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SECOND HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION “WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”, 2018-2028¹

6-9 June 2022, Republic of Tajikistan, Dushanbe

In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly declared the period 2018-2028 as the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028," which aims to support sustainable development and integrated water resources management, while promoting cooperation and partnerships in supporting to achieve internationally agreed water related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Action Plan of the UN Secretary-General for the Water Action Decade was announced by the President of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly during the High-Level Launch Event on 22 March 2018. This plan identifies current activities and capabilities of the UN system and international organizations, as well as operational setup envisaged to support Member States in the implementation of the Water Action Decade.

In this context, the Government of Tajikistan, committed to continuing its efforts to provide a platform for water policy dialogue, partnership and action at the global, regional and national levels, is holding high-level conferences with the support of the UN and other partners as a part of the Decade.

A series of these events constitutes the "Dushanbe Water Process". As part of this process, the First High Level International Conference on the Implementation of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028” (First Dushanbe Water Action Decade Implementation Conference) was held in Dushanbe on June 20-21, 2018.

The outcomes of the conference included recommendations to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which took place in 2018, for its in-depth review as part of implementation of SDG 6. The Final Declaration of the First Dushanbe Conference confirmed that the next

¹ Source: <https://dushanbewaterprocess.org/>

conference should focus on "Fostering Water Action and Partnership at the local, national, regional and global levels" to achieve the goals of the Water Action Decade and the water-related SDGs and targets.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Second Dushanbe Conference on Implementation of the Water Action Decade was postponed until 2022. Taking into account the rapidly evolving development challenges, and the fact that the coronavirus disease demonstrated a crucial role of safe and affordable drinking water, adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene opportunities that should be available, accessible to everyone, as well as importance of water in economic recovery, the Conference in 2022 will have a renewed focus on "Promoting water action and partnership at the local, national, regional and global levels" for the water-smart recovery path in the post-COVID-19 world.

Objectives

The Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference will focus on how national governments, the UN and its entities, other international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society organizations, academia, local communities and authorities, and other stakeholders can stimulate water action and partnerships to contribute to the implementation of water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the New Urban Agenda at all levels, while providing a global response to the COVID-10 crisis. In addition, the Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference will serve as a platform for highlighting and consolidating the necessary information on water to help prepare the UN Conference for the Mid-Term Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, which will be held in 2023 in New York, and will also provide an update to the upcoming High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

In particular, the Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference will focus on:

- providing an update on the activities and actions outlined in the Final Declaration, the Co-Chairs' Summary and the Call for Action and Partnerships of the First Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference, organized by the Government of Tajikistan and the United Nations;

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- accelerating the implementation of internationally agreed goals and targets at the regional and national levels, particularly through the implementation of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework;
 - promoting science-based solutions and tools, including data, technologies and innovations;
 - strengthening capacity building, knowledge and education through the exchange of information and best practices;
 - demonstrating successful partnerships, advocacy and networking among all stakeholders at all levels;
 - strengthening cooperation at various levels by promoting dialogue, partnership and a cross-sectoral approach.

In addition, the Conference will address the key role of water, sanitation and hygiene in facing the COVID-19 and other threats to human health caused by waterborne diseases, as well as water and climate change nexus in the context of water resources management as a key factor in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The conference will also provide an opportunity for sharing progress and constraints in the implementation of the actions and partnerships initiated by governments and other stakeholders within the Water Action Decade Conference, including the First Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference and other events leading up to the 2023 UN Water Conference in New York. Speakers and panelists are requested to highlight and show how on-site positive practices are actually carried out.

The Conference in 2022 will also provide a mechanism to encourage governments, the United Nations and all other partners to communicate their good intentions into effective practices on the ground.

The conference program includes opening and closing ceremonies, a plenary session, a number of thematic and interactive panels, special forums for regional and major groups, and side events. Cultural events, including an exhibition, are also organized.

Thematic panels

The Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference will include twelve Thematic and Interactive Panels. The panels will focus on SDG 6, other water related goals, the goals of the International Water Action Decade, and the framework for action. The panels are co-organized by Dushanbe Water Process

partners, including UN member states, UN agencies and programs, other international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, development partners, private companies, as well as academia and non-governmental organizations. As a general rule, each Panel will be co-organized by two partners. They will address the following issues:

Three Thematic Panels on **Water for Health and People** (WHP):

- Increasing water-health nexus for responding to the challenges of the post-COVID world (WHP1)
- Accelerating access to safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) conditions, leaving no one behind (WHP2)
- Advancing water sustainability in urban and rural areas (WHP3)

Three Thematic Panels on **Water for Livelihoods and Inclusive Economic Growth** (WEG):

- Promoting integrated water resources management, water efficiency and valuing water (WEG1)
- Accelerating the water-energy-food nexus in post-COVID recovery (WEG2)
- Transboundary water cooperation for inclusive economic growth and sustainability (WEG3)

Three Thematic Panels on **Water, Environment and Climate Resilience** (WEC):

- Promoting nature-based water solutions, water quality and ecosystems (WEC1)
- Resilient infrastructure and disaster risk reduction (WEC2)
- Water resources and climate: reinforcing the interlinkages (WEC3)

Three Interactive Panels on **Education, Technology, Awareness and Knowledge** (ETAK)

- Promoting science-based water solutions, tools and technology (ETAK1)
- Moving out of water box and promoting integration at all levels (ETAK2)
- Improving knowledge, education and communication (ETAK3)

The outcomes of the Panels are presented at the Closing session. They are also reflected in the outcome documents of the Second Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference.

Forums of the Second Dushanbe Conference²

All forums and panels will address five aspects of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework as cross-cutting issues: financing, data and information, capacity building, innovation and governance. The Terms of Reference for the panels, to be prepared by the Conference Secretariat, will request each panel to address each accelerator, the objectives of the Water Action Decade, and ensure an inclusive approach in the organization of panels.



² Source: <https://dushanbewaterprocess.org/forums-of-the-second-dushanbe-conference/>

On June 6, five different forums were held in Dushanbe, including:

— "**Forum on Regional Water Cooperation in Central Asia**", which was organized by the Executive Committee of IFAS and the World Bank in partnership with CAWEP, the European Union, Switzerland, USAID, GIZ and CAREC to provide an opportunity to demonstrate further efforts on water coordination in Central Asia and facilitate interaction with representatives of the countries' governments.

— "**Women's Water Forum: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: Water Unites Us**," organized by the Royal Academy of Sciences for International Trust (RASIT) in cooperation with OSCE, to provide an opportunity for reflection: strengthening existing and building new partnerships, sharing and discussing success factors and failures, and addressing gaps and emerging challenges. The Forum was based on the outcomes of the 7th International Day of Women and Girls in Science (IDWDIS 2022).

— "**Youth and Children's Water Forum**" organized by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) together with EC IFAS, MEWR, WMO, CYS, WYN, WYPW, CAY4W and, playing an important role of intersectoral approach and evidence-based decision making, where the role of the young generation can be invaluable at the interface of scientific innovation. The aim of the Forum was to mobilize children and youth from Tajikistan and around the world, providing them with a platform to influence access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) on life and the future.

— "**Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forum: Inclusive Approaches to Water in Ecosystems, Land, Agriculture and Knowledge Development**," serving as a platform for indigenous peoples to discuss better management of water and land resources to protect vital ecosystems and the importance of water security. The Forum also focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation, recognizing their aspirations and helping to create a platform for a better understanding of the relationship with local water resources and the obligations associated with them.

— "**Water and mountains towards sustainable development**", aimed at highlighting the boundaries of opportunities and gaps in research, education and cooperation in the mountains, cryosphere and water sector. The event was also built on ongoing partnership efforts toward the common goal of achieving SDG 6 more effectively, and largely focused on the implementation of the recommendations made during the preliminary Water and Climate Dialogue Forum.

The forums were attended by high-level representatives of the region's governments, development partners and civilians, consciously and actively

expressing their position as a careful nature user.

The First Dushanbe Water Festival³

On June 6, the first Dushanbe Water Festival was held in the capital's Navruzgoh Park of Culture and Recreation.



It became a celebration of water as the basis of life, well-being and prosperity, as well as a great opportunity for guests - conference participants to get acquainted with the rich history, culture, art, traditions of the Tajik people, and spend a pleasant and interesting evening in a friendly and festive atmosphere.

The festival was organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in the framework of the Second High-Level International Conference.

The main goal of the Dushanbe Water Festival was to raise public awareness about the value of water as a vital resource, the careful attitude to it and its preservation for future generations. Along with positive messages, the Festival has pointed to the existing problems and challenges and the need to mobilize efforts to overcome them.

The Dushanbe Water Festival included five components: an exhibition of folk crafts and creativity, an exhibition of Tajik national cuisine and other dishes

³ Source: <https://dushanbewaterprocess.org/dushanbe-water-festival/>

from around the world, an exhibition of different types of drinking water, a concert program with the country's leading masters of art, a fashion show of Tajik national clothing and other show programs.

