to place the country onto the innovative-industrial development path envisioned in Tajikistan’s National Development Strategy. The members of the Development Coordination Council were convinced that Tajikistan could take advantage of emerging opportunities and avoid corresponding risks, offering their support to Government along this challenging development path. For Tajikistan to be able to benefit from a virtuous cycle of investments, exports, and socio-economic development, it required vision, courage, and commitment to ensure the ability to (i) finance public investments within a stable and sustainable macro-fiscal framework; (ii) implement complementary reforms to reinforce effective institutions; and (iii) strengthen confidence among potential investors that Tajikistan was indeed becoming a country of new opportunities and rapid development. Concluding, he outlined that private sector would have to play a key role in ongoing efforts to set Tajikistan’s economy onto a transformational “innovative-industrial” track that fostered investment, innovation, and exports, necessitating important reforms to modernise Tajikistan’s economy and strengthen its business climate. [Mr. Olters’ full statement is at Annex 6. The speech was picked up by local media, including *Asia Plus*.]
10. **Mr. Hidajet Biščević, Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to Tajikistan,** outlined that strong political will, leadership, persistent and focused work and unity around the NDS as a development driver was pre-requisite for success. EU engagement in the implementation of the NDS was being elaborated, on the basis of the current EU Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period until 2020, which was in line with Government`s priorities in this first phase of NDS implementation: education, health, and rural development. In-depth discussions were conducted earlier within the EU – Tajikistan Development Cooperation Subcommittee, and during the March session of the EU – Tajikistan Cooperation Committee. Based on this dialogue, EU is considering to resume budget support operations in Tajikistan, both linked to the ongoing support in the fields of health and social protection and to possible new support in the fields of health and education/professional training. However, it could be done only when Tajikistan solved the outstanding issues in the financial sector and ensured stability-oriented macroeconomic policies. [Mr. Hidajet Biščević’s full statement is at Annex 7.]
11. **In his closing speech, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan,** highly appreciated the contribution of development partners in the development of national economy and considered crucial the continuation of the fruitful cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in all aspects of socio-economic development. For the further implementation of the strategic documents, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan gave a number of specific orders and instructions to line ministries and Government that had to be implemented, with reports on the progress, presented at the next NDC Session, on:
12. **Ministry of Economic Development and Trade**
13. With the purpose of preparing annual quality reports on the implementation of the Midterm Development Programme of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2016-2020, by the end of the year, MEDT has to prepare a programme implementation matrix with the establishment of the measurable interim/outcome indicators and evaluation by sectors of economy and submit it to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for review; this work has to be done with involvement of the relevant ministries and agencies, experts and in cooperation with development partners;
14. In accordance with the current legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan, MEDT has to develop and submit new edition of Draft Charter of the National Development Council under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan with consideration of the requirements of the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals to the President of the Republic of Tajikistan by 1 November 2018;
15. In order to determine the integration between the sectoral programmes, strategies, national strategic documents and Sustainable Development Goals, MEDT has to identify list of baseline indicators which comprehensively describe activities of the sector and track fulfilment of the indicators at the global level together with the relevant ministries and agencies by the first quarter 2019 and submit it to the Government to the Republic of Tajikistan for review;
16. To implement information dissemination campaigns through mass media as well as conduct trainings in the education sector together with relevant ministries and agencies in order to inform public about the achievements in key sections of the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period to 2030" and "Midterm Development Programme of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2016-2020";
17. Take necessary actions in order to prepare interim report on implementation of the Midterm Development Programme of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2016-2020 in 2019 and lay the foundation for the preparation of the second phase for implementation of the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030;
18. **Secretariat of the National Development Council under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan:**
