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## ABSTRACT

### **Legislative initiatives enhancing scientific and-technological progress in the Kyrgyz Republic**

The 15 years of Kyrgyzstan's independence are marked with such important state actions as adoption of laws in the field of education and science: "Law on education", "Law on science and basics of the state scientific-technical policy", "Law on the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic" which provide legally justified program of the reforming and managing the scientific-technical progress. During the same period a number of state documents were adopted on national level, among which of particular importance for the development of science are: "Regulations on elections of leaders of scientific institutions in the Kyrgyz Republic ", "Regulations on formation and implementation of the state scientific-technical programs ", "Regulations on organization and implementation of the state scientific-technical expert examination of research projects and experimental-design works", "Concepts of reforming science in the Kyrgyz Republic for the period of 1999-2005 ".

During its independence period, the Kyrgyz Republic had at first One-Chamber Parliament (1990-1994), then Two-Chamber Parliament (1995-2005) and from 2005 again a One-Chamber Parliament. The Parliament Committees and Subcommittees for science, education and culture (social matters) implement their legislation activities in accordance with the academic community (Academy of Sciences, the State Foundation of Science and Innovative Technologies, Ministries, Departments and others). Various forms and methods of work are used, such as: parliamentary debates and constructive dialogue between scientists and parliamentarians, parliamentary hearings, Round tables with "parliamentary questions and proposals " and others. Parliamentarians of the Kyrgyz Republic attach much importance to the development of cooperation between parliamentarians, scientists and mass media enhancing the scientific and technological progress.

To develop cooperation in the field of legislation within the framework of UNESCO activities and of National Commissions for UNESCO in the countries of Central and Western Asia, the delegation of Parliamentarians of Kyrgyzstan proposes to consider the idea of creating **Regional Forum for inter-Parliamentary relations on the level of Committees for Science.** The main aim of this Association would be elaboration of "model laws" on science, technologies and innovations. It will enable parliamentarians to understand deeper the main factors influencing science, technology and innovation policies on the national, regional and global levels and to adopt relevant laws in the field of scientific-technological policy. Similar idea was expressed and supported by the Parliament of Finland, UNESCO and ISESCO in 2003 (Helsinki). Similar "parliamentary structures" work in the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS countries (Saint-Petersburg).

## Speech Text

Dear Participants, ladies and gentlemen!

First of all, I would like to deeply thank the directors of UNESCO and Iran's National Committee because of the persevering work in organizing this forum. It's a great honor for us to participate in this forum.

Development of today's society is being determined by its intellectual potential. Science as a high level of creative thinking has a special place. From the first days of establishment of independent Kyrgyzstan, science and new technologies became one of the priorities of a country's development, and Parliament (Jogorku Kenesh) and Government of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan are bodies defining policy in the field of science and technology.

The main legal acts adopted by Parliament and Government, on which the regulation systems of science, scientific technological institutions are based, are: the laws of Kyrgyzstan Republic defining principles and basis of state scientific and technological policy; the law on "innovational activities" and also the decree of Kyrgyz Republic Parliament dated Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 1998 about the implementation of these acts and laws.

The Parliament of Kyrgyzstan realizes that without required attention of the Parliament and Government to workers and activists in the field of science and technology, expecting the great outcome from them would be naive. Therefore, rules and regulations and also the fields of innovation should be deeply reviewed.

In the Kyrgyz Republic due to budget deficit the number of activists in the science field was decreased about 6 times. Moreover, this reduction is taking place mainly due to specialists in different branches of science. It means that developers of technology and are being reduced. Another reason of this reduction is migration of researchers and specialists to private and other sectors, where the wages are higher.

Parliament in its lawmaking acts that cover the main aspects of scientific and technological activities, starting from the defining principles of scientific policy to realization of governmental scientific and technological experiments as well as financing programs, projects and services, relies on scientific communities of the country. For instance, while drafting various laws, the Committees of Kyrgyz Parliament submit these draft laws to Government for revision and approval, and the main problem at this stage that lawmakers face is the issue of financing.