FINAL DECLARATION “FROM DUSHANBE 2022 TO NEW YORK 2023”⁴

We, the Heads of Delegation, high-level representatives of the states, organizations, major groups and other stakeholders having met in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, from 6 to 9 June 2022, contributing to the Dushanbe Water Process in our different roles and responsibilities,

Reaffirming our commitment to pursue the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁵ and the vital role of water in achieving all SDGs,

Recognizing water as essential for resilient and sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger, health, combating desertification and biodiversity loss and to promote a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable, resilient, equitable, peaceful and inclusive future, as we navigate the present and aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis, including for the empowerment of women and indigenous peoples and the prosperity of children and youth, as well as for persons with disabilities and those in vulnerable situations,

Acknowledging that water, sanitation, health, ecosystems, ocean, energy, food systems and nutrition are interlinked and that the rising trend of losses caused by water-related disasters, such as droughts, floods, cyclones, flash floods, coastal surge, sea level rise, salinity intrusion, mudslides and avalanches, including from changing climate patterns and extreme weather events, must be reversed, paying particular attention to people in vulnerable situations;

Emphasizing that climate change affects the world's water in complex ways, including through water scarcity, and noting the Water and Climate Coalition Leaders' call recognizing the role of water for informed decision-making in climate change mitigation and adaptation action⁶, as well as the

⁴ Source: <https://dushanbewaterprocess.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2022-final-declaration-final-draft-0608-en-final-1.pdf>

⁵ Resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015

⁶ Leaders for integrated actions on water and climate issues, www/water-climate-coalition/org

Action Plan on Hydrology, adopted by the WMO, and the Ninth Phase of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Program of UNESCO “Science for a Water-Secure World in a Changing Environment”,

Recognizing the United Nations General Assembly Resolution proclaiming the period from 2018 to 2028 as the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, the Resolutions specifying the process for the midterm comprehensive review of the Decade and describing modalities and expectations of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Review of the Water Action Decade in March 2023 (further the UN 2023 Water Conference) and the Resolution proclaiming the period from 2020 to 2030 as the International Decade for Action to deliver the Global Goals,⁷

Emphasizing that the Second Dushanbe Water Decade Conference supports the effective preparation of the UN 2023 Water Conference co-hosted by the Governments of Tajikistan and the Netherlands to be held in New York,

Noting the outcomes of the First Dushanbe Water Decade Conference in 2018, the President of the General Assembly’s High-Level Meeting, the High-Level Political Forum, the Bonn Water Dialogues for Results, the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Kumamoto and the meetings organized by other Member States, as well as looking forward to the contribution from the upcoming High-Level Symposium on Water during the United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon, of the other events mentioned in Resolution 75/212 of 29 December 2020, COP-27 and of other relevant events,

Hereby reiterate our determination to achieve the objectives of the Water Action Decade and declare our commitment to the following actions, according to our respective capabilities:

A. Ensuring universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, including relevant services, and hygiene for all, as essential for human development and health

Prioritize universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene as critical for the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, as reflected in United Nations General Assembly Resolutions⁸ and to adequate food⁹;

⁷ Resolution 71/222 of 21 December 2016, 73/226 of 20 December 2018 and 75/212 of 29 December 2020

⁸ Resolution 64/292 of 28 July 2010 and Resolution 70/169 of 18 November 2015

⁹ Article 11, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1996

Support robust institutions, policies, regulations, sufficient investments, human resources and tailored approaches to deliver improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, with immediate attention to expanding access to WASH services in underserved communities, as far as possible, including refugees, hard-to-reach and rural areas, areas experiencing natural disasters and armed conflict, following the principle of “leaving no one behind”;

Prioritize access to safe and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene, including relevant services, in all schools, childcare and healthcare facilities as vital for child, maternal and patient health and staff well-being;

Build longer-term strategies for increasing pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, including the COVID19 crisis, by investing in water supply and sanitation infrastructure, wastewater and waste management, consistently promoting good WASH practices, in particular scaling up a culture of hand hygiene in all settings, to serve as essential barriers to the transmission of pathogens from a OneHealth perspective, and establishing effective systems of drinking-water and wastewater surveillance;

B. Recognizing the importance of water for livelihoods, equity, inclusive economic growth and sustainable development

Strive for transformative water policy based on a better understanding and valuing of water by promoting transparent cross-sectoral cooperation and management, through institutions and investments in environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure, information, data, water accounting, education, training, capacity development, research and innovation, particularly in the context of moving towards a circular economy;

Promote robust institutions, policies, regulations, sufficient investments, human resources and tailored approaches for the implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) at all levels, as a process to ensure more equitable, efficient, sustainable and resilient management and use of water, land and related resources and protection at the basin and aquifer level from source to sea, without compromising the sustainability of life-support systems, aiming at a sound water cycle management;

Strengthen transboundary and regional cooperation and sustainable water management including disaster risk reduction through suitable institutional, technical and economic arrangements, which may include promoting and establishing arrangements, agreements, adequate funding and financing mechanisms, at different levels, means of sharing data on water flows and exchanging information on water-related development plans in a timely manner to build confidence and trust among riparian countries, as appropriate;

Promote the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus approach considering the cascading and cross-sectoral impact of stresses and shocks at all levels, including COVID-19, armed conflict, disruption of economic ties and supply chains, climate change, natural disasters and unsustainable production and consumption practices, on the increasingly integrated water, energy and food sectors and possible implications to meet basic needs, for economies and for communities;

C. Building synergies between water, environment and climate change and disaster risk reduction

Develop and implement resilient institutions and policies, including national adaptation plans and measures, as well as infrastructure, technologies and management approaches at the appropriate level of government and service providers, improving coordination and addressing water-related disasters and other risks, considering the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss on overall global water resources;

Recognize and translate into practice the major role that promoting the health of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, forests and soils can play as nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches to promote a circular and green economy and as cost-effective complement to grey infrastructure in enhancing the environmentally sustainable management of land and water resources, in reducing risks and in supporting local livelihoods, water, ecosystems, energy, health, food security and nutrition;

Support the provision and mobilization of financial resources, including climate finance, as well as voluntary technology development and transfer on mutually agreed terms, capacity building and technical assistance towards building water-related resilience to protect economies, ecosystems, infrastructure and communities, paying attention to the specific needs of developing countries, especially Least Developed Countries, Land-Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

Recognize that systematic and robust knowledge base is required to understand disaster risk drivers and their potential implications for the achievement of SDG 6 and other water-related SDGs, to strengthen forecasting and multi-hazard risk management, to invest in disaster risk prevention and reduction, early warning systems and enhanced resilience of infrastructure and to build long-term strategies for increased preparedness and effective response and to “build forward better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, providing suitable coping mechanisms;

D. Enhance collaboration across sectors, improve knowledge and education and develop instruments and technologies

Support enhanced collaboration and partnerships between different stakeholders at all levels, including local authorities, civil society organizations, river basin organizations, scientific organizations, investors and donors, where possible, and reinforce coordination and interlinkages within the SDG 6 domains and across all the SDGs by considering accountability and exchange of information, knowledge, experience and best practices, as appropriate, moving data to action by bridging science, innovation and decision-making;

Demonstrate and scale-up solutions that lead to action underpinned by science and technology innovations, including open and citizen science, women-led, youth-led initiatives, as well as traditional and indigenous knowledge, to achieve more effective and climate-resilient water and sanitation management in line with national priorities and circumstances;

Support and facilitate collaboration among different types of users in all sectors of the economy “out of the Water Box” and promoting integration at all appropriate levels to create an enabling environment for sustainable development and a more water-smart society, by understanding different sectors and the water needs of stakeholders

Provide quality and accessible education, from childhood to higher education, training and capacity development on water-related issues for all generations;

We call for consistent application of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework bearing in mind national circumstances and approaches and therefore reaffirm the urgency to address the challenge of financing, as a means to provide better and more sustainable water services, of ensuring quality, disaggregation and access of data, information and knowledge targeting resources and measuring progress, of enhancing capacity of the water sector to attract and retain young and qualified professionals, as well as of promoting and scaling innovations and ensuring collaboration across boundaries and sectors to create an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels;

We consider the use of legal instruments and guidelines that can offer inter alia frameworks for multi-sectoral cooperation, setting national targets and advancing agendas towards reaching SDG 6;

We uphold that the role of women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities and other recognized major groups in water governance and

management at all levels is critical especially in a changing climate for ensuring universal access to water and sanitation for all;

We commit to apply broad and inclusive participatory approaches and technical solutions to ensure sustainable, equitable and non-discriminatory access to water and sanitation, with corresponding capacity development and knowledge-sharing activities and mechanisms;

We support the meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making in the water sector, which is essential for the development and sustainability of durable and equitable water governance and management.

