



Section 6

United Nations
and its Specialized
Agencies

6.1. General Assembly



74th Session
United Nations
General Assembly

The General Assembly (GA) occupies a central position as the chief deliberative organ of the United Nations.

It is comprised of all Members of the United Nations, each having one vote. It is authorized to discuss full spectrum of issues covered by the Charter. The UNGA meets on September each year.

On 17 September, the 74th Session of GA was opened, with agenda containing 174 items.

The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan spoke at the [general debate](#) "Galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion" (24-30 September). Among other things, they focused on water, climate change, SDGs, and energy-related issues.

Statements by representatives of Central Asian countries at the general debate of the 74th Session of the UNGA

Address by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan



Galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion

A nuclear-weapon-free world, preventive diplomacy, combating terrorism, enhanced regional cooperation, economic development and democracy. This is an incomplete list of priorities of the Government of Kazakhstan. Those were mentioned by Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan from the rostrum of the UNGA.

The alarming new global reality is influenced by the following major trends: (1) growing number of unresolved conflicts and tensions in various parts of the world; (2) lack of trust among global

and regional actors; (3) distortion of the existing world economic landscape due to widening inequalities and emerging global debt crisis; (4) environmental degradation. "In that complex environment, Kazakhstan firmly pursues a policy of inclusive and sustainable development, comprehensive dialogue and peaceful endeavors".

International projects. Kazakhstan is at the forefront of the global movement to eliminate nuclear weapons; that stems from the firm conviction that nuclear weapons are no longer an asset but a danger to global peace and stability. Kazakhstan contributes to United Nations peacekeeping by co-deploying with Indian partners a 120-strong unit to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, as well as by providing military observers. Kazakhstan provides a platform for inter-Syrian negotiations. Thirteen such rounds have taken place in our capital. Thanks to the Astana process, which complements the Geneva talks, a cessation of hostilities has been reached. As a counter-terrorism measure, Kazakhstan initiated the code of conduct towards achieving a world free of terrorism by the United Nations centenary in 2045, and we urge others to join it.

The growing role of Central Asia. "For decades, the Central Asian States had weak economic ties, which impeded their sustainable growth. Now, by sharing common interests and chal-

lenges, our region has entered the next stage of its development. [...] New opportunities have emerged for the region following the first informal consultations at the highest level held in our capital last year. [...] I am fully convinced that Central Asia is becoming a global stakeholder. [...] The situation in Afghanistan has a direct impact on our region. We hope that the Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process, assisted by all key stakeholders, will produce lasting peace and prosperity for this country. [...]"

Sustainable Development Goals. "We pay special attention to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda as we strive to avoid the notorious middle-income country trap. SDGs are integrated by 80% into our strategic Government programs. This May, I opened a new building for international organizations in Kazakhstan; it hosts 16 UN agencies. As the next step, we propose to establish on its premises a UN Centre for SDGs with the mandate of assisting Afghanistan and countries in Central Asia. [...]"

Transformations in Kazakhstan. "We shall continue to work towards the comprehensive transformation of our society under the motto "Continuity, justice, progress". [...] My formula for Kazakhstan's political system is one of a strong and visionary president, an influential Parliament and accountable Government. [...] As the new President, I am committed first and foremost to building a modern welfare State. [...] As part of my agenda, I launched the National Council of Public Confidence to promote meaningful dialogue between Government and society. My vision is based on the concept of different opinions, but one nation".

Environmental degradation. "Environmental degradation has become one of the most destabilizing factors globally. The impact of climate change in Central Asia in particular will result in dramatic existential challenges, such as desertification, the melting of glaciers and the subsequent depletion of drinking and irrigation water".

Full text in English: <https://undocs.org/en/A/74/PV.4>

Address by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic

The Central Asian region has experienced the accelerated melting of glaciers, which for centuries have been a source of life and clean drinking water. That will have an impact on vast areas, changing the landscape, and may affect traditional ways of life and lead to mass displacements. This was highlighted by Mr. Chingiz Aidarbekov, Kyrgyz Minister of Foreign Affairs from the rostrum of the UNGA.

