



Section 1

2018 Calendar
of Events

January

- **16-18 January** – 9th International Micro Irrigation Conference, Aurangabad, India
- **24-25 January** – Central Asia Climate Change Conference “Building path towards sustainable regional adaptation”, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- **30 January** – Seventeenth Steering Committee Meeting of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Kyrgyzstan

February

- **6-7 February** – Global workshop “Moving Forward Transboundary Water Cooperation: Building on its Benefits”, Geneva, Switzerland
- **6-7 February** – 7th meeting of the EU-CA Working Group on Environment and Climate Change, Brussels, Belgium
- **12-15 February** – International Conference on Snow Hydrology, Heidelberg, Germany
- **14-15 February** – Central Asian Civil Society Forum in preparation for the 8th World Water Forum, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- **21 February** – Seminar briefing of the forthcoming 2nd Central Asian International Environmental Forum on “Strengthening cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development and in Central Asia”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **26 February** – Fourth meeting of the Working Group on preparation and holding of the 2nd Central Asian International Environmental Forum on “Strengthening cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development and in Central Asia”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **27 February** – Uzbek-Finnish Business Forum “Development of Business Relations between Finland and Uzbekistan”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

March

- **1-2 March** – Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region, Geneva, Switzerland
- **7 March** – Joint Meeting of the Implementation Committee under the UNECE Water Convention and the Compliance Committee under the Protocol on Water and Health, Geneva, Switzerland
- **8-9 March** – Ninth meeting of the Implementation Committee under the UNECE Water Convention, Geneva, Switzerland
- **14 March** – International Day of Action for Rivers
- **15 March** – First Consultation Meeting of the Heads of States of Central Asia, Astana, Kazakhstan
- **17 March** – Extraordinary General Assembly of the World Water Council, Brazil
- **18-23 March** – 8th World Water Forum, Brasilia, Brazil

- **19-20 March** – 2nd International Conference on Natural Hazards and Disaster Management, Bali, Indonesia
- **22 March** – World Water Day
- **22 March** – High-level Event to Launch the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, New York, USA
- **24-25 March** – International Scientific and Practical Conference “Water for Sustainable Development of Central Asia” devoted to the launching of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- **26 March** – Aral Sea Day
- **26-27 March** – International High-Level Conference on Afghanistan: Peace Process, Security Cooperation and Regional Connectivity, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

April

- **4-6 April** – Almaty Regional Energy Security Conference, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- **15 April** – International conference “A drop of water - a grain of gold”, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
- **18-19 April** – Regional Meeting on Sharing Knowledge on National Policy Dialogue on IWRM and Transboundary Cooperation in Central Asia, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- **24-25 April** – Regional Consultation Workshop “Towards the Strategic Guidance on Climate Change and Adaptation in the Central Asian Mountains”, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- **25-26 April** – Meeting of the Advisory Group of Experts on Transboundary Water Diplomacy, Paris, France
- **30 April - 10 May** – Bonn Climate Change Conference, Bonn, Germany

May

- **2-4 May** – 8th ICID Asian Regional Conference, Katmandu, Nepal
- **7-9 May** – WMO Global Conference “Prosperity through Hydrological Services”, Geneva, Switzerland
- **9-10 May** – Coordination Meeting of The Executive Committee of IFAS with International Partners on Development of Programs related to Solving the Problems of the Aral Sea Basin, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
- **10-11 May** – Subregional Workshop “Research for climate change policies: Migration, remittances and climate resilience in Tajikistan”, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- **14 May** – International Conference “Uzbekistan and China: prospects for joint implementation of the “One Belt, One Road” initiative”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

