

16 September 2016

**71<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Assembly**

**Statement by H.E. Peter Thomson, death of  
President President Karimov of Uzbekistan**

Excellencies,  
Ambassador Modrakhimov,  
Distinguished Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan,

It is my sad duty to express, on behalf of all of us in this room, my deepest condolences to the people and to the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the loss of President Islam Abduganievich Karimov.

Islam Karimov embodied the Republic of Uzbekistan's modern history, having led his country for fifteen years, from the very first day of its independence on 1 September 1991. Uzbekistan has always been at the crossroads of the world. I am confident that the Uzbek authorities will ensure a smooth transition on the road to security, stability, social development and prosperity for the country and its people.

My thoughts and profound sympathy also go to President Karimov's family, and I would be grateful to Ambassador Modrakhimov if he could kindly convey the message to them.