**Draft statement of the Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan on the 2nd ACD Summit**

*(10 October 2016, Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand)*

*Your Excellency, Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Heads of States and Governments,  
Distinguished Heads of Delegations,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Н.Е. Prime Minister and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for warm welcome and for hosting the current Summit.

Without exaggeration, one could say that today's Summit is crucial to address the issues of development of the Asia, contribute to further strengthening of the Dialogue and enrich our mutual relationships. We sincerely hope that the Summit will provide a unique opportunity to lay a basis for the realization of our efforts for “Development of Asia Cooperation 2030”.

The ACD has approved itself as one of the most effective institutions of multidimensional collaboration, which facilitates confidence building, good neighborhood and constructive search for mutually acceptable approaches to address the common problems of the Asian continent. Today within the Dialogue cooperation is carried out in different areas such as science and education, food and energy security, poverty alleviation, culture, tourism and others. We are confident that ACD has great potential to further stimulate regional cooperation in these fields and set stronger bonds among countries.

Tajikistan as a permanent participant is interested in the development and expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation within the ACD. We attach great importance to strengthening regional cooperation in such areas as improvement of the quality of infrastructure, trade, investment and finance, tourism, education.

Poverty alleviation, food security and effective natural resources management are interrelated and considered as essential premises for sustainable development which is most relevant for Member States. We support promoting sustainable development as a continuous process between ACD member countries in pursuance of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Bearing in mind the role of tourism for achieving sustainable development, we also support close collaboration of the ACD member states in this field since it is indicative of political stability, improves welfare, reduces poverty and expands ties between people and cultures.

Achieving accessibility to education, and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and innovation could also contribute on improvement of economic and social conditions among ACD members and make our region more advanced and sustainable. Considering that education has become the crucial component of national security nowadays, Tajikistan is very much interested in developing and expanding its relationship with ACD member states, particularly in this area, and we are ready to promote the deepening of our mutually beneficial cooperation in such a vital sector.

We recognize that promotion of scientific and cultural cooperation within the framework of our Dialogue is essential too as it contributes to the achievement of our objectives aimed at maintenance of integration and sustainable development. We believe that economic cooperation should be accompanied by adequate strengthening of scientific and intercultural ties among the peoples of our region. In this context, we should make our efforts more active and promote scientific and cultural exchange through preparation and implementation of specific projects.

Tajikistan supports a separate pillar on water, food and energy security nexus and for several years at the international level has been actively supporting the efforts to use renewable energy sources. It is well known, that access to energy plays a key role in economic and social development and poverty eradication. In this regard, we support the intention to prioritize our cooperation in the field of energy.

Considering that the problem of providing access to safe drinking water is one of the priority issues in our region, Republic of Tajikistan pays special attention to that issue as well. In August of the current year it was organized in Tajikistan the High-Level Symposium on “SDG 6 and Targets: Ensuring that No One is Left Behind in Access to Water and Sanitation”. The Symposium provided a platform for discussion on policy measures, actions and means for the implementation of measures with this task. The main objective of Symposium was aimed to attract world community to the new initiative of the Republic of Tajikistan to declare the international decade on “Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028.” I would like to take this opportunity to request our dialogue partners to support this initiative of our country during the promotion of the appropriate resolution of the UN General Assembly in October of this year in New York.

In conclusion, I would like to express my confidence that the current summit will contribute towards development of further interaction between ACD member states in all areas and will support our efforts to carry out the goals.

*Thank you for your attention.*