- **15 May** – Round table on best practices in the field of impact of legal regulation, sanctions and other issues related to water legislation under the "National Framework Convention on Water Management and Integrated Water Resources Management" of the EU program "Sustainable Management of Water Resources in Rural Areas in Uzbekistan", Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **16-17 May** – First Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Development of a New Action Program to Assist the Countries of the Aral Sea Basin and the Improvement of Legal Framework of IFAS, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
- **17-18 May** – Astana Economic Forum (Global Challenges Summit). High-level panel session "Water and peace. How to Promote Transboundary Water Cooperation?", Astana, Kazakhstan
- **22 May** – International Day of Biological Diversity
- **22-23 May** – International Scientific and Practical Conference "Improving efficiency, reliability and security of hydraulic facilities", Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **28 May** – Knowledge Fair "EcovsEgo" as part of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of successful work of the GEF Small Grants Program in Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **28-30 May** – Joint Meeting of Working Groups on IWRM and on Monitoring and Assessment under the UNECE Water Convention, Geneva, Switzerland
- **30-31 May** – Regional Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia, Almaty, Kazakhstan

June

- **5 June** – World Environment Day
- **5-8 June** – Central Asian International Environmental Forum "Strengthening cooperation on environment and sustainable development in Central Asia", Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **7-8 June** – International Conference "Joint efforts to mitigate consequences of the Aral Sea catastrophe: new approaches, innovative solutions, investments", Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **7-8 June** – 8th meeting of the EU-CA Working Group on Environment and Climate Change, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **20-22 June** – International High-Level Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018-2028, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- **21-22 June** – Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia, Astana, Kazakhstan
- **24 June-7 July** – Training on Climate Modelling, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- **25-26 June** – Regional hands-on training on equitable access to water and sanitation, Geneva, Switzerland

July

- **9-18 July** – High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, New York, USA
- **12-13 July** – Regional meeting on strengthening intersectoral collaboration on water resources management, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- **23 July** – Round table “Actual problems of the transboundary Ural River Basin. Possible solutions. Best practices of transboundary basin ecosystems management”, Uralsk, Kazakhstan

August

- **1 August** – Earth Overshoot Day
- **12 August** – Caspian Sea Day
- **12 August** – 5th Summit of Heads of the Caspian Littoral States, Aktau, Kazakhstan
- **12-17 August** – ICID 69th IEC Meeting and International Conference, Saskatoon Saskatchewan, Canada
- **22 August** – 74th Meeting of ICWC, Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan
- **22 August** – ICSD Working Meeting, Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan
- **23 August** – IFAS Board Meeting, Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan
- **24 August** – Summit of Heads of the Founder States of IFAS, Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan
- **24-25 August** – 29th UN-Water Meeting, Stockholm, Sweden
- **26-31 August** – 28th World Water Week “Water, Ecosystems, and Human Development”, Stockholm, Sweden
- **29-30 August** – Global Landscape Forum, Nairobi, Kenya

September

- **3-4 September** – North and Central Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Tbilisi, Georgia
- **4-9 September** – Bangkok Climate Change Conference, Bangkok, Thailand
- **16-21 September** – IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition, Tokio, Japan
- **18-22 September** – 9th Central Asian Leadership Program (CALP) on Environment for Sustainable Development, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- **18 September** – Water Monitoring Day
- **19 September** – International Round Table “Uzbekistan and Germany: Cooperation in the Field of Security and Sustainable Development in Central Asia”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

- **26-27 September** – International Seminar “Assessment and Risk Management of Water Resources in the Basins of Transboundary Rivers of Central Asia” dedicated to the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- **28 September** – First International Conference “Caspian Sea in the 21st Century: Cooperation and Security”, Astana, Kazakhstan