Key Messages for the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York

We stress that the commitment to water sustainability, inclusive of drinking water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction, needs to be reaffirmed in the light of how the challenges of climate change, loss of biodiversity, environmental degradation, water scarcity and pollution from inter alia agriculture, waste treatment, chemicals, organic pollutants, endocrine disrupting chemicals, heavy metals and microplastics impact the lives and prosperity of countless people every day and threaten the effective enjoyment of the abovementioned human rights and the vital needs of future generations;

We recall that, to achieve SDG 6 and the other water-related SDGs by 2030, accelerated action is needed by all countries and stakeholders, particularly in countries that are currently not “on track”, through financial and technological assistance, policy reforms and prioritization of adequate additional international support for developing countries. The UN 2023 Water Conference should provide impetus, as well as institutional and financial support, for countries to face this challenge together;

We commit to accelerating our efforts for coherent implementation of water-related goals and achievement of targets of the 2030 Agenda and aim at strengthening political and technical dialogue on water, including at the highest level, as appropriate, in the context of the United Nations, and to improve the United Nations system-wide approach to water, enhancing the participation of Member States;

We emphasize the need to strengthen water-related transboundary and regional cooperation, inter alia to build resilience to water-related disasters, climate change, promote the sustainable, equitable, transparent and sound management of water, making use also of relevant regional organizations, mechanisms, regional agreements and arrangements, such as river basin organizations, as appropriate;

We reiterate the need for strong, coherent and explicit integration and prioritization of water into national economic policies and investment programs

to raise awareness of why and how water and sanitation are necessary for achieving national development objectives at all levels, such as through the voluntary development by 2025 and strengthening of National Water Roadmaps or strategies to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and all water-related SDGs, as well as the need to implement IWRM, including for non-conventional water resources, by means of robust institutions, financing, policies and regulations, also for utilities and service providers;

We emphasize the need to pre-invest in critical enablers, such as education, science, knowledge, innovation and data on water quantity, quality, access, availability, risk drivers and use patterns, as well as other evidence-based approaches, for informed decision-making and improved planning capacity;

We advocate for planning and implementation needs to be supported by financial resources and for the development of revenue-raising mechanisms for water management, services, data and knowledge development and prioritizing those most affected by water-related challenges;

We note with appreciation the initiative of the Water and Climate Coalition's Leaders to establish a set of global water and climate information services;

We encourage the use of adequate monitoring tools for SDG implementation, including all water-related targets, and the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative and Capacity Development Initiative for SDG 6;

We acknowledge the need to address gaps in gender data and agree to strengthen reporting on sex-disaggregated data in the water domain and to strive to make this data available and accessible to all for evidence-based decision-making to promote gender equality in water-related domains and we note favorably the multi-stakeholder "Call for Action to Accelerate Gender Equality in the Water Domain";

We support and encourage the participation of young people to play an important role in the UN 2023 Water Conference and further note with interest the development of a "Water and Climate Youth Development Plan Agenda";

We support Tajikistan's initiative on declaring an International Year of Glaciers Preservation in 2025 and note with appreciation the intention to strengthen international mechanisms to facilitate access to accurate and timely information on the cryosphere;

We envision the development of a Water Action Agenda mechanism as an outcome of the UN 2023 Water Conference, building on existing mechanisms, that brings together all voluntary commitments – small and big, from Member States, stakeholders and coalitions across the world from within

and beyond the water sector – that accelerate and scale water actions across the 2030 Agenda and support, track and deliver on the 2030 Agenda and beyond 2030.

We recommend registering the actions and partnerships proposed during the Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conferences, as well as during all other relevant conferences and events, as voluntary commitments on the UN Partnership Platform, and providing updates on their progress;

We express our sincere appreciation for the hospitality extended by the Government and People of Tajikistan and the support of the United Nations and of all the partners who contributed to this important conference.

TAJIKISTAN CO-HOSTED THE FIRST GENEVA WATER DIALOGUE¹⁰

According to the Department of Information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, the first Geneva Water Dialogue was held in Switzerland on July 1.

The event was co-organized by the Permanent Missions of the Netherlands, Tajikistan and Egypt under the UN Office at Geneva with the support of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UN Water, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Geneva Water Hub.

The main goal of the first-ever Geneva Water Dialogue is to provide substantial contribution to the UN Water Conference 2023 by organizations and missions based in Geneva and to identify concrete solutions to accelerate the achievement of SGD 6, including in the post 2030 period.

The participants were informed about the High-Level Conference on Water held in Dushanbe on June 6-9 of the current year.

The Geneva Water Dialogue also included a seminar on water and disaster risk reduction organized by the Permanent Mission of Tajikistan and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The heads and representatives of diplomatic missions attended this event, as well as high-level representatives from United Nations organizations.

¹⁰ Source: IA Avesta / <http://avesta.tj/2022/07/02/tadzhikistan-vystupil-organizatorom-pervogo-zhenevskogo-dialoga-po-voprosam-vody/>

THE CEREMONY OF LAUNCHING THE CONSTRUCTION OF YAVAN HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT ON ZARAFSHAN RIVER AS PART OF THE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF TAJIKISTAN TO UZBEKISTAN ¹¹

On 2 June 2022, the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon launched the construction of the HPP by pressing a symbolic button.



This is the first major project of bilateral energy cooperation. A modern plant with a capacity of 140 MW will play an important role in energy security, sustainability of the water and agricultural sectors of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

¹¹ Source: IA UZA / https://uza.uz/ru/posts/nachato-stroitelstva-sovremennoy-gidroelektrostancii_377849 / Published on 2 June 2022

Engineering work will be based on modern standards and will involve the world leading companies.

Leading international institutions, including the Asian Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, showed interest in financing the project.

The construction of HPP will provide “green” energy to thousands of households and new enterprises.

KYRGYZSTAN ANNOUNCED THE START OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE KAMBARATA-1¹²

The construction of Kambarata-1 was launched in the Jalal-Abad region of Kyrgyzstan. At the ceremony on June 8, 2022 the President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Zhaparov pressed a button on the control panel, after which an explosion occurred, symbolizing the start of large-scale construction.



The construction will take from 8 up to 10 years. The first hydro turbine unit is expected to be commissioned in four years if permanent financing is available.

Some of the infrastructure, including bases, quarries, roads, has already been prepared.

The President's Press Service noted that the close location to the 500-kV high voltage “Datka - Kemin” line, which would allow to have the lowest costs for the power distribution scheme, would solve the problem of power supply to the population in winter. In the future, increasing energy consumption in the country will be satisfied and export potential will be provided as a part of the

¹² Source: IA ASIA-Plus / <https://asiaplustj.info/ru/news/centralasia/20220608/v-kirgizstane-zayavili-o-nachale-stroitelstva-kambaratinskoi-ges-1> / Published on 8 June 2022

CASA-1000 project.

At the launching ceremony, Sadyr Zhaparov informed that 412.8 million soms (over \$5 million) have been allocated from the budget for research, feasibility studies and other work.

"Having reviewed the central government budget, we decided to allocate additionally about 1.5 billion soms (about \$19 million) to start construction work at the site. The allocated money will be spent on the construction of a tunnel leading to the HPP, a bridge over the Naryn River to connect the two banks and on high-voltage power grids, highways, and a camp where workers will live," as the President of Kyrgyzstan quoted by the channel 24.kg.

The Kambarata-1 is the largest project from the entire cascade of Kambarata HPPs.

It includes construction of 256 m-high rockfill dam and a 1860-MW HPP, with an average annual generation of 5.6 billion kWh and a total reservoir capacity of 5.4 billion m³.

The projects of Kambarata-1 and -2 on the Naryn River were approved in the USSR in 1988. The construction began the same year, but in 1994 it was suspended due to lack of funding. At that time, 25% of the work has been completed.

In 2008, construction of Kambarata-2 was resumed with the assistance of Russia; the project was estimated at \$2 billion. In 2009, the Russian government allocated an interest-free loan for the construction of Kambarata-1 to Kyrgyzstan. In 2010, the first hydro turbine was launched.

However, cooperation with Russia then stalled after Bishkek was accused of mismanaging \$450 million. The Russian Federation suspended the agreement. In 2012, an agreement was reached that RusHydro would complete both hydropower plants. But in 2016, the Kyrgyz government initiated termination of this agreement.

It should be noted that if the first president of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov was categorically against to the construction of Kambarata Hydropower projects, the current president Shavkat Mirziyoyev declared the readiness of the country to invest in the project as one of shareholders.

According to the Ministry of Energy of Kyrgyzstan, 95 large and medium-size power plants with a total capacity of 11.4 GW and an average annual output of about 50 billion kWh can be built on the country's rivers.

SECOND REGIONAL HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE ON THE “ENERGY-WATER-LAND USE NEXUS IN CENTRAL ASIA”

The Second Regional High-Level Policy Dialogue on the "Energy-Water-Land Use Nexus in Central Asia" organized by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Government of Kazakhstan took place in Almaty on June 16. The event was held for high-level representatives from ministries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, including regional and international partners.