19. Ensure regular coordination and monitoring of the implementation of these goals.
20. **Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan:**
21. To prepare the ground for the establishment of the specialised monitoring and evaluation structural units (division or sector) within ministries and agencies, local executive bodies of provinces, cities and districts within their current structure and staffing for the monitoring and evaluation of the sectoral and regional programmes, which are considered as the mechanism for the implementation of the national strategic documents. Due to the fact that over 160 sectoral and regional programmes were approved at the national and local level, monitoring of their implementation requires mobilisation of significant human and financial resources;
22. **Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan:**
23. Together with relevant ministries and agencies and in collaboration with development partners, to develop mechanism for determining middle class with consideration of the country's characteristics and submit it to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for review by the first half of 2019;
24. Together with line ministries and agencies and in collaboration with development partners to complete grouping of the main indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals that are relevant to different sectors of the national economy, to ensure their nationalisation and submit to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade for analysis by 1 April 2019
25. **Line ministries and agencies and local executive bodies of the Republic of Tajikistan**
26. To present implementation progress of the sectoral and regional strategies and programmes which ensure the development of the national economy and contribute to the achievement of the country's goals and priorities for review and discussion during the future sessions of the National Development Council under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.
27. **Introduction of the Development Forum:**
28. **Mr. Kohir Rasulzoda, Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, in** thanking the Development Partners for cooperation, announced that the Development Forum would be held under the theme of Improved Effectiveness of Resources for Development aiming at finding solutions to existing challenges related to the country’s development and implementation of the government priorities. The Mid-term Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan 2016-2020 and the National Development Strategy to 2030, in line with the SDGs, identified the core of Tajikistan’s socio-economic policy for the long-term and midterm periods, and alongside with the Government of Tajikistan, the Development Partners and donor institutions should contribute to their implementation. During the following part of the National Development Forum, corresponding ministries and agencies shared their vision on the upcoming needs and next steps within NDS 2030 implementation. [Mr. Rasulzoda full opening statement is at Annex 9]
29. **Investment and Entrepreneurship Development and Strengthening Public-Private Partnership and a New Model of Economic Development**
30. **Mr. Farrukh Hamralizoda, Chairman of State Committee on Investment and State Property Management**,delivered the presentation on the activities of the Committee that were focused on enhancing export promotion, human capacity development, ensuring social security aiming at improving the well-being of the population. The situation was exacerbated by the external factors that led to a slow-down in economic growth, low level of competitiveness of the domestic economy, the lack of innovations, the weak capacity of the private sector, and a difficult tax regime. Henceforth, he stressed the importance of ensuring conducive environment for needed growth. Number of concrete steps were taken to ensure the private sector-led growth, in particular (i) set up of the national Private Public Dialogue platform chaired by the President; (ii) establishment of the Private Public Partnership centre and approval of the corresponding law on PPP; (iii) PSD fund was established and started disbursing preferential credits; (iv) the law on investments regulating the implementation of the investments and protection of investors rights was adopted; (v) tax and custom reforms were introduced, preferential regimes were elaborated to facilitate the private sector development (interagency working group on tax and custom regime was established outcomes to be presented during the next session); and (vi) investments were being made in the field of introducing e-government. [Mr. Hamralizoda’s full presentation is provided at Annex 10.]
31. **Mr. Shavkat Bobozoda, Minister of Industry and New Technologies,** outlined achievements and progress in the field to ensure the shift from agro-industrial to industrial economy. Industry was developing in line with the strategic and policy objectives outlined in the MtDS 2020 and NDC 2030, necessary measures were being taken both legislative and practical to ensure this shift was gradually taking place. Specific attention was being paid to the development of light industry, construction, textile, extractive industry, mining, construction of new enterprises, value change development. Within the sub-sectors, identified above, significant developments were achieved, and the industrial development was on a high pace to ensuring the implementation of the goals set in the mid-term and long-term strategies. Export promotion and import substitution was seen at the short run as one of the important goals to be achieved. [Mr. Bobozoda’s full presentation is provided at Annex 11.].
