Ministerial Conference
6th World Water Forum
13 March 2012

Dr. Shavkat Khamraev
Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Water Management, Republic of Uzbekistan
Dear colleagues, participants of the Forum!

Last year, a high-level preparatory conference “Towards the 6th World Water Forum” was held in the city of Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, with the support of the World Water Council.

The Republic attaches great importance to water since this is a vital resource for our nations. Over the last 20 years since independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan allocated more than one billion dollars and raised significant budgetary and credit funds for this area. The Republic joined a number of international Water Conventions.

We advocate international water cooperation and stand for observance of the international water norms. We are against breach of water-environmental regime of transboundary rivers, against causing harm due to construction of new large hydraulic structures without undertaking appropriate international expertise. We believe that the following priorities in water use should be clearly marked out: drinking water supply; food security; environment; and only then industry, energy and other needs.

Our proposals were clearly reflected, and we thank for this, in the points 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the Forum’s Ministerial Declaration. We should take concrete measures for water conservation and efficient water use all over the world.

The points 14 and 15 regarding the use of water and energy resources are not quite correctly expressed. We stand for separate understanding of water and energy resources.

We thank the organizers of the World Water Forum in the beautiful city of Marseille and welcome once again all the participants. We wish fruitful and successful water cooperation!

Thank you for your attention!