The High-Level Dialogue's agenda included discussions on a regional approach to climate change adaptation and the climate impact on Central Asian economies, the water issues as a key challenge for the Central Asian region, the development of renewable energy sources, and the rational use of land resources.

The Dialogue provided an overview of activities planned as a part of the upcoming project "Regional mechanisms for low-carbon, climate resilient transformation of the energy-water-land nexus in Central Asia", which will be funded by the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Environment and implemented by a consortium of partners of OECD (coordinator), UNECE, EBRD (with FAO) and SIC ICWC. The project is scheduled to start in October 2022 and will remain in effect for 4 years.

The project aims to:

- operationalise the energy-water-land use nexus through enhanced economic and financial analytical work at regional and national level to demonstrate the “business case” for co-operation on the nexus,
- pave the way for countries to modify planning processes and adopt a whole-of-government approach to addressing the nexus and develop a regional strategy in the context of climate change,
- develop and apply tools to increase private sector involvement (related to agribusiness) in nexus-related investments,

- promote integration of policy, technology and investment for climate-resilient nexus transformation .

The project will be organized along the following lines:

1. Supporting regional and national level processes for nexus development (policy dialogue)
2. Economic modeling and knowledge base
3. Development and adoption of methodological approaches and tools
4. Sustainable financing and investments
5. Capacity building

The following ministries will act as the focal points for the project:

- Kazakhstan: Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources
- Kyrgyzstan: Ministry of Economy and Commerce
- Tajikistan: Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
- Turkmenistan: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Uzbekistan: Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade

The Vice-Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan, representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of Kyrgyzstan, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, the IFAS Executive Committee, Ms. Monica Iwersen, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kazakhstan , Mr. Jurgen Keinhorst, Head of Regional Division for Africa, Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), Germany spoke at the high-level segment on the role of regional cooperation in the energy, water and land use nexus and the climate change impact in Central Asia.





Separate sessions were devoted to presentations of project Consortium partners on planned activities (session 1), country and regional level activities on the adoption of a regional approach to adaptation (session 2) and adoption of an intersectoral approach to address water issues as the main challenge in the Central Asian region (session 3), adoption of an intersectoral approach to the development of renewables in Central Asia (session 4), as well as to similar programs and projects in the region that promote water, energy, food and ecosystem nexus (USAID and European Union projects, Green Central Asia, Blue Peace Switzerland, FAO activities and others).

In conclusion, the participants of the meeting expressed their support to the planned activities.

Prepared by SIC ICWC

FOURTH JOINT MEETING OF THE UNECE WORKING GROUPS ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND ON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

The 17th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the 17th meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) was held in Tallinn (Estonia) on 28-30 June 2022. This is the Working Groups' fourth joint meeting.

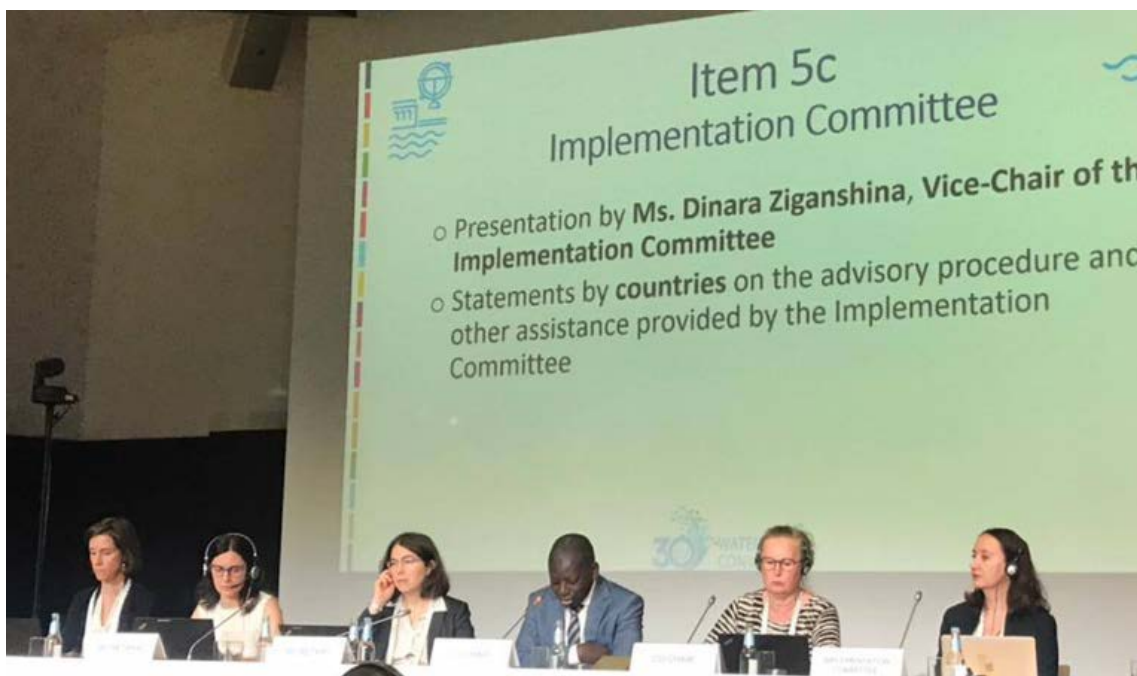


The main objectives of the fourth joint meeting of the two Working Groups were to review the implementation of the Water Convention programme of work for 2022-2024; discuss progress in the Convention's global opening and ongoing and planned activities; review progress in activities supporting monitoring and assessment, and information-sharing in transboundary basins; discuss the

implementation of decisions taken by the Meeting of the Parties at its ninth session (Geneva and online, 29 September - 1 October 2021).

The meeting began with the adoption of the agenda and the election of officers. The report of previous joint meeting was then approved, and information on recent ratifications of the Convention and the intentions of the countries to accede to it in the near future were reviewed.

Under the item on **Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation**, the Working Groups were informed on the activities of Secretariat, Parties and partners aimed at raising awareness and increasing knowledge on the Convention at the local and global levels; the activities in support of countries in developing and revising transboundary agreements and arrangements (program area 1, activity 1.3); as well as on the outcomes of the 14th meeting of the Implementation Committee under the Convention (Geneva, February 24-25, 2022), including the information on the progress of the WAT/IC/AP/1 consultation procedure between Albania and Montenegro (report of D. R. Ziganshina, Vice-Chairman of the Implementation Committee).



Under "**Supporting monitoring and assessment, and information-sharing in transboundary basins**", the working groups were informed about implementation of the program area 2 for 2022-2024 supporting countries in

initiating or further developing joint and coordinated monitoring and assessment of transboundary water resources and improving exchange of information. In particular, information on the outcomes of the Expert meeting on monitoring, assessment and data exchange (Geneva (in hybrid format)), progress in updating the “Strategies for monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters” (ECE/MP.WAT/20), development of a publication on good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange and planned next steps.

Under **“Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels”**, a wide range of issues was addressed, including support for intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the “water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus approach”; assistance to integrated water resources management in transboundary basins; support of national policy dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management within the framework of the European Union Water Initiative. In particular, the Working Groups were informed about the outcomes of the stocktaking of experiences worldwide of nexus (intersectoral) solutions and investments in transboundary basins (publication “Solutions and investments in the water-food-energy - ecosystem nexus”: A Synthesis of experiences in transboundary basins”); on the progress made in activities supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessment in transboundary basins, in particular in the Western Balkans as well as the preparations for a Nexus project in Central Asia. The Working Groups also reviewed efforts towards promoting cooperation between the water and energy sectors, as promoted in the toolkit publication “Sustainable Renewable Energy Investment and Deployment: Tradeoffs and opportunities with water resources and the environment.” The Working Groups were informed about Global Workshop on Source-to-sea Management (Geneva, 14-15 December 2022), on initiatives undertaken on the occasion of World Water Day 2022 (22 March 2022) focusing on “Groundwater - making the invisible visible”.

As part of supporting national policy dialogues on integrated water resources management under the European Union Water Initiative (program area 3, activity 3.4), participants were updated on a new project entitled “EU4 Environment in the Eastern Partnership: Water Resources and Environmental Data”, implemented jointly by ECE, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Environment Agency Austria and the International Office for Water of France, also on the progress under a project in Central Asia funded by the European Union within the Regional “European Union-Central Asia Water, Environment and Climate Change (WECOOP)” project and implemented by ECE in cooperation with the Organization for

Economic Co-operation and Development. It was reported to conduct the first dialogue in Uzbekistan. The Head of the Department of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan reported on the process of national dialogues on IWRM policy issues in the country.

The measures to support countries in adapting to climate change and in financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins (programme area 4) were discussed under "**Adapting to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins**". In particular, the outcomes of the sixth meeting of the Global Network of Basins Working on Climate Change Adaptation (Geneva (hybrid), 25 April 2022) and plans for the Global Workshop on Climate Change and Water (Geneva, 17 and 18 October 2022) and the thirteenth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (Geneva, 19 October 2022). The Working Groups were informed about inputs to global processes on water, climate change and disasters, including the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 31 October- 12 November 2021) and the Water Pavilion organized during the event, as well as the work of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Working Groups were informed on the activities carried out in the framework of the "UN-Water" Integrated Monitoring Initiative for Sustainable Development Goal 6 under "**Reporting on Sustainable Development Goals indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention**". Participants also discussed initiatives promoting the findings of the national reports and the setting of national or basin targets, and address identified data gaps, such as, regarding transboundary aquifers. Working Groups were informed on progress made in development of the online reporting system and the proposed options for considering gender aspects in the reporting. At its eighth session, the Meeting of the Parties decided that reporting exercises would take place triennially by 30 June, so the deadline for submitting the completed templates for the third reporting exercise is, therefore, 30 June 2023.

Working Groups were informed about the preparatory process for the 2023 United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 (New York, 22-24 March 2023) in the context of the theme "**Partnership, Communication and Knowledge Management**". In particular, the Working Groups were briefed about the outcomes of the regional events, for example the Pan-European Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference (Geneva, 12 and 13 April 2023), and the Second High-Level International Conference on

the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028 (Dushanbe, 6-9 June 2022).



Working Groups were provided with information on cooperation with different global and regional partners, such as the Global Environment Facility and its International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network, the Global Water Partnership, "UN-Water" and other environmental conventions, and communication efforts, in particular those to mark the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Water Convention in 2022.

The working groups were informed on progress of work of the International Water Assessment Center organized in Kazakhstan. In particular, it is planned to hold seminars on water allocation in the Syr Darya River basin.

Working groups discussed the status of the **financial resources for implementing the programme of work for 2022-2024**. In recent years there has been an increase in the expenditures of the work program due to the expansion of geography and activities, but the financial contributions of countries have not been increased. The Secretariat still relies on donors to fund this imbalance and encourages countries to contribute to its work.

Finally, the Secretariat reported on the implementation of the current work program for 2022-2024 and the dates and venue for the next meetings of the Working Groups.

Prepared by SIC ICWC

SPECIAL EVENT MARKING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNECE WATER CONVENTION



A special event was held to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Water Convention adopted in Helsinki in 1992, together with the joint meeting of the working groups. At the anniversary event organized by the Ministry of the Environment of Estonia and UNECE in

cooperation with Finland the participants reviewed the progress in implementation of the long-term vision of the Convention under which riparian countries cooperate in transboundary water management.

Opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Meelis Munt, Secretary General of the Ministry of the Environment of Estonia, Ms. Jaana Husu-Kallio, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, and Mr. Dimitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNECE.

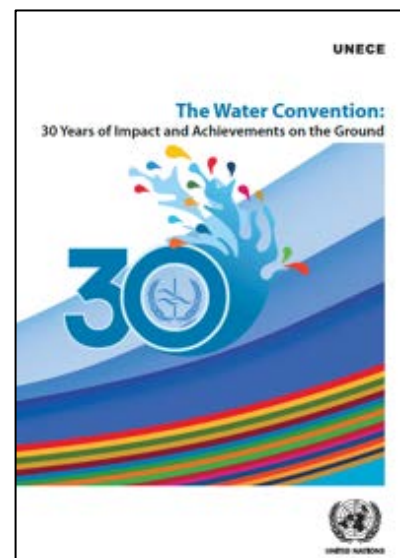
The first session "Thirty years of success: a story about the Water Convention" was addressed by the Chairs of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention since 1992: Ms. Lea Kauppi (Finland, 1998-2000), Mr. Carel De Villeneuve (Netherlands, 2001-2003), Ms. Heide Jekel (Germany, 2007-2009), Ms. Sybylle Vermont (Switzerland, 2010-2012), Mr. Massimo Cozzone (Italy, 2013-2015), Mr. Peter Kovacs (Hungary, 2016-2018), Mr. Arsen Zhakanbaev (Kazakhstan, 2019-2021).



The Secretariat introduced the new publication "The Water Convention: 30 Years of Impact and Achievements on the Ground".

Reviewing the past of the Convention was held in the format of two panels: "Improving water management: Economic, social and environmental benefits of the implementation of the Water Convention" and "Enhancing trust: Regional integration, peace and stability promoted by the implementation of the Water Convention".

When speaking at the session, D. R. Ziganshina, Director of SIC ICWC, referred to the 30th anniversary, which is celebrated not only by the Water Convention but also by the ICWC of Central Asia in 2022. The Water Convention has significantly contributed to the promotion of transboundary water cooperation in Central Asia, in particular through pilot projects, workshops, expert meetings, as well as by providing a platform for joint generation and application of new approaches and practices. Central Asia, in turn, has made invaluable contributions to the Water Convention through the experts involved, a unique culture of hospitality, and a willingness to change for the better. Professor Victor Dukhovniy was among active promoters of water cooperation and the Convention. Speaking about the achievements of the Convention, Dr. Ziganshina emphasized the



women's leadership in its work (as the chairmen of the Meeting of the Parties, Working Groups and Secretariat), which was formed naturally.



Future perspectives were discussed by the participants in a panel session and in small groups. The areas highlighted included the following: improvement of reliability and access to data; promotion of science, technology and information; thematic and geographic expansion of the Convention (more attention to groundwater and water quality issues; creation of thematic groups "Water-Transport", "Water-Climate", "Water-Peace and Safety"); partnerships with regional and global economic commissions; youth involvement; hybrid meeting formats and informal means of communication; organization of joint groups with other conventions (e.g., for synergies with the Convention on Biodiversity); practicing twinnings between basins and regions to share experiences; the possible role of regional ambassadors in the context of globalization of the Convention; strengthening basin organizations; establishment of an expert base to assist countries on selected topics; involvement of private sector; ability to work under conditions of limited funding and crises (pandemic, situation in Ukraine, food crisis and others).



Prepared by SIC ICWC

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF TURKMENISTAN S.G. BERDIMUHAMEDOV AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN SH.M. MIRZIYOYEV¹³

(extract)

At the invitation of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the President of Turkmenistan, Serdar Berdimuhamedov, arrived in Tashkent on a state visit on July 14.

The leaders noted the high rate of the current Turkmen-Uzbek relations that reached the format of a strategic partnership by virtue of trust-based dialogue established at the highest level.

A significance of the first state visit of Serdar Berdimuhamedov to Uzbekistan was emphasized for ensuring the continuity of multifaceted cooperation based on the historical and cultural community of the two countries, the solid principles of friendship, good neighborliness, mutual respect, trust and support.

In the atmosphere of friendship, mutual understanding, openness and trust, the parties had extensive and fruitful talks on the entire range of fields of bilateral relations, including political, trade and economic, transport and communications, cultural, humanitarian and other ones, and exchanged views on international and regional issues of mutual interest.

The Presidents , guided by the Treaty between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan of 16 January 1996 on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance and the Treaty between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan of 6 March 2017 on Strategic Partnership,

expressing their conviction that the constructive and trustful relations between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan meet the fundamental interests of the two brotherly states and also serve as a key factor for peace, stability and security in Central Asia,

stating a firm commitment to the universally recognized norms of international law and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the principles of mutual respect for independence,

¹³ Source in Russian: «Turkmenistan: Golden era» / <https://turkmenistan.gov.tm/ru/post/64849/sovместnoe-zayavlenie-prezidenta-turkmenistana-sgberdimuhamedova-i-prezidenta-respubliki-uzbekistan-shmmirziyoeva>

sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, non-intervention in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit,

striving to further extension and enhancing of Turkmen-Uzbek relations, ensuring timely and full implementation of the agreements reached,

declare the following:

[...]

17. The Presidents highly appreciated activities of the Intergovernmental Commission on Water and welcomed the outputs of the Commission's second meeting held on July 1-2, 2022 in Dashoguz city.

The importance of continuing constructive dialogue on equitable and rational use of transboundary water resources in Central Asia was noted.

The Heads of State welcomed an agreement between the governments of the two countries on management, protection and rational use of water resources in the Amu Darya River.

Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan consider the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea as a universal platform for cooperation between the Central Asian countries in the implementation of environmental, research and technological projects and programs for environmental rehabilitation of areas affected by the Aral Sea disaster.

The parties will fully support the work in this format, viewing such an approach as an important element for achieving sustainable development in Central Asia.

18. The parties underlined the need for closer cooperation between relevant organizations of the two countries to mitigate climate change impacts, develop and implement joint measures for prevention of and recovery from consequences of natural and man-made disasters.

The importance of Uzbekistan's initiatives for the development and implementation of the Regional "Green Agenda" Program for Central Asia launched during the Third Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asia State was emphasized as well.

[...]

President of Turkmenistan
Serdar Berdimuhamedov

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Shavkat Mirziyoyev

Tashkent, 14 July 2022

TURKMENISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ON RATIONAL USE OF AMUDARYA WATER RESOURCES¹⁴



The President Shavkat Mirziyoyev called an Agreement between the Governments of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on Management, Protection and Rational Use of Water Resources in the Amu Darya River signed on July 14, 2022 in Tashkent as historical one, reported the Turkmen TV-channel "Watan".

"This landmark document will undoubtedly contribute to sound water use in the region," Mr. Mirziyoyev noted after talks with his Turkmen counterpart.

"I especially want to underline that we address all water-related issues in the spirit of good-neighborliness, mutual understanding and with account of each other's interests on a long-term basis," said the Head of Uzbekistan .

¹⁴ Source: Turkmenportal / <https://turkmenportal.com/blog/49468/turkmenistan-i-uzbekistan-podpisali-soglashenie-o-racionalnom-ispolzovanii-vodnyh-resursov-amudari>

In his turn, the President Serdar Berdymuhamedov emphasized that Turkmenistan always stated that water and energy issues in our region shall be solved on the basis of generally recognized international law norms , taking into account the interests of each country and with assistance of international organizations, including the UN.

FOURTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE LEADERS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATES¹⁵

The Fourth Consultative Meeting of Central Asian Leaders was held in Cholpon-Ata, Issyk-Kul region in Kyrgyzstan on 21 July 2022.

The President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdymuhamedov took part in the meeting.

The Heads of State discussed the issues of strengthening cooperation between the Central Asian states for joint response to regional security challenges and threats, the prospects for enhanced regional cooperation to ensure sustainable economic growth and good neighborly and friendly relations in developing further a single cultural and humanitarian space in the region.

The discussions led to conclusion of a number of documents.

In particular, the Heads of Central Asian countries adopted a joint statement.

The presidents of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan signed a Treaty on Friendship, Good-neighborliness and Cooperation for the Development of Central Asia in the 21st century.

The presidents of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan will accede to this document after completion of internal procedures in their respective countries.

The Heads of State approved the Concept of interaction between the Central Asian states within the framework of multilateral formats, the Regional Green Agenda Program for Central Asia and the Roadmap of regional cooperation development for 2022-2024.

In addition, the presidents of the Central Asian states signed a Decision of the Heads of State-founders of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea to extend the powers of Emomali Rahmon as the President of the Fund.

¹⁵ Source:

http://president.kg/ru/sobytiya/novosti/22985_po_itogam_chetvertoy_konsultativnoy_vstrechi_glav_gosudarstv_centralnoy_azii_prinyati_itogovie_dokumenti



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATES¹⁶

(extract)

, A regular Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asia States took place on July 21, 2022 in the city of Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyz Republic. The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan K. Tokayev, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic S. Japarov, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan E. Rahmon, the President of Turkmenistan S. Berdimuhamedov and the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev participated in the meeting.



In the course of deliberations held in the traditional atmosphere of mutual understanding, trust, friendship and constructive cooperation, noting with satisfaction steady advances towards bringing the countries together and deepening regional cooperation in all aspects, marking the 30th anniversary since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the states of Central Asia,

¹⁶ Source: <https://e-cis.info/news/568/101986/>

emphasizing their significant contribution to consolidating the ideals of the UN, maintaining the central role of the Organization in the international system, expressing their commitments to the goals and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, marking the 30th anniversary of membership of the Central Asian states in the United Nations and participation in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe based on the universally recognized principles and norms of international law, including the principles of mutual respect, independence, state sovereignty and territorial integrity, inviolability of state borders, equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of states,

reaffirming the desire of the Central Asian states to develop a regional dialogue based on strengthening trust and mutual understanding, consensus, equality, respect and consideration of each other's interests,

emphasizing the primary and key role of the Central Asia states themselves in solving topical regional issues,

reaffirming their commitment to openness and increased exchange to the benefit of peace, stability, security and sustainable development both in the region and the world as a whole,

underlining the common desire of the states to create in Central Asia the space of trust, peace and prosperity and to strengthen regional cooperation that contributes to the achievement of the above goal,

expressing a firm intention to jointly face global and regional challenges,

noting the great potential for regional trade and economic cooperation and the interest in its full use to increase competitiveness of national economies, improve the quality of life, and enhance regional peace and stability,

emphasizing the general commitment to further strengthening cooperation in political, trade and economic, investment and financial, transport and logistics, water and energy, information technology, environmental, cultural and humanitarian and other areas of mutual interest,

highly appreciating the significance of the Consultative Meetings of the Heads of Central Asian States as a unique five-sided mechanism at the highest level for maintaining political dialogue, discussing and determining prospects for regional cooperation,

The Parties declare the following:

1. The Consultative Meeting held in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyz Republic, once again confirmed the commitment of the Heads of Central Asian States to a constructive and mutually beneficial dialogue to the benefit of the people of all the countries in the region and became an important stage in regional cooperation.

2. The Treaty between the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan on friendship, good-neighborliness and cooperation for the development of Central Asia in the 21st century was agreed upon and the signing procedure was started.

3. The Heads of State highly appreciated the fact that Consultative Meetings of the Heads of Central Asian States were becoming regular and stressed the importance of fulfillment of earlier reached agreements.

The Heads of State noted the importance of strengthening political exchange and continuing, on a regular basis, the five-sided consultations at the level of foreign ministries, diplomatic institutions and representative offices of international organizations on topical issues of regional and international agendas of mutual interest.

The Heads of State also expressed the need to develop the interaction mechanisms at the level of sectoral ministries and departments, including in line with the Roadmap for regional cooperation development.

4. The parties called for the improved exchanges within the framework of multilateral formats “Central Asia+”, enhanced cooperation with the partner states, international and regional organizations, and mutually beneficial use of the accumulated experience of multilateral diplomacy.

5. The Parties noted the importance of coordinating joint efforts to accelerate implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda and its 17 goals.

6. The Parties, emphasizing the need to ensure broad participation of women in political, economic, public, social and other spheres of activity in Central Asia, consider it important to regularly hold forums, congresses and meetings of women.

[...]

21. The Parties reiterated the need for continued cooperation in the field of agriculture and food security.

22. Recognizing the urgency of environmental threats and challenges, the Heads of State highlighted the importance of expanding cooperation and coordination in climate agenda, building a low-carbon economy, introducing resource-saving and “green” technologies, including the development of renewable energy sources.

23. The Heads of State note the importance of further strengthening regional cooperation on climate change mitigation and adaptation, combating desertification, rational use of water and energy resources, provision of clean drinking water, environmental protection, ecology, conservation of biodiversity,

glaciers and re-cultivation of uranium tailings, promotion of projects and programs in these areas.

The Parties, noting the importance of existing and pipeline hydropower projects for the solution of water and energy issues in Central Asia, called for enhanced mutually beneficial multilateral cooperation between the Central Asian countries on integrated and rational use of water and energy resources in the region, considering the interests of all the countries in the region.

The Heads of State stressed the importance of the ongoing work on institutional and legal improvement of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and expressed the need for early completion of this work, considering the interests of all Central Asian countries.

The Parties emphasize the significance of promoting international and regional initiatives under the UN umbrella to address the most urgent environmental issues in the region.

24. Recognizing the relevance and a need to further strengthen exchanges between relevant authorities of the Central Asian States in the field of emergency situations, the Parties noted the need for further consolidation of efforts within the framework of the consultative platform of the Regional Forum – the Meeting of Heads of Emergency Departments of the Central Asian Countries.

[...]

33. The Heads of State decided to approve the Roadmap for the Regional Cooperation Development for 2022-2024, the Concept of Interaction of Central Asian States within Multilateral Formats and the Regional Program “Green Agenda” for Central Asia.

34. The Parties supported the proposal to hold the Fifth Anniversary Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asian States on 14-15 September 2023 in the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Parties expressed their gratitude to the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Nurgojoyevich Zhaparov for hospitality and the high level of organization of the Consultative Meeting.

Cholpon-Ata, 21 July 2022

TREATY ON FRIENDSHIP, GOOD-NEIGHBORLINESS AND COOPERATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL ASIA IN THE XXI CENTURY - KEY POINTS IN ONE TOPIC¹⁷

On 21 July 2022 the Presidents of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan signed the Treaty on Friendship, Good-Neighborliness and Cooperation for the Development of Central Asia in the 21st century based on results of Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asia States,

Tajikistan and Turkmenistan will accede to this document after the completion of internal national procedures.

The Treaty will serve as a solid foundation for further deepening mutually beneficial cooperation between the Central Asian states , building an optimal model of relations with the world community and developing common approaches to face modern challenges and threats, and will also contribute to the development of interstate cooperation in Central Asia.

Summary of key points the Treaty:

- The parties develop their relations on the basis of trust, striving to establish and strengthen strategic partnership and multifaceted cooperation, as well as guided by the principles of mutual respect for state sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, non-interference in internal affairs and peaceful settlement of disputes.
- The parties agreed to deepen economic cooperation between the Central Asian states , including in trade, investment, industry, agriculture, transport, logistics, energy, tourism and other areas of mutual interest.
- The parties will enhance cooperation in integrated and rational use of water and energy resources, considering the interests of all contracting parties, on the basis of international treaties.
- The parties will join efforts in restoring the ecological system of the Aral Sea basin and the Aral Sea region.