October

- **2-4 October** – Asia Water Forum 2018: Information, Innovation, and Technology, Manila, Philippines
- **3-6 October** – Global Conference on Water Security for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Hyderabad, India
- **9 October** – Round table with representatives of international organizations, managers and employees of the Ministries and Agencies of the Republic of Uzbekistan on establishment of the Saline Soils Center in Prearalie, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **9-11 October** – International Symposium on Water and Land Resources in Central Asia under the CAWa project, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- **9-11 October** – Eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention, Astana, Kazakhstan
- **12 October** – International Conference “Influence of Natural Global Changes and Technological Conditions on Hydrogeological, Engineering, Geological and Geoecological Processes: Analysis of Results and Forecasting of Development”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **15-19 October** – International Forum on “Innovative approaches to achieve sustainable management and social stability in the Aral Sea Basin” combined with the regional training on “Diversification and modeling of crops and ensuring food security based on climate change in Central Asia”, Samarkand, Uzbekistan
- **17-19 October** – 10th International Soil Science Congress on “Environment and Soil Resources Conservation”, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- **17-19 October** – 6th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum, Fukushima, Japan
- **17-20 October** – 16th European “EUROPE-INBO 2018” Conference, Seville, Spain
- **23-26 October** – World Mountain Forum 2018, “Mountains in a Changing World: Strengthening Partnerships and Pathways towards a Thriving Mountain Future”, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- **29-30 October** – Meeting of the Central Asian Expert Forum, Tashkent, Samarkand, Uzbekistan
- **30 October-1 November** – Conference “Social science knowledge and sustainable agricultural development along the Silk Road”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

November

- **6-7 November** – Conference of the EECCA NWO “Water for Land Reclamation, Economic Sectors and Natural Environment in the context of Climate Change”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

- **6-8 November** – 15th Session of the Climate Forum on the seasonal forecasts of the CIS countries (NEACC-15), Moscow, Russia
- **7-22 November** – 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity; Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; Third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the [Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing](#), Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt
- **21 November** – International Round Table “Environmental Challenges in the Region of Central Asia at the Present Stage and in the Future: the Search for Joint Solutions”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **22-23 November** – Seminar on Water Cooperation and Second Technical Dialogue “Water Diplomacy in Central Asia”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **26 November** – First Small Basin Councils Forum of Central Asia and Afghanistan, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- **30 November** – Uzbekistan – South Korea workshop on “Uzbekistan – South Korea: vision of the future”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **30 November** – Regular meeting of the Public Council “On the application of international criteria and approaches to the conservation of biodiversity species and territories under the obligations of Uzbekistan on the implementation of the Conventions, Agreements and Memoranda”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

December

- **3-14 December** – 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24), Katowice, Poland
- **4-5 December** – Sanitation Workshop under the Protocol on Water and Health, Geneva, Switzerland
- **4-6 December** – Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, Geneva, Switzerland
- **6-7 December** – Water Diplomacy: Workshop on Experience Exchange, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- **14 December** – Round Table “Prospects for Water Management Development in Uzbekistan”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **20 December** – International Scientific and Practical Conference “Water Security in Central Asia: Problems and Solutions”, Taraz, Kazakhstan

Major Events in Central Asian Countries

More detailed information on major events held in Central Asian countries in 2018 is provided below.

Central Asia Climate Change Conference “Building Path Towards Sustainable Regional Adaptation”, 24-25 January, Almaty



The [Central Asia Climate Change Conference](#) “Building path towards sustainable regional adaptation” was organized by CAREC with the participation of IFAS and the World Bank under the framework of the Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin ([CAMP4ASB](#)).

The Conference aimed at fostering regional dialogue, knowledge and information exchange on adaptation to climate change, exploring opportunities for joint actions between international, regional and national stakeholders, and building a common vision towards climate resilient future.



It brought together more than 250 representatives from governmental and non-governmental agencies, academia, development partners, multilateral development banks, civil society and business companies that work in the area of climate change adaptation in the region and beyond.

The Conference was composed of five sessions: (i) POLICY: Global Climate Regime – implications for Central Asia; (ii) SCIENCE: how climate change affects Central Asia; (iii) BEST PRACTICES AND TECHNOLOGIES: Global challenges – local actions; (iv) FINANCE: global funding sources and local mechanisms of climate investments; and (v) INFORMATION SERVICES: communication and specificity of climate-related information delivery.

The agenda also included parallel thematic sessions: Sustainable economic development in the context of climate change – recommendations from current global and regional initiatives;

Gender, youth and civil society; Innovative approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation in Central Asia.

In addition, the regional photo contest “50 images of climate change” winners have been awarded at the conference framework.