32. During the discussion **Ms. Pratibha Mehta**, UNRC, addressed the issue of protecting the environment from high polluting enterprises, asking about the Government’s role in the attempt to decrease the negative effects of such enterprise. **Prime Minister, Kohir Rasulzoda** outlined that Government was taking necessary measures to ensure that no major damage or detrimental impact on the environment happened and, in the long run, Government was planning to shift from coal operated to clean energy power as an engine of such enterprises, once Rogun construction is finalised. **Mr. Jan-Peter Olters**, **World Bank Country Manager**, raised the issue of how Government was planning the development of the civil services and digitalisation of the economy of Tajikistan. **Mr. Hikmatullozoda, Minister of Economic Development and Trade,** stressed that services comprised one-third of the GDP, in line with the increased emphasis on service development digitalisation was aimed at introducing new technologies. New technologies within the financial sector/social sectors, hence with this in mind, it was important to ensure that economic policy of the state align and compliment other works and supports already piloting initiatives in that area. In order to ensure transparency of state institutions it was necessary to shift to e-governance which was already being piloted within Tax Committee and Custom Committee and number of other agencies. It was high time to develop corresponding legal framework in the format of a separate law, as there are several by laws regulating the services in trade, communications and other areas , but common legislative framework is needed specifically aimed at services.
33. **Strengthening Human Capital**
34. The presentation of the **Minister of Education, Mr. Nuriddin Said,** was focused on achievements and construction of the school and education facilities. He outlined the increase in budgetary allocations that amounted to 3.6 per cent of GDP during 2018. He specified the need to increase number of pre-school facilities, secondary educational facilities, and the range of vocational educational facilities to be able to accommodate the fast-growing young population. Ensuring gender equality in terms of access to education, incorporated within the SDG, he noted that gender equality was a cross-cutting issue, therefore it was necessary to outline concrete indicators to be achieved within both NDS and MtDS implementation. The number of girls in the system of higher education had increased and currently 86 per cent of teachers in the schools were women, over 1000 presidential scholarships were provided to girls. He stressed the importance of improving the quality of education to align them with international standards. [Mr. Said's full presentation is provided at Annex 12.]
35. During the presentation **Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Izattullo Sattori,** outlined the achievements in terms of intensification of the sector, the increase in domestic production of key food security crops, such as cereals, starch, protein and oil, and presented certain agro-climatic competitive advantages of Tajik agriculture. He emphasised that, in order to use the potential of the agricultural sector of Tajikistan’s in ensuring food security, employment, and income generation, there were a number of steps to be undertaken. He invited development partners to enhance the cooperation on the following issues: (i) enhancing production of the high value-added products in the country; (ii) deploying the implementation and certification of production in line with international standards (Global GAP, Bio, and others); (iii) facilitating the consolidation of production to achieve economy of scale; (iv) attracting investments for the development of corresponding post-harvest and logistic infrastructure; (v) initiating the introduction of production standards in the modality of 200 days of reforms; (vi) developing road maps for the implementation of the sector reform; (vii) developing and introducing the system with accordance of the international standards and regular monitoring of the food security situation. In regards to the integrated water management, the Ministry of Agriculture was striving to promote efficient use of water through different technologies for instance drip irrigation. [Mr. Sattori's full presentation is provided at Annex 13.].
36. **Mr. Luciano Calestini, UNICEF**, outlined the challenges and priorities for the early childhood development. He specifically noted the ongoing activities, such as implementation of “The first 1000 day of life” communication strategy, scaling up Nutrition (SUN) initiative. However, it was necessary to improve the quality and coverage of social services (education, health, and social protection). It was necessary to start implementation of the national plan of action of Child Rights Convention for 2018-2022, for which data collection should be significantly improved, national policy needed to adhere to a more integrated approach, since all the ministries had to participate, the issue of funding for the next 25 years should be orientated on including other, innovative partnerships, exploring different ways to engage new partners to get to SDG objectives both in terms of early childhood development and other SDGs, accelerate investments into the younger generation. [Mr. Calestini’s full presentation is provided at Annex 14.]