Sustainable Development Goals. "The Kyrgyz Republic prioritizes achieving SDGs. The Goals have been successfully implemented as part of the national development strategy for the period from 2018 to 2040, which seeks to further promote economic development and will help us to effectively implement the SDGs. As further proof of our commitment to the 2030 Agenda, the Kyrgyz Republic has requested to submit in 2020 its voluntary national review on SDG implementation as part of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. At the international level, the Kyrgyz Republic is also contributing to the implementation of the SDGs. We hosted the World Nomad Games, aimed at preserving the diversity of cultures and traditions, which has been recognized and supported by the General Assembly and UNESCO. We are grateful to the United Nations for including the Kyrgyz Republic in the financing for development project".



Climate change impact. "As a mountainous country, the Kyrgyz Republic is severely affected by the negative impacts of climate change. [...] The Kyrgyz Republic therefore established the Group of Friends of Mountainous Countries and calls on all to engage in broad and fruitful cooperation within that framework. [...] During this seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly the Kyrgyz Republic intends to again co-sponsor the updated draft resolution on sustainable mountain development. [...] The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has now submitted the Paris Agreement on Climate Change for ratification by the country's Parliament".

Cooperation in Central Asia. “The Kyrgyz Republic attaches particular importance to cooperation in the Central Asian region, which is developing dynamically. [...] At the same time, in Central Asia there are still problems, whose successful resolution requires the collective efforts of the countries of the region. It is necessary to address, as a matter of priority, the demarcation of State borders, which will make it possible to ease social tensions in such areas and prevent border incidents. [...] Today, Central Asian countries must remove obstacles towards economic cooperation and increasing the region’s transit potential”.

Water and energy resources. “Separately, we are addressing the integrated use of water and energy resources in the region. Forming the main freshwater reserves, as part of existing relations, the Kyrgyz Republic seeks to receive appropriate economic compensation for the storage and conservation of water resources. Those resources are important not only to the region but for the preservation of the entire global balance. Kyrgyzstan therefore supports establishing an integrated administration for water-resource management and proposes developing economic mechanisms in Central Asia for establishing mutually beneficial cooperation in the hydro-energy sector. We are also focusing on producing green electric power. The implementation of hydroelectric projects will ensure that we meet the needs of Central Asian countries in terms of hydropower, thereby creating conditions conducive to sustainable

development across the entire region. In the context of 2030, we believe equal attention should be paid to the achievement of SDG 7 on ensuring access to affordable and clean energy. In that regard, the Kyrgyz Republic is working to implement the CASA-1000 project. From a regional perspective, Kyrgyzstan considers cooperation and comprehensive dialogue to be the only possible way to resolve existing issues in this area”.

Access to clean drinking water. “Ensuring access to safe and affordable drinking water is an urgent issue for our country. According to FAO, Kyrgyzstan, while an area of Central Asia that is a significant source of water supplies, has the lowest per capita access to drinking water in the region. In rural areas, about 40 per cent of the population is not adequately provided with clean drinking water. In order to deal with that, my Government is currently implementing its Taza Suu project – meaning “clean water” – designed to provide villages with clean drinking water. In that connection, we urge international organizations, financial institutions and donor countries to support my country’s efforts in promoting such projects. [...]”.

Mr. Aidarbekov underlined Kyrgyzstan’s multilateral and fruitful co-operation with UN agencies and said his country put forward its candidacy for non-permanent membership in the Security Council for the period from 2027 to 2028.