The contest has been held in the following categories: (i) The role of woman in the sustainable use of natural resources in changing climate conditions; (ii) The climate change effects on the state of glaciers and water resources in Central Asia; (iii) The climate change impact on the welfare of the rural population in Central Asia.

Based on the results of the Conference, key messages were formulated and formed the basis for the thematic concept and program of the upcoming CACCC 2019.



Second Central Asian International Environmental Forum “Strengthening Cooperation on Environment and Sustainable Development in Central Asia”, June 5-8, Tashkent



CENTRAL ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

The [Second Central Asian International Environmental Forum](#) “Strengthening Cooperation on Environment and Sustainable Development in Central Asia” was jointly organized by the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Ecology and CAREC, and was supported by the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and a number of international organizations such as UNDP, USAID, WB, EU, and OSCE.

The aim of the forum was to contribute to strengthening the dialogue between the government agencies, academia, the international community for development, civil society and business structures in Central Asia on environmental issues and the formation of joint solutions for sustainable development of the region.

[The forum has brought together](#) around 400 participants, including representatives of more than 50 international and regional organizations, academia, civil society, business structures, as well as leading experts and analysts in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development, representatives of environmental and water authorities of Central Asian countries, Afghanistan and a number of European countries.

The forum was organized in the format of plenary and thematic sessions, in the following thematic areas: (i) [Biodiversity conservation and the development of a network of protected natural areas](#); (ii) [Integrated management of solid domestic wastes](#); (iii) [Renewable energy sources and energy efficiency](#); (iv) Regional water cooperation in Central Asia.

The statements were presented in the context of the following aspects: legal and institutional framework, research activities, best practices and development of public-private partnerships.

The Special Session on Regional Water Cooperation was held together with the



international conference “Joint actions to mitigate the consequences of the Aral catastrophe: new approaches, innovative solutions, investments”. The session covered mechanisms for ensuring sustainable financing for infrastructure, capacity development at the regional and national levels, cooperation with the private sector, strengthening integrated and transboundary water management and improving food security through sustainable use of water resources. During the session, an opening ceremony of the first [Central Asian CAREC-TIIAME Innovations and Scientific Research Cluster](#) was held.

The forum was accompanied by the Specialized Exhibition “Green Ecology Technologies Central Asia – [GETCA-2018](#)”. It brought together 38 manufacturers and developers in the field of green technologies from Armenia, Hungary, Germany, Italy, China, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Uzbekistan, France, the Czech Republic, Latvia and Switzerland, as well as local companies dealing with issues of sorting, recycling of solid household waste, development of renewable energy sources. Visitors got acquainted with innovative solutions in the field of energy efficiency and energy saving, utilization and processing of production and consumption waste. A Business Forum on Clean Technologies was held alongside the Exhibition, where investors had the opportunity to meet with the exhibitors and establish contacts.

CAIEF-2018 featured 7 parallel events: (i) [Regional meeting](#) “Intersectoral investments to foster water, energy and food security”; (ii) Special Meeting “Partnership for Sustainable



The [key messages of the forum](#) concerned the set of issues on (i) conservation of biodiversity and development of protected natural areas; (ii) integrated management of solid domestic waste; and (iii) renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.

At the end of the Forum, young representatives read out the appeal of the Central Asian youth for joint environmental actions. The participants once again supported the idea of launching the “Environment for Central Asia” process, which is intended to serve as a tool for coordination of sustainable development actions in the region. The proposal to launch the process was supported by the Central Asian countries within the framework of the [First Central Asian International Environmental Forum](#) (June 5-7, 2017, Ashgabat).

Source: <https://carececo.org/news/CAIEF-2018-report-eng.pdf>

Development”; (iii) Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of Smart Waters project; (iv) [Workshop on Mainstreaming Technology in Climate Action Plans](#) (CTCN, CAREC); (v) CAREC Public Advisory Council (PAC) meeting; (vi) Special session “Youth of Central Asia”; and (vii) [Meeting of the EU-CA Working Group on environment and climate change](#).