37. **Financing and Risks: Public Administration**
38. **Mr. Faiziddin Qahhorzoda, Minister of Finance,** delivered presentation on importance of macroeconomic stability and efficient financial system. He mentioned budgetary allocations for implementation of the NDS priorities and sector programmes being equal to TJS 38 billion in 2016-2017. In total, TJS 28.8 billion were allocated to enhance the development of priority sectors of education, transport and communication, fuel and energy and agro-industrial complex. However, that was not enough, and there was a need to secure the state budget support from various other sources such as budget support, other funds, IFIs, multilateral and bilateral organisations. [Mr. Qahorzoda's full presentation is provided at Annex 15.]
39. **Ms. Kristin Laabs, KfW Country Director,** in herpresentation outlined importance of the private sector and effective tax system to finance the goals and priorities of the NDC 2030. She outlined that for Tajikistan to be able to finance the strategy fully (US$118 billion), around 40 per cent funding should be coming from internal and external sources. However, figures showed that from 2015 to 2017, there was a reduction of the total investments’ volume, and foreign direct investment flows to Tajikistan as well as other foreign investments were decreasing. The current situation indicated that the private sector was still facing challenges, despite all efforts by the Tajik Government to improve Tajikistan’s business environment. As a result, the private sector in Tajikistan was small, and the level of foreign direct investment, with 3 per cent of GDP, was low in comparison to other lower-middle income countries. Up to 60 per cent of the private sector was informal and not paying taxes. Not surprisingly, the large shadow economy translated into lower Government revenues than an ideal system with a strong formal economy. Therefore, to overcome this, Government should ensure necessary institutional changes and reforms in areas of effective tax administration, consistent and uniform application of laws, rules and regulation in business spheres, conducive macro financial environment, proper public administration, equal playing field for all financial institutions, and strengthening rule of law that all are essential to attract private sector investments and insure investors certainty to invest in Tajikistan. Protection of investor and property rights had to be ensured, based on international best practice. Any actions by the State, which might be perceived as state intervention into the shareholder structure of private enterprises, should be avoided not to undermine investors interest and certainty. She commended the Tajik Government’s commitment to enhance Public-Private Partnerships as an effective mechanism to attract private investment to Tajikistan for infrastructure and social service delivery, that from 2002 was able to accumulate different models of PPP projects, particularly in the energy sector. Concluding, she recommended to establish a Project Development Facility and to strengthen the capacity of the PPP Centre in order to effectively use the instrument of PPP [Ms. Laabs’ full presentation is attached at Annex 16.]
40. **Mr. Muhammadjon Salimzoda, Deputy** **Chairman of the Committee for Emergency and Civil Defense,** in his presentation, reflected on activities implemented by the Committee during the period between 2016-2018 and presented statistics on disasters, outlining the main structure - National Platform of State Commission for Emergencies and Disaster Risk Reduction, which was established to develop proposals and recommendations on establishment and coordination of activities on natural disaster and risk reduction, man-made accidents as well as human and socio-economic losses. This body was aimed at enhancing cooperation and coordination within the operation of regional, international, donor and specialised organisations on natural disaster risk reduction, study and replicate the best practices on the process of disaster management, coordinate the cooperation between the ministries and agencies of the country on these issues within the commitments of the Republic of Tajikistan based on relevant agreements and treaties, developing and coordinating programmes and unified methodologies on natural disaster risk assessment. [Mr. Salimzoda’s full presentation is attached at Annex 17.]
41. **Mr. Jan Harfst, Country Director UNDP,** noted that the rapidly growing population and significant reduction in poverty over the last 15 years resulted in more pressure on land, water, and other natural resources. Cultivated of the slopes often using damaging ploughing techniques, uncontrolled grazing by goats and sheep were resulting in heavy erosion. Soil was being washed away in massive quantities, the number of mudflows and landslides is increasing causing human casualties and financial damage. Therefore, he urged to take necessary measures to strengthen the activities aimed at flood protection and river bank strengthening, and to scale up proper management of land, water and livestock, since it was key to stopping further erosion. There were already some successful examples in the country. It was therefore of critical importance that the Government and development partners started working together on these issues urgently before it was too late and the damage had become irreversible.