Full text in English:

<https://undocs.org/en/A/74/PV.11>

Address by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan

Speaking from the rostrum of the UNGA, Tajik Prime Minister Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda touched upon the problems of terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking. He spoke about efforts to ensure stability in Afghanistan and recalled the impact of climate change on Tajikistan and Central Asia as a whole, particularly, the rise in temperature, rapid melting of glaciers and increased natural disasters. The Head of the Government spoke also in favor of the hydroelectric power development.

Terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking threaten Tajikistan’s security. “Terrorism and extremism, together with transnational organized crime and illicit drug trafficking, undermine international peace and security, aggravate conflicts and destabilize entire regions. [...] We believe it important to advance our countries’ efforts to promote peace, stability and security

in Asia, which should focus on dismantling the military infrastructure of international terrorism, denying it political, military and financial support and preventing the misuse of the Internet for radicalization, recruitment and propagandizing for extremism and violence”.

Afghanistan. “Security and stability in Central Asia are closely linked to developments in Afghanistan. Tajikistan’s border with Afghanistan is the longest of any country, and since the first days of our independence we have therefore worked consistently to promote lasting peace and stability in our neighbor. We are also making a practical contribution to Afghanistan’s social and economic development by connecting our two countries’ transport corridors through an energy bridge, the CASA-1000 project, which provides the Afghan people with electricity and essential commodities, as well as

by training specialists. One of the important areas in that regard is involving Afghanistan in the process of multilateral regional cooperation and creation of conditions that will help to fulfill the transit potential of the country and the region. Tajikistan fully supports the efforts of the Afghan authorities to establish a peaceful negotiation process. [...]"

Sustainable Development Goals. "This is a very important year for taking stock of the results of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The four-year cycle of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development has been successfully completed. [...] In that regard, we support the call of the Secretary-General to act urgently and with purpose in order to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda in a timely manner. [...] We have adopted a national development strategy for the period up to 2030 and a medium-term development plan from 2016 to 2020, both of which fully align with the 2030 Agenda and are key tools for ensuring national ownership of the SDGs in Tajikistan. However, we are also dealing with an array of new issues and problems. [...]"

Climate change. "Climate change seriously affects the process of achieving SDGs and their targets. [...] Over the past 60 years, the average annual air temperature in Tajikistan has increased by 1°C. The number of days with heavy precipitation has increased, as have the frequency and intensity of natural hydrometeorological events. Water-related natural disasters alone cost our economy hundreds of millions of dollars in damage every year. The negative impact of climate change on the quantity and quality of the world's freshwater resources is also becoming increasingly evident. In the past few decades Tajikistan has seen the surface area of its glaciers, which are vitally important to the whole of Central Asia, shrink significantly. In that regard, we believe it is essential to strengthen cooperation among countries in order to address the consequences of natural disasters by developing preventive measures and mobilizing funds to assist countries in need. It is also essential to enhance the monitoring of glaciers, snow and other water sources and take effective steps to protect them for future generations".

Green energy. "We consider it vital to promote development of a green economy in every way, and particularly green energy, which is a crucial component of sustainable development. Expanding the use of renewable energy,



principally hydroelectricity, contributes to Tajikistan's economic and social development while keeping harmful emissions into the atmosphere as low as possible. Hydropower plants, which generate about 98 per cent of our electricity, form the basis of the country's energy sector. The Government has been taking comprehensive measures to balance energy production and consumption by modernizing and upgrading our existing hydropower stations, building new ones and introducing modern energy-conservation methods".

Water issues. "Tajikistan is a leader in promoting water issues at the global level. It is well known that in the past few decades, at the initiative of President Rahmon four important global initiatives were endorsed by GA. [...] In 2018, we began implementing our fourth global initiative, the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018-2028, which envisages two important global events: (1) a UN conference on the midterm comprehensive review of implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" in 2023; (2) a high-level meeting of the General Assembly to promote the implementation of water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda in 2021. In this context, the Republic of Tajikistan, as part of the Dushanbe process, will hold the second conference on the implementation of the International Decade of Action, entitled "Galvanizing water-related actions and partnerships at the local, national, regional and global levels", in Dushanbe in June 2020.[...]"