International Conference “Joint Actions to Mitigate the Consequences of the Aral Catastrophe: New Approaches, Innovative Solutions, Investments”, 7-8 June, Tashkent

The International [Conference](#) “Joint actions to mitigate the consequences of the Aral catastrophe: new approaches, innovative solutions, investments” was held by the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, MFA of Uzbekistan, Ministry of Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan in partnership with IFAS, CAREC, representative offices of UNDP, UNESCO, WB, GIZ, OSCE, JSC UZVTORCVETMET, Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological cooperation of the OIS (COMSTECH), and other organizations.



The objectives of the International Conference were the alignment of practical orientation and actions of the countries of the region under IFAS to address the problems in Prearalie; analysis and evaluation of implemented programs to mitigate the consequences of the Aral catastrophe; determination of ways of cooperation in the implementation of projects aimed at improving environmental and socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea region, and also attraction of investments for their implementation.

GIZ, UN agencies, COMSTECH, Global Water Partnership, the World Bank and other leading financial institutions and international organizations, foreign companies interested in investing projects to improve environmental situation in Priaralie, as well as foreign and national NGOs, business and media representatives.

The Conference Program included a trip to Prearalie, 3 plenary sessions, and parallel sessions.

The participants included the deputies of parliaments and heads of ministries and agencies of the Central Asian countries, experts of the government and administrative bodies of the country, national and foreign scientists and professionals, representatives of IFAS, CAREC,

Activities of IFAS, the new Program of Action on Aral Sea Basin Problems – ASBP-4, issues related to deepening of cooperation among the countries in the region on joint use of trans-boundary water resources in Central Asia, economic and social development of the Aral Sea

zone and the creation of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan under the auspices of the United Nations, creation and development of protected natural areas in Prearalie, activation of afforestation on the dried bottom of the Aral Sea, as well as attraction of young specialists to ecological problems of the Aral Sea were discussed at the plenary and sectional meetings.

The main thematic areas of the Conference included: (i) Practical actions at a new stage within IFAS – on the way to the IFAS Summit; (ii) Investments, innovations and technologies to reduce the negative impact of the Aral Sea desiccation on the health of population and environment of the Central Asian region; (iii) Coordination of afforestation work on the dried bed of the Aral Sea and in Prearalie; (iv) Regional water cooperation in Central Asia; (v) Meeting of the Central Asia and South Caucasus Consortium of Agricultural universities for Development; and (vi) Search for new solutions for ecosystem conservation in Prearalie.

As part of the Conference, an exhibition was organized to demonstrate projects, scientific developments, and results of experimental and scientific-practical work in the area of agriculture, water and forestry, new technologies of water saving and soil fertility improvement, models of modern equipment for the water sector, as well as methodological and scientific publications.

Main conclusions of the Conference:

i. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the UNDP Country Office in Uzbekistan and the State Forestry Committee on coordination of afforestation activities on the dried bed of the Aral Sea, as well as a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation COMSTEC in the field of environmental protection.

ii. Taking into account that the use of transboundary water resources should become an important aspect of water cooperation in Central Asia in the future, the Conference supported the initiative on conclusion of international conventions on rational and equitable use of water resources in the Amu Darya and Syr Darya basins developed by UNRCCA.

iii. The conference approved a package of 20 project proposals aiming to improve environmental and socio-economic situation in Prearalie and attract investments in the amount of \$1 billion and €12.7 million. These include projects on sustainable water resource management, strengthening of technical capacities of water management organizations, development of sustainable agriculture, expansion of forest plantations on the dried seabed, fixation of drift sands, development of protected natural zones, establishment of a Human Security Fund for Prearalie, etc.

iv. At the Conference, the [Tashkent resolution](#) was adopted, as well as a collection of conference materials was prepared for sending to the parliaments and governments of Central Asia and foreign countries, international and public organizations.

