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Agenda item 49  
**Sustainable development**

**Letter dated 4 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative  
of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Chairmanship of the High-level Ashgabat Conference on “Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation” (Russian and English versions). The Conference was held on 23 and 24 April 2009 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

I would appreciate it if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 49.

*(Signed)* Aksoltan **Ataeva**  
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the letter dated 4 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: English and Russian]

**Statement of the Chairmanship of the High-level Ashgabat Conference “Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation” (Ashgabat, 23-24 April 2009)**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/210 of 19 December 2008, “Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation”, a High-level International Conference was held in Ashgabat on 23 and 24 April 2009.

It was attended by representatives of Member States, international organization, international financial institutions, scientists, diplomats and leading national and multinational companies operating in the field of energy resources development and transportation.

The High-level International Conference addressed issues of effective international cooperation, as well as interaction on the development of transportation systems and pipeline networks at the international, regional and global levels. Particular attention was paid to the issue of reliable and stable energy supplies to world markets and to a set of important issues arising from the diversification of the energy transportation routes, the design of oil and gas pipelines, the use of advanced technologies, improvement of pipeline systems and the development of pipelines infrastructure, taking into account the global trends in the energy field. The importance of continued compliance with technological and environmental requirements and improvement of the management of energy flows was emphasized.

The broad exchange of views demonstrated the willingness to search for mechanisms that would ensure the interest of potential partners in the provision of a reliable and stable supply of energy resources to international markets.

Proposals were made and submitted to develop an international legal instrument aimed at ensuring the functioning of such a supply system, which will also take into account the interests of producers, transit countries and consumers of hydrocarbon resources.

In this regard, the idea was expressed of further promoting the initiative for preparing relevant international legal principles and norms under the auspices of the United Nations, taking into account the experience gained by Member States and international organizations.

Participants in the conference noted the relevance of the conceptual approach to the use of energy resources, which envisages the importance of a clear regulation of the whole set of rights and responsibilities of producers, transit countries and consumers of energy resources, taking into consideration the norms and principles of modern international law.

Stressing the fundamental importance of General Assembly resolution 63/210, and based upon the experience of the international community, the need to work out a relevant multilateral complex document governing the issues arising in this field of relationships was expressed.

In this regard, it was proposed to invite the United Nations to consider establishing an expert group to prepare recommendations on the development of a future international legal instrument on transit of energy, taking into account proposals from interested countries and international organizations.

Emphasizing the willingness of the Member States, international organizations and companies to cooperate on the use of energy resources, the High-level International Conference took into consideration the modern challenges, first and foremost in maintaining peace and security, ensuring sustainable development and resolving the pressing issues in the socio-economic, cultural, humanitarian and environmental spheres. The High-level International Conference recognized this forum as the first and important step towards further cooperation in building this particular field of international legal relationships.

The Ashgabat High-level International Conference marked the beginning of the process of creating a legal space for broad international cooperation in the use of energy resources, in particular production, transit and consumption of energy resources.

Further United Nations support in development of fundamental ideas contained in General Assembly resolution 63/210 will contribute to uniting of efforts of all interested Member States and international organizations in preparing and agreeing on a multilateral instrument aimed at establishing a safeguard mechanism to ensure energy security in the world.

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