Full text in English: <https://undocs.org/en/A/74/PV.9>

Address by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan



Water issues should be considered based on the principles of mutual respect and consent and consideration of the interests of all States that share basins of transboundary rivers, water sources and shared-border lakes

Preventive diplomacy, active role of the UN in ensuring global security, partnership in transport, water conservation, as well as promoting SDGs and addressing issues related to development financing. Speaking at the UNGA, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov voiced his country's priorities.

Peace, security, and neutrality. Turkmenistan supports active international cooperation to ensure peace and security and believes that the United Nations should play a central role in this regard. According to Mr. Meredov, countries should "find a reasonable balance between national interests and those of the entire international community". "The key is [...] the restoration and reinforcement of trust and predictability, which are vital factors in building constructive relations in the international arena and making informed and responsible decisions". In this context, Turkmenistan proposed to declare 2021 as the International Year of Peace and Trust. The Minister underlined preventive diplomacy as a tool promoting comprehensive peace and security. "As experience has shown, preventive diplomacy under the auspices of the United Nations can produce real results. That is particularly evident in the work of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, which serves as an effective link between UN and the countries of Central Asia". The Minister also informed that next year Turkmenistan would mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the international recognition of Turkmenistan's permanently neutral status. In that connection, an international conference on issues of peace, security and development

will be held in Ashgabat in December 2020. Turkmenistan proposed to develop a United Nations code of rules for the effective application of the principles of neutrality in resolving international issues.

Sustainable development. "Cooperation with UN on sustainable development issues remains a priority for all of us in the long term. It is clear that despite the efforts that have been made, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is encountering various problems, including financial ones. In our opinion, they can be overcome if we harness political will and our efforts are properly organized. It will be essential to ensure a clear algorithm and the coordinated provision of adequate financial resources for specific projects and programs aimed at achieving SDGs. To that end, we think we should consider convening a UN conference on financing for development. [...]"

Initiatives on the Caspian and Aral Seas. "The environment and its protection have traditionally been central to Turkmenistan's activities at the United Nations. During this session my country will add the Caspian Sea issue to its list of well-known environmental initiatives. In August Turkmenistan held the first Caspian Economic Forum, at which the President of Turkmenistan launched an initiative creating a new Caspian environment programme at UN. Considering the universal importance of preserving the Caspian Sea as a unique natural complex, we hope to have the support of the international community for that initiative. Another important item for Turkmenistan on the agenda for this session is saving the Aral Sea. We will continue to work diligently to promote the idea of establishing a special United Nations programme for the countries of the Aral Sea basin, and we invite all interested parties to take part in the consultations on that subject".

Climate change. "The implementation of international agreements on climate change reached within the framework of UN is a major focus for my country. With a view to mobilizing activity aimed at fulfilling our commitments under SDGs and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the President of Turkmenistan approved our updated national strategy on climate change on 23 September, the very day of the Climate Action Summit in New York".

Water issues. "The issue of the conservation and use of water resources is one of the most important and urgent challenges of our time. It is not an

exaggeration to say that today the course of various global processes and the prospects for ensuring stability, development and well-being all over the world depend to a large degree on its resolution. Water issues, which have political, economic and social implications, require international consensus and demand that states concert their efforts on a common platform, where secondary and local interests and benefits must give way to an acknowledgement of truly global aims and priorities and the creation of a unified long-term strategy of action. The key condition for such concerted activity should continue to be an unconditional commitment to the principle of fair and equitable access to water resources and the recognition that it is a basic human right. Ensuring and assuming responsibility for the right of access to water is an obligation for every state, primarily because water is a common good for every people on our planet.

In adhering strictly to those principles, Turkmenistan has formulated a detailed position on water issues that can be summed up as follows.

First, water issues in various regions of the world should be addressed based on the universally recognized norms of international law and the relevant UN conventions in particular.