42. During the discussion part, it was suggested to increase the participation of the civil society and independent Mass Media in deliberations related to national policies and strategies. **Mr. Hikmatullozoda** noted that, during the elaboration on the national report, consultations were conducted with different stakeholders including civil society (11 so far). The Government was open to civil society, there was a decree obliging each ministry and agency to communicate with media and population on the regular basis. The proposal was valuable, efforts should be made to ensure participation of the independent media and civil society.
43. **Mr. Hideki Tanabe, Chief Representative of JICA** stressed the importance of Asset Management as a crucial tool to insure sustainable infrastructure management. He brought this issue to the attention of Government as it was particularly important to the infrastructure projects. The maintenance of state assets belonging to the Government required elaborating of the major concept of costs related to infrastructure. Proper maintenance was key to ensuring the minimisation of necessary financing and maximisation of period of operation. Corresponding budget lines were to be set forth, along with the costs related to routine maintenance aimed at minimising the future necessary investments.

**III. Conclusion**

1. **Prime Minister Kohir Rasulzoda**, wrapping up the Forum, said the Government of Tajikistan would continue to establish partnership platforms with Development Partners. He elaborated on specific achievements Tajikistan reached within the framework of the NDS.
2. Future focus on sustainable macroeconomic development, good governance, export, social protection, human capacity building, and increased employment
3. There were three mid-term phases, within the first phase it was necessary to ensure the shift from agrarian to industrial model, focusing on import substitution along with export promotion, training of specialists, development of agriculture, facilitated access to finance, enhanced productivity, access to new markets. Implementation of the model should balance the different sectors as well as providing equal opportunities to men and women.
4. Number of activities were implemented already aimed at increasing the share of industry in GDP. A lot of issues in industrial sector, such as poorly developed regulations, challenging tax regime, customs regulations, along with obsolete infrastructure and equipment, lead to low level of diversification. Therefore, to increase the competitiveness and increase employment required more efforts. Domestic processing should be increased, necessary to modernise the equipment. The share of investments against the major capital increased by four times during the last five years. Now, 68 investment projects amounting more than US$2.4 billion were under implementation in the country.
5. Reducing vulnerability of the financial sector and ensuring its resilience as well as improving access to financial resources in the midterm period were primary priorities.
6. At present, banks focus on ensuring competitiveness of the banking services market, financial viability of financial institutions, improvement of the public trust to the banking system, support of small and medium enterprises, mobilisation of public deposits and attraction of foreign investments.
7. Steps were to be made in introducing the distribution of risks, insurance, self-financing systems. The precondition to that was a reinforced financial sector, the ensured stability of the fiscal system, improved trust to financial system.
8. Marketing, management, lagging behind knowledge and skills, poor literacy – in particular among women enhanced access to education – was a top priority. Number of achievements were made, nonetheless there was still a number of challenges to be tackled, specific programmes for children residing in the remote mountainous areas, vocational educational systems need support from all the stakeholders
9. The public and private partnership in agricultural production was not sufficiently developed, new agricultural financing mechanisms were not introduced, the agricultural infrastructure and physical resources did not meet the current demand, the low level of commercialisation since the individual components of marketing and professional skills of agricultural workers were not applied accordingly, the irrational use of land and water resources
10. Set of measures were foreseen to enhance the food security by increasing domestic production, increase in share of agriculture in GDP. The potential solution was sufficient development of PPP in agriculture, introduction of new financial mechanism, ensured utilisation of existing competitive advantages through proper marketing and effective use of resources.
11. Concluding, Prime Minister Rasulzoda, on behalf of the Government, thanked all distinguished guests and members of development partner delegations and international organisations for their active and effective participation, as well as for their valuable comments and recommendations. [Full statement of Mr. Rasulzoda is attached in Annex 18]

1. The Forum’s agenda and list of participants are attached at Annexes 1 and 2 respectively. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)