During their trip to the Prearalie zone, the participants visited Nukus, Muynak and the "Cemetery of Ships" on the exposed bed of the Aral Sea and met with local residents and representatives of state bodies and community organizations. They also visited the Karakalpakstan State Museum of Arts named after I.V. Savitsky.



High-level International Conference of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028”, 20-21 June, Dushanbe

The High-level [International Conference](#) of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028” was organized at the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in cooperation with UN and a number of partners.

The main objective of the Conference is to discuss further steps towards the implementation of the Action Plan of the International Decade at the global, regional and national levels and to make concrete recommendations on the implementation of water-related SDGs.

The Conference gathered representatives of 120 countries and more than 40 international and regional organizations. More than 1,500 dignitaries and politicians, scientists and experts from different regions of the world representing governments, various UN institutions, international and regional organizations, financial institutions, academic institutions, civil society and the private sector discussed the most pressing water issues during three days.

The Program included the pre-conference and side events, plenary sessions, a number of thematic and interactive sessions, and an exhibition.

On 19 June, the following pre-conference events were organized:

[Children's Water Forum](#), which included the round table with girls and boys “Children's Voices”, discussion panel on early childhood development on issues related to water, hygiene and sanitation “Best Investments in the World”, and an exhibition “Youth Innovation Challenge”.

Women Water Forum: 'Bridging Voices to Actions', which focused on three areas: (i) National and international commitments to the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028” and involvement of women; (ii) Capacity-building measures, integrating knowledge, science and technology to support women's leadership and participation; (iii) Building partnerships to achieve SDG6, with a particular focus on investing in women for water management.

The Smart Waters: Water and Science for Sustainable Future event addressed access to



data, integrity of research, knowledge sharing, learning process, innovative tools for science and education, strengthening partnerships in the academic community. Alongside the event, an exhibition “Water Technologies and Education” was organized.

The program of the [Water and Climate Dialogue](#) consisted of sessions of various formats: official statements, panel sessions, as well as roundtable discussion, focusing on the cryosphere, water, hazards, communities, partnerships in a changing climate, and addressing SDG.

The results of discussions at the pre-conference events were presented at the plenary session of the Conference, and summarized conclusions were included in the final report.

The opening ceremony of the International Conference was addressed by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, H.E. Mr. Liu Zhenmin, the President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Mr. Gurbanguli Berdimuhamedov, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, the Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, H.E. Mr. Abdullah Abdullah, and a number of other high-level representatives of Member States and units of the world organization.

3 plenary sessions and 12 action panels were held on: Drinking Water and Sanitation; Integrated Water Resource Management, Water Efficiency and Productivity; Water Quality and Ecosystems; Capacity Building including Improving Knowledge and Education; Water-related Communication, Advocacy and Networking; Water-related Partnerships for Action; Water, Food, Energy and Environment Nexus; Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction; Water Sustainability in Cities and

Human Settlements; Financing, Investment and Resilient Infrastructure; Transboundary Cooperation and Water Diplomacy; Water for Vulnerable People, including Refugees and Migrants.

Within the framework of the Conference, an international exhibition “Water for Sustainable Development” was organized. It demonstrated best practices and scientific achievements in the field of water resources. International and regional organizations, national ministries and departments, public organizations, private companies, academic and research institutions took part in the exhibition.

The Conference produced the [Final Declaration](#) “Promoting Action and Policy Dialogue”. It stresses the need to manage in an integrated and sustainable manner water resources, water, food, energy and environment nexus, including by promoting the concept of circular economy and other relevant solutions. The Declaration prioritizes water diplomacy and transboundary cooperation in line with the applicable principles of international law by strengthening dialogue, developing capacity, with the engagement of women.