¹⁷ Source - News Central Asia / <http://www.newscentralasia.net/2022/07/26/dogovor-o-druzhbe-dobrososedstve-i-sotrudnichestve-v-tselyakh-razvitiya-tsentral'noy-azii-v-xxi-veke-klyuchevyye-punkty/>

- The treaty is unlimited. It is subject to ratification by the parties and enters into force on the thirtieth day after the receipt of the last instrument of ratification by the depositary. Kazakhstan is the depositary of the Treaty.

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN K.K. TOKAYEV AT THE 4TH CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIAN STATES¹⁸

(extract)



Dear Heads of State!

Dear participants of the meeting!

First of all, let me express my deep gratitude to the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, respected Sadyr Nurgozhoevich Zhaparov, for the warm welcome, hospitality, and excellent organization of the event on the picturesque coast of Issyk-Kul. Our Consultative Meetings have become an important factor in international policy; they allow us to determine the further vector of regional development in a trustful manner. In the context of geopolitical turbulence and instability of the world economy, our meeting demonstrates the cohesion of the Central Asian countries, testifies to a common desire to jointly confront new

¹⁸ Source: <https://www.akorda.kz/ru/vystuplenie-na-iv-konsultativnoy-vstreche-glav-gosudarstv-centralnoy-azii-2163148>

Photo: <https://kun.uz/ru/news/2022/07/21/mirziyoyev-vystupil-na-konsultativnoy-vstreche-i-vydvinul-ryad-predlozheniy>

challenges and threats. The all-round rapprochement of our states is an imperative that fully meets the fundamental interests of the fraternal people. Since the first Consultative Meeting in Kazakhstan in 2018, regional cooperation has been steadily increasing in all areas. The interstate political dialogue has reached a brand new level, setting the tone for the dynamic development of relations in the spirit of good neighborliness and alliance.

[...]

The Treaty of Friendship, Good-Neighborliness and Cooperation for the Development of Central Asia in the 21st century, which is unique in its content and historical perspective, enshrines the specific nature of our relations. It is deeply symbolic that its signing will take place in the year of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of interstate diplomatic relations between our countries. This historic document marks a new milestone in our five-way strategic partnership. Ensuring sustainable development, stability and security of the region is a common task that imposes on us a huge responsibility to future generations. I would like to assure that Kazakhstan remains committed to its strategic course towards strengthening regional cooperation in every possible way, enhancing the role of Central Asia in the global arena.

[...]

FIRST. Strengthening cooperation in security and diplomacy remains a key item on the agenda. This is essential for the prosperity of peoples in Central Asia. The Central Asian region should become a vast area of sustainable socio-economic development, all-round cooperation, peace and prosperity. A mechanism for regular consultations between the Secretaries of the Security Councils should be launched to jointly develop solutions for preventing security threats. In addition, I propose that foreign ministers should be instructed to meet regularly, at least once every six months, to develop coordinated approaches to key regional and international issues. As to cooperation with non-regional strategic partners, Kazakhstan considers it possible to adopt the Concept of Cooperation between the Central Asian States within the framework of multilateral formats. In my opinion, we should not remain confined within fixed geographic boundaries. The Consultative Meetings of the Central Asian Heads can be attended by high-ranking representatives of other neighbouring states, for example, Russia and China as invited guests. I am sure that this would benefit the countries of Central Asia, especially when dealing with specific issues.

[...]

FIFTH. Modern climatic challenges, growing demand for water and energy resources require decisive measures to ensure rational use of water resources in the Aral Sea basin.

According to the report of the International Panel on Climate Change, the temperature in our region is rising much faster than the global average. Climate change leads to a reduction in the area of glaciers – the main source of water for our region. Over the past 50 years, the volume of glaciers in Central Asia has decreased by 20-30%, which in the future will significantly reduce the flow of the Syr Darya and Amu Darya rivers. All this entails serious risks to food, energy and environmental security in the region, requiring the adoption of urgent joint measures. In this context, we welcome the initiative of Kyrgyzstan to declare 2022 the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development. In addition, we consider the proposal of Tajikistan to declare 2025 the International Year for the Preservation of Glaciers to be timely. I am deeply convinced that it is no longer possible to overcome the consequences of climate change in Central Asia without consolidating our efforts. Therefore, in order to coordinate joint actions, we propose to establish a Central Asian Project Office for environmental protection and implementation of a coordinated policy on climate change in the region.

Taking the opportunity, I would like to present interesting facts on this burning issue. The special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on 1.5 degrees Celsius predicts an increase in temperature in Central Asia by the end of the century to 6 degrees Celsius. This is double the predicted global temperature increase. There are currently 2724 glaciers in Kazakhstan. The largest one – Tuyuksu – has shrunk by 1 km over the past 38 years. It annually loses about 1 million tons of its volume, amounting to 58 million tons. This will lead to reduction of water resources by more than 20% by 2040.

Kazakhstan also attaches particular importance to the implementation of joint hydropower projects for the mutually beneficial use of water resources of transboundary rivers. In this context, the Kambarata HPS-1 project in Kyrgyzstan is being actively discussed. Yesterday we, the three presidents, discussed this issue in detail and came to preliminary specific and very useful agreements. The hydroelectric power station will strengthen energy security of the Central Asian countries and improve conditions for the expansion of agricultural production.

We also call for increased engagement between the countries within the framework of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea. We note positively the participation of the Kyrgyz side in the regional Working Group on institutional and legal improvement of the Fund. We look forward to the

resumption of full-fledged cooperation with the Kyrgyz side within the framework of this Fund.

Dear colleagues!

Common history, strong ties of friendship and traditions of good-neighborliness have always served as an unshakable basis for the rapprochement of our fraternal peoples. In this regard, I would like to share my vision of further strengthening our ties and filling the cultural and humanitarian agenda with new content. An urgent task is to expand cooperation in science and education. The Declaration on the Creation of a Single Central Asian Higher Education Space, signed last year, serves as the basis for this. . As part of this initiative, Kazakhstan has supported partners' proposals to expand inter-university exchanges and significantly increased quotas for training young people in Central Asia. We are also ready to create branches of our leading universities and advanced schools in the states of the region. For example, , a branch of the Kazakh National University named after A. Al-Farabi recently opened in Bishkek. The opening of educational centers on a reciprocal basis with Uzbekistan is under consideration.

An important vector of joint work is the popularization of the rich historical and cultural heritage of the peoples of Central Asia. To this end, it is proposed to establish close ties between the academies of sciences of our states to jointly organize ethno-geographical and historical research, as well as to publish scientific works. Based on cooperation between national archive centers and libraries, I propose creating a joint online platform for exchange of archive and research data that would contribute to deeper cooperation in the field of science.

Cooperation should be strengthened to prevent negative phenomena in the information space that are harmful to the entire region. The essence of this work should be the inviolability of our friendship. We need to unite in opposing any attempts to divide peoples and split our relations by inciting interstate and interethnic discord. Unfortunately, there is still an acute informational hunger in our media in terms of coverage of life in the countries of the region. It is advisable to reverse this trend; it may make sense to create a region-wide TV channel or an online news site.

It would be useful to hold regular meetings of the heads of specialized agencies and news agencies in Central Asia to study these issues in detail. In order to position the region as a single cultural space, it is worth launching the practice of annually electing the "cultural capital of Central Asia". [...]

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC S.N. ZHAPAROV AT THE 4TH CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATES¹⁹

(extract)



This and next year we celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Over the past centuries of strong friendship and harmonious coexistence of our five fraternal peoples, we have withstood all the ups and downs of history together, and today we appear on the political map of the world as independent, sovereign states.

¹⁹ Source:

http://president.kg/ru/sobytiya/vystupleniya_obrascheniya/22976_prezident_sadir_ghaparov_v_ninesh_nih_krizisnih_usloviyah_meghdunarodnih_otnosheniy_strani_ca_budut_eshe_bolees_tesno_sotrudnichat_chtobi_prodvigat_obshie_interesi_regiona_na_mirovoy_arene

Photo: <https://kun.uz/ru/news/2022/07/21/mirziyoyev-vystupil-na-konsultativnoy-vstreche-i-vydvinul-ryad-predlozheniy>

These are our ancient peoples, carrying a unique civilization through the centuries, who today personify Central Asia. This is a common asset that we are proud of!

The historical mission before us is to preserve integrity and security, to ensure development and prosperity of our countries and peoples. Fortunately, our region is self-sufficient and diverse in terms of opportunities and resources for implementation of such an important mission.

Kyrgyzstan supports the format of a Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asian States, which promotes region-wide cooperation in political, trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres and in international affairs.

I believe that in the current critical context of international relations, our countries will cooperate even more closely in order to protect and promote the common interests of the region on the global arena.