Secondly, water issues should be considered based on the principles of mutual respect and consent and consideration of the interests of all States that share basins of transboundary rivers, water sources and shared-border lakes. In that regard, Turkmenistan opposes the construction of new hydraulic facilities on transboundary rivers, which is linked to high environmental, socioeconomic and humanitarian risks.

Thirdly, we support greater and more active involvement of international organizations in addressing water issues. [...]”.

Full text in English:

<https://undocs.org/en/A/74/PV.12>

Uzbekistan – Vice Chairman of the 74th session of UNGA

During the 73rd Session of the UNGA, Uzbekistan for the first time was elected as a Vice-Chairman of the 74th Session of the UNGA. The representative of Uzbekistan assumed his duties in September 2019 and will assist the UNGA Chairman to lead the activities of this body until September 2020. The terms of reference of the Vice-Chairmen are to open and close each UNGA plenary meeting during the absence of the Chairman, moderate the debates of plenary sessions, maintain order at the meetings, particularly, by giving the floor to Member States, putting questions to vote and announcing decisions thereon.



Selected Resolutions adopted by the 74th Session of the UNGA

Selected resolutions on water, environment and development issues: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition ([A/RES/74/242](#)); Natural plant fibres and sustainable development ([A/RES/74/240](#)); Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development ([A/RES/74/229](#)); Sustainable mountain development ([A/RES/74/227](#)); Combating sand and dust storms ([A/RES/74/226](#)); Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all ([A/RES/74/225](#)); Harmony with nature ([A/RES/74/224](#)); Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United

Nations Environment Program ([A/RES/74/222](#)); Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development ([A/RES/74/221](#)); Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa ([A/RES/74/220](#)); Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind ([A/RES/74/219](#)); Disaster risk reduction ([A/RES/74/218](#)); Agricultural technology for sustainable development ([A/RES/74/215](#)); Sustainable tourism and sustainable develop-

ment in Central Asia (A/RES/74/214); Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea (A/RES/74/213); International Day of Clean Air for blue skies (A/RES/74/212); International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (A/RES/74/209); The law of transboundary aquifers (A/RES/74/193); Consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss in the case of such harm (A/RES/74/189); The right to development (A/RES/74/152); The right to food (A/RES/74/149); The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation (A/RES/74/141); Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes (A/RES/74/58); The Situation in Afghanistan (A/RES/74/9); Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (A/RES/74/8).

Source: www.un.org/en/ga/74/resolutions.shtml

The law of transboundary aquifers on the agenda of the General Assembly. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 20 September 2019, the General Assembly decided to include the item entitled “The law of transboundary aquifers” in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Com-

mittee. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 21st, 34th and 35th meetings, on 22 October and 11 and 20 November 2019. At the 35th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/RES/74/193 that