It also notes the intention of the Government of Tajikistan to hold Water Action Decade Conferences in Dushanbe on a biennial basis

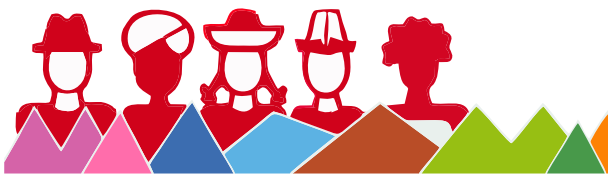
and to keep organizing them in an open and inclusive manner. The theme of the second Conference on the Decade for Action on Water will be “Stimulating action on water and partnership at the local, national, regional and global levels”. The Secretariat of the First International Conference is to collect all proposals and initiatives for action and partnerships in a document entitled “Call for Action and Partnership”.

See also Section [“International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028”](#)”.

Source: <https://wsdconf2018.org>



World Mountain Forum 2018 – 'Mountains in a Changing World'. Strengthening Partnerships and Pathways towards a Thriving Mountain Future, 23-26 October, Bishkek



World Mountain Forum 2018

The first major international decision to address the issue of mountains and mountain regions was made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Chapter 13 of the main UNCED outcome, Agenda 21, is dedicated to mountains. The outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012, 'The Future We Want', also includes specific references to mountains. SDG 15 addresses the need to protect, restore and promote

sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, including mountains.

The Mountain Partnership was founded by the Governments of Italy and Switzerland, FAO, and UNEP and launched in 2002 at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Under the overall framework of the Mountain Partnership, the 1st WMF took place in October 2011 in Switzerland, 2nd – in May 2014 in Peru, 3rd – in October 2016 in Uganda, and 4th – in October 2018 in Kyrgyzstan.

WMF 2018 was co-organized by the University of Central Asia (UCA) and the government of the Kyrgyz Republic, under the auspices of the SDC's Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change Program.

About 300 participants from 40 countries of the world attended the Forum, including representatives of mountain countries of Europe, Latin and North America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Central Asia.

With the overall objective of advancing the sustainable mountain development (SMD) agenda, discussions over the three days were organized around plenary sessions, parallel thematic tracks, poster presentations and featured focus events.

The overall goal of WMF 2018 is to develop together a scenario for a thriving mountain future and to sketch out some pathways towards it.

More specifically, the WMF 2018 aims to build and strengthen partnerships beyond traditional alliances for advancing the SMD agenda; develop and prioritize strategic and innovative pathways towards a more sustainable mountain future; position and reference the SMD agenda in regional and global debates (e.g. SDG, Paris Accord); explore investment opportunities and challenges for mountain areas; collect and share best practices and innovation solutions, both regionally and globally, and to strengthen initiatives to form and develop reliable regional mountain alliances.

The Forum is structured around four core thematic issues:

- T-1: Climate Change Affecting Water and Energy in Mountain Areas
- T-2: Poverty, Food Systems and Agrobiodiversity
- T-3: Resilience and Transformation in Mountain Communities and Ecosystems
- T-4: Investing in Mountains – Securing the Future

The thematic discussions on the first two days addressed three overarching topics: current trends and dynamics; pathways towards a sustainable mountain future; and partnerships and alliances to advance SMD. On the final day, participants reviewed and consolidated messages for inclusion in the conference outcome document titled 'A Call for Mountains,' and convened in sessions exploring innovative partnerships and best practices in mobilization and financing for SMD.

The Forum was preceded by the Youth Mountain Forum, held on 22 October 2018 by the University of Central Asia and UNICEF in Kyrgyzstan, that brought together students and young professionals interested in climate change and SMD to serve as Youth Ambassadors during WMF 2018.

The same day, a two-day Mountain EXPO was launched at the Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts. It was organized by the University of Central Asia with the support of UNDP in Kyrgyzstan. The exhibition provided a platform for sharing experience and demonstration of best mountain development practices in a "knowledge fair" format. The Mountain EXPO also presented two photo shows: "The Himalayas on Lokta Paper" by Jake Norton, Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassador, and "The Agony of a Glacier", the "SMART" art project of the Swiss Foundation for the Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions (FDDM).

The next World Mountain Forum is planned for 2020.

Source: <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/world-mountain-forum-2018-mountains-in-a-changing-world/>



UCA/Alma Uzbekova



UCA/Alma Uzbekova