[...]

The global economy, which has not yet fully recovered from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, is now experiencing new shocks due to international tensions.

Given such a crisis, the issues of food and energy security, macroeconomic and social stability require our priority attention and coordinated activities.

Despite disruption of global trade chains and imposed export restrictions on goods and raw materials, our countries are quite capable of providing themselves with food, given the capacities and reserves of agricultural and food processing industries.

We stand for increased cooperation in all areas that will improve food security and agricultural development in the region.

One of these areas is water, volume of which decreases irreversibly due to climate change. The current mechanisms of water management no longer meet the realities of our time nor the needs of the Central Asian countries.

In particular, Kyrgyzstan has not yet received adequate compensation for accumulation and conservation of water resources. I again suggest developing jointly a mutually beneficial mechanism for water use so that the upstream countries have an opportunity and interest to accumulate water for irrigation during the crop growing season, regardless of water availability, including during dry periods of time.

We stand for resumption and improvement of cooperation within the framework of the 1998 Agreement between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan on the Use of Water and Energy Resources of the Naryn – Syr Darya River , which provides for a balanced of water and energy exchange .

Kyrgyzstan also advocates the enhanced cooperation in hydropower sector in order to increase energy self-sufficiency and security of the Central Asian countries.

We welcome contributions of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to hydropower projects in Kyrgyzstan. It should be noted that the accident that took place in this year in spring showed vulnerability, and therefore it is necessary to strengthen security of the Unified Central Asian Energy System.

[...]

Dear Heads of State!

Today we are signing the Treaty on Friendship, Good-Neighborliness and Cooperation for the Development of Central Asia in the 21st century. I am confident that this important document will have a positive impact on further rapprochement of the countries in our region and consolidation of joint efforts in facing emerging challenges and threats. This is a historic moment, and I hope that this Treaty will become a reliable basis for general prosperity in Central Asia.

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN E. RAHMON ATTENDED THE 4TH CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIAN STATES²⁰



The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon attended and spoke at the Fourth Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asian States.

In his speech, the President of Tajikistan, noting the significance of regular Consultative Meetings of the Heads of Central Asian States, stressed the importance of progressive development of regional cooperation on the basis of historically established friendly and good-neighborly relations.

The Head of Tajikistan focused on growing threats of terrorism, extremism, drug and arms trafficking, cybercrime and other forms of cross-border organized crime. Tendencies to plant the ideology of religious radicalism

²⁰ Source: IA Khovar / <https://khover.tj/rus/2022/07/prezident-respubliki-1tadzhikistan-emomali-rahmon-prinyal-uchastie-v-chetvertoj-konsultativnoj-vstreche-glav-gosudarstv-tsentralnoj-azii/>
Photo: <https://kun.uz/ru/news/2022/07/21/mirziyoyev-vystupil-na-konsultativnoy-vstreche-i-vydvynul-ryad-predlozheniy>

in the region, as well as the so-called “sleeping cells” of international terrorism and extremism were named among serious challenges to security.

The President of Tajikistan also raised the issue of negative impact of processes in Afghanistan on the region’s countries. In this context, he called for strengthening coordination between special services in order to create specific mechanisms of joint struggle against challenges and threats to regional security

Emomali Rahmon highlighted specifically joint activities of the countries for socio-economic development of Central Asia. In this context, he underlined the need to create favorable conditions for enhanced trade, closer cooperation, transport and transit potential of the region.

The President of Tajikistan spoke in favor of additional measures to create a common cultural and humanitarian area in Central Asia. The need to increase exchanges between scientific institutions in the region for development of applied disciplines, develop further intercultural dialogue and promote jointly tangible and intangible cultural and natural heritage of the peoples in the region was emphasized as well.

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF TURKMENISTAN S.G. BERDIMUHAMEDOV AT THE 4TH CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIAN STATES²¹

(extract)



Dear Heads of Central Asia States!

Dear participants!

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the President of the Kyrgyz Republic for the invitation to the meeting, hospitality and warm welcome.

²¹ Source: «Turkmenistan: Golden era» / <https://turkmenistan.gov.tm/ru/post/64981/vystuplenie-prezidenta-turkmenistana-serdara-berdimuhamedova-na-konsultativnoj-vstreche-glav-gosudarstv-centralnoj-azii>

Photo: <https://kun.uz/ru/news/2022/07/21/mirziyoyev-vystupil-na-konsultativnoy-vstreche-i-vydvinul-ryad-predlozheniy>

In the year passed since the third Consultative Meeting in the city of Turkmenbashi, significant transformations have taken place in the world, new realities and challenges have emerged. They did not bypass our region.

[...]

In this context, we consider it expedient to activate and strengthen political and diplomatic cooperation. The coordination of work should be undertaken by foreign ministries of our countries through a mechanism of regular five-sided consultations. We need constant monitoring of the situation, timely exchange of information, and unbiased analysis of developments in the world as the basis for decision-making.

I propose that foreign ministries of the Central Asian states should be instructed to develop a Roadmap on the entire spectrum of security agenda for the next two years, with the participation of the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

Also, to protect effectively the information space in the region, we suggest thinking about strengthening professional ties between the state information organizations of our countries. Probably, we should develop a “code of conduct” when covering sensitive topics.

In this context, we can consider the idea of holding a Central Asian media forum dedicated to security issues between state news agencies, the press, and electronic media.

[...]

The topic of trust in interstate relations and dialogue culture is gaining global importance today against the background of crisis phenomena that we are witnessing in global politics and the economy. The Central Asian countries are called upon to demonstrate respect, equality and trust in relations with each other and promote actively these ideas in the international arena.

Turkmenistan is currently preparing an initiative for the UN to declare 2023 the International Year of Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace, and we expect that this constructive proposal will be supported by all the Central Asian countries.

At the same time, we made a proposal to the UN to draft a resolution of the General Assembly on the “Area of Peace and Confidence in Central Asia”. We also hope on support to this initiative.

Given the intensified regional conflicts, our mutually agreed position on their neutralization and prevention is of particular importance.

I think it expedient to increase diplomatic cooperation both within the region and with other countries outside the region to support international efforts in de-escalating conflicts and creating favorable conditions for their translation into negotiations.

Here we can and should offer our vision of preventive diplomacy mechanisms in the region, particularly, through the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, provide all possible support and assistance. In this context, I suggest holding consultations at the level of foreign ministers of the Central Asian countries and the Regional Center this autumn.

[...]

We look forward to continuing and extending our partnership in the energy sector. We already have a major energy project implemented – the Turkmenistan–Uzbekistan–Kazakhstan–China gas pipeline.

We are ready to consider together with our partners the possibilities for apparent increase of energy supplies and their transit.

[...]

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN Sh. M. MIRZIYOYEV AT THE 4TH CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIAN STATES²²

(extract)



Dear colleagues!

I am pleased to welcome all the participants of our meeting.

[...]

As has been pointed out several times today, thanks to the established dialogue in this format, we have managed to strengthen the relations of friendship and good neighborliness, and create a completely new atmosphere of constructive cooperation in the region.

²² Source: <https://president.uz/en/lists/view/5360>

Photo: <https://kun.uz/ru/news/2022/07/21/mirziyoyev-vystupil-na-konsultativnoy-vstreche-i-vydvinul-ryad-predlozheniy>

We are consistently addressing the difficult tasks of ensuring security, stability and sustainable socio-economic development in Central Asia.

[...]

In order to further strengthen the multifaceted relations and develop practical regional interactions, we consider it expedient to focus our common efforts on deepening partnership in the following key dimensions.

[...]

I also support the proposals of my colleagues on measures to ensure food security.

In this context, I believe it is important to work together to develop a Comprehensive Scheme to guarantee the population a wide range of foodstuffs produced in sufficient volumes in our countries.

First of all, these are cereals, oilseeds and fodder crops, fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, meat and dairy products and many other goods.

In these matters, we must organize a systematic work, taking into account, first and foremost, the common interests of the Central Asian region.

The second dimension is multilateral cooperation in the environmental direction.

I would like to express my gratitude for the support of our initiative to adopt the Green Agenda for Central Asia.

As a part of this program, we propose to focus on the issues of fulfilling international commitments on the decarbonization of the economy, advancing the development of alternative energy, primarily hydro, solar and wind generation, by organizing the mutual supplies of electricity, the widespread introduction of water-saving and environmentally friendly technologies, as well as the rational use of water resources.

We must, unfortunately, admit the fact of our lagging far behind the leading regions of the world in terms of «green development».

For the long-term competitiveness of our countries, it is necessary to instruct the governments to prepare a Plan of Specific Actions for the implementation of the program adopted today.

[...]

Editorial Board:

Ziganshina D. R.

Beglov I. F.

Translator:

Yuldasheva G.

Editorial office:

Karasu-4, B-11 A,
Tashkent, 100187, Republic of Uzbekistan,
SIC ICWC

Our web-site:

sic.icwc-aral.uz