Parliament believes that for developing mechanisms for solving the newly arising problems in the field of science and technology, it needs to conduct a policy towards supporting the fundamental science, including social and human, experimental and technical sciences, and increasing the volume of financing science to 1% of GDP, which now amounts to 0.2%.

It is necessary to develop legal basis and mechanisms of additional financing of science and technology, improve the competitive system of financing the scientific and technological programs on priority aspects of social and economic development of country. The idea of attracting private funds for financing fundamental science is worth to be mentioned. In this regard, need for providing favorable legal conditions emerges.

Given the current situation, the main factor of raising the credibility of scientific activities seems to be the rise of researchers' wages. The level of wages in academic field must be risen up to the level of wages as in administrative sector. It is supposed to increase the number of people working in the fields of science up to 0.5- 0.6 of total number of people employed in the economy, which is currently 0.3.

Wage level of people holding doctorate degrees must be increased for attraction of young researchers to science and successive preparation of qualified human resources in the field of science; we believe that wage level of people holding doctorate degrees must be raised at least twice more as currently paid. New researchers need appropriate accommodation, land for building houses. Some scholarship programs should be provided for the most gifted young researchers in different fields of science.

Dear participants! As you fairly mentioned, the most important objective of Central Asian and Western Asian countries is the exchange of experience and expertise in the state technological policy on regional level. New millennium determines not just new aspects of development of science, but it shapes a new framework of international scientific cooperation. In this regard, it is difficult to overestimate the role of Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS countries, which has close cooperation with Parliament of Kyrgyzstan. Our Parliament also closely cooperates with Interparliamentary Union of Ministry of Roads and Communication of Russia, International Association of Academy of Sciences. It is a pleasing fact that nearly 80 Asian countries are members of this association.

Bilateral cooperation is established with Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan in the field of regional studies.

International associations and organizations also play an important role in regional studies. For instance, NATO awarded a grant to Kyrgyzstan for research activities. Soros Fund in Kyrgyzstan is interested in that Central Asian countries pursue integration objectives and provides some funds for these purposes. Each country has its unique face and design. We believe that in our country we have liberal model being implemented. Kyrgyzstan follows the integration objectives and successfully expands regional studies. Everybody understands that global problems cannot be solved by one country (problems such as landslides, earthquakes, tailing dump), it is easier to solve these problems cooperatively (for example the problem of Aral Sea). Regional cooperation stimulates consolidation of community; as a result antagonistic claims as well as ethnic conflicts are eliminated.

I have to say that our cooperation with Iran in the field of human sciences, religion studies, history, ethnography, and archeology is being strengthened. And as a matter of fact, indeed we would like to attract large Iranian businesses in our research and development programs in the field of machinery, hydro-energy, stock-raising, plan cultivation, cardiology and etc. Iran invested millions of dollars in hydro-energy sector of Tajikistan, gas production sector of Turkmenistan, and there are lots of perspectives for cooperation in Kyrgyzstan as well. Regional cooperation, common features of our nations, our cultures, religion and ...(about 50 million population) is a good stimuli for creation of common market, since this market is an object of interest of not just China, United States and Russia, but also Iran and Turkey. New perspectives

are open for our Parliament in the scene of drafting new laws for application of experiences of Islamic States' scientific and economic institutions, such as Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.

Dear participants, ladies and gentlemen! Let me express my appreciation to the Committee organized this forum for letting me a word in such a representative forum for science, technology and innovation.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that, we as a representatives of our Parliament, fully support the idea of UNESCO and ISESCO about establishing Interparliamentary Forum for scientific and technological policy in Asian and Central Asian countries and, more specifically, establishing the regional forum of Inter-parliamentary ties at the level of scientific agencies. The main objective of this association might be the creation of "sample laws" on science, technology and innovation. This will allow lawmakers to obtain better insight in basic factors influencing science, technology and innovational policy at national, regional and global levels and adopt fundamental legal acts regulating activities involving organization and functioning of common scientific and technological space.

Thank you for your attention!