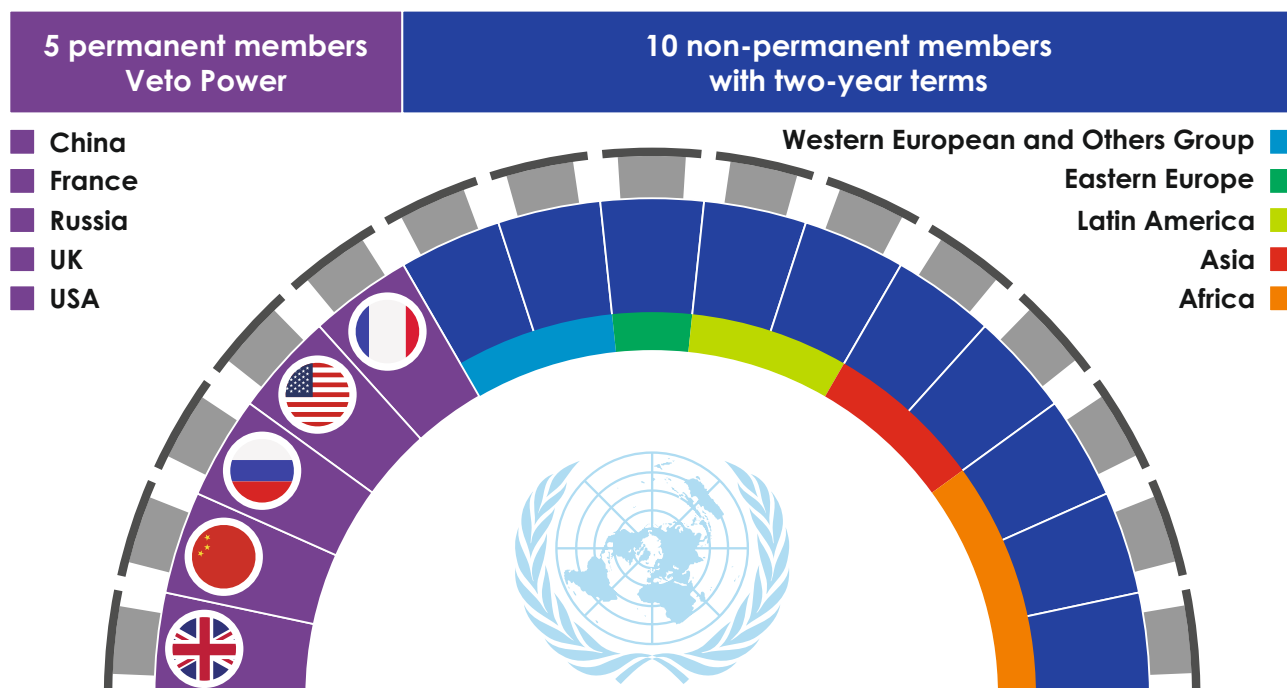
1. Commends to the attention of Governments the draft articles on the law of transboundary aquifers annexed to its resolution 68/118 as guidance for bilateral or regional agreements and arrangements for the proper management of transboundary aquifers;

2. Encourages the International Hydrological Program of the UNESCO to continue its contribution by providing further scientific and technical assistance upon the consent of the recipient State and within its mandate;

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh session (2022) the item entitled “The law of transboundary aquifers”.

Source: www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/74/transboundary_aquifers.shtml; <https://undocs.org/pdf?symbol=en/A/74/431>

6.2. Security Council



The **Security Council** (UNSC) has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security; all UN members are obliged to follow its decisions. It has 15 Members, including 5 permanent members with veto power (China, France, Great Britain, Russia, USA,) and 10 non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms for 5 countries each year.

UNSC open debate on addressing the impacts of climate related disasters on international peace and security

On 25 January, the Dominican Republic, as President of UNSC for the month of January, organized an open debate on addressing the impacts of climate-related disasters on international peace and security. The debate marked the fourth time that UNSC had devoted time to deliberating the impacts of climate change on international peace and security in a formal meeting, and the first open debate since that organized in 2011 under the German presidency of the Council. Over the past two years, the Security Council has increasingly recognized climate and environmental change-related security risks in different regional contexts, in particular in the Lake Chad region (see Council resolution [2349](#) (2017)), Somalia (see Council resolution [2408](#) (2018)), West Africa and the Sahel (see [S/PRST/2018/3](#)), Mali (see Council resolution [2423](#) (2018)) and Darfur (see Council resolution [2429](#) (2018)).

