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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Letter dated 24 June 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you information in a document entitled “Uzbekistan establishes an International Multifunctional Transport and Logistics Hub for Humanitarian Assistance” (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 75.

(Signed) Bakhtiyor **Ibragimov**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 24 June 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Uzbekistan establishes an International Multifunctional Transport and Logistics Hub for Humanitarian Assistance

Today, in many regions of the world, there is a growing threat of a humanitarian crisis owing to the dire economic consequences of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the disruption of global supply chains and logistics, and the devastating effects of climate change.

The continuing dire humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is a matter of particular concern. The Afghan people are currently facing grave socioeconomic problems.

The United Nations estimates that nearly half of the country's population – 18 million people – are vitally dependent on humanitarian assistance. More than half of all Afghan children under 5 years of age will suffer from undernourishment in the near future.

Drawing the attention of the international community to this important issue in his speech at the seventy-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, emphasized that “in this current difficult time, we cannot abandon Afghanistan to isolation and leave it to deal with its enormous problems alone”.

In order to ensure the systematic, centralized and targeted delivery of humanitarian goods to Afghanistan and other countries pursuant to a decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the “Termiz Cargo Centre” logistics terminal in Surxondaryo Province was given the status of an International Multifunctional Transport and Logistics Hub for Humanitarian Assistance.

The International Hub has all the necessary infrastructure – an international airport, a river port, a railroad and roads connecting to Afghanistan; there is also a uniquely large logistics terminal, the “Termiz Cargo Centre”, located in close proximity to the Afghan border and equipped with the latest technology and equipment.

Uzbekistan provides all possible assistance to the brotherly people of Afghanistan. In September and December 2021, the Government of Uzbekistan delivered two large humanitarian shipments, totalling more than 5,000 tons, through the city of Termiz. On 30 April 2022, on the eve of the holy Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, our country delivered about 4,000 tons of humanitarian cargo to the people of Afghanistan. This humanitarian assistance consisted of food, medicine, clothing, textiles, wheat and coal.

Uzbekistan is using the infrastructure and the transport and logistics facilities in Termiz to assist international organizations and individual countries in carrying out their humanitarian activities in Afghanistan. In December 2021, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) sent the first shipment of humanitarian assistance from Termiz to Afghanistan, consisting of 40 tons of basic necessities. UNHCR designated its office in Termiz as a Regional Humanitarian

Logistics Centre, with the possibility of expanding the geographical area of humanitarian deliveries.

The World Food Programme (WFP) regularly sends humanitarian supplies from Termiz to Afghanistan. According to WFP, about 42,000 tons of food has been shipped through Termiz to Afghanistan since November 2021.

Furthermore, the International Organization for Migration, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the European Union and other international structures and foreign countries are also interested in using the transit potential of Uzbekistan.

The creation of the International Hub is consistent with the interests and efforts of the international community on the Afghan issue. Most importantly, it will make it possible to quickly deliver essential goods to the people of Afghanistan and thus provide effective assistance to them in overcoming the humanitarian crisis.

Uzbekistan is ready for active cooperation on this issue with all international partners.
