UN must bolster role in coordinating Member States' efforts to tackle challenges, Tajik leader says

19 September 2017 — Addressing the general debate of the United Nations General Assembly today, Emomali Rahmon, the President of Tajikistan, called on the Organization to carry out its mission, coordinating the efforts of Member States to build resilience to the many challenges and threats peoples and countries face.

He stressed that rapid globalization had led to development as well as challenges that had sometimes jeopardized UN efforts to help people lead secure lives. Moreover, 'tragic events' undermined global commitments to bring about sustainable development, he said, citing terrorism, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking in that context.

Stressing that terrorist movements flourished in "hot spots" around the world, he said such horrors were not connected with Islamic teachings and did not know the tolerance of Islam. Confronting those threats required Member States to make monumental efforts and to refrain from double standards.

Peace, stability and cooperation were essential for resolving the situation with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, he said, noting that in Afghanistan, the growing activity of violent terrorist groups was a matter of serious concern. "It is high time to take strong, coordinated measures to tackle terrorism and drug trafficking," he said, calling on the international community to help, just as his country was ready to do so.

Calling the adoption of the <u>2030 Agenda</u> a milestone for the international community to work together, he said Tajikistan had made great strides in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (<u>SDGs</u>). For the success of the Agenda as a whole, it would be necessary to help less developed countries, including landlocked nations, that lacked access to ports. They required more assistance and the UN, through the Economic and Social Council and specialized agencies, should play an important role.