Many delegations underscored the need to go beyond discussing the impacts of climate-related disasters on security and to take action to strengthen resilience, noting the critical role that international cooperation needed to play in combating climate change and its multiple negative effects. In that vein, they made a number of suggestions. Thus, many delegations:

(1) stressed the need for a better and more systematic understanding of how the risks related to climate change and disasters impact international peace and security;

(2) called for better early warning capabilities and early action enabled by integrated risk assessments and risk management strategies at the level of national governments, regional organizations and United Nations regional offices, improved analytical capacities and better disaster preparedness, with one speaker summarizing that “if we predict better through early warning and prepare better through early action, we can prevent conflict”;

(3) requested the better integration of climate-related factors into the mandates and capabilities of United Nations field missions, with some suggesting that peacekeepers could be equipped with capacities to undertake military operations other than war such as “climate peace missions”, as long as those focused on assisting but not interfering with affected countries;

(4) stressed the need to support developing countries by means of financing, capacity-building and technology transfers to prevent climate security threats and conflicts.

Sources:

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1664428>;

<http://webtv.un.org/search/part-1-open-debate-on-the-maintenance-of-international-peace-and-security-addressing-the-impacts-of-climate-related-disasters-on-international-peace-and-security-security-council-8451st-meeting-5995992706001/?term=%22Addressing%20the%20i>

UNSC Arria-formula meeting on protection of the environment during armed conflict

On 9 December, an open Arria-formula meeting on the “Protection of the Environment during Armed Conflict” hosted by Estonia, Germany, Kuwait and Peru has been held. As the world watched more than 600 burning oil wells in Kuwait blackening the horizon during the first Gulf War in 1991, it was a reminder of the obvious impact of military activities on the environment and the people depending on it. That is why November 6 was declared the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict in 2001. Numerous examples from conflicts in the Balkans, the Middle East, Central Asia, South America, and Africa have showed us how ecosystems can be damaged from military toxins, how forests disappear as a result of war-

economies, how the targeting of water infrastructure damages agriculture and livelihoods, and how the collapse of environmental governance in conflicts results in large waste management problems and communicable diseases, among other issues.

There have been small steps to make progress to address the responsibilities of warring parties concerning the environment, to improve humanitarian responses and include environmental restoration and protection in post-conflict reconstruction. The International Law Committee published its draft legal principles on protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict (PERAC); the International Committee of the Red Cross is working to update its

guidelines for the military on the environment, while also calling for more attention on the links between warfare and the environment.

The meeting provided a platform for Members of the Security Council to address the interlinkages between the environment and armed conflict, building from the initial discussions on the PERAC agenda and delving more deeply into current needs for language and cooperation in response to previous and ongoing degradation of the environment cau-

sed by armed forces in conflicts on the Council's agenda.

Sources: <http://webtv.un.org/search/arrria-formula-meeting-on-protection-of-the-environment-during-armed-conflict/6114430670001/?term=%22Protection%20of%20the%20Environment%20during%20Armed%20Conflict%22&sort=date4;>

www.whatsinblue.org/2019/12/arrria-formula-meeting-on-the-protection-of-the-environment-during-armed-conflict.php

6.3. Secretariat



"Global challenges require global solutions. It is not enough to proclaim the virtue of multilateralism; we must prove its added value."
 António Guterres, Secretary-General

The Secretariat is one of the main organs of UN. At the head of the United Nations Secretariat is the Secretary-General, appointed by GA upon recommendation of UNSC for a 5-year term. Since January 1, 2017, Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General (Portugal).

Each year, the Secretary-General reports on the work of the Organization, including priority

areas of the UN's activity and future plans. [2019 Report](#) highlights the work in the following areas: promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development; maintenance of international peace and security; development of Africa; promotion and protection of human rights; effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts; promotion of justice and international law; disarmament; drug control, crime prevention and combating terrorism.

The Report highlights key elements of the Secretary-General's major reform initiatives announced in 2018-2018 and including reform of the **development systems** (launched a new generation of United Nations country teams centered on Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and led by empowered Resident Coordinators); **management** (launched a new decentralized delegation of authority, accountability and monitoring framework, operational support and policy support); **peace and security** (to prioritize prevention and sustaining peace, enhance effectiveness of peace operations, move towards a single, integrated peace and security pillar, and improve cross-pillar coordination).

Source: <https://www.un.org/annualreport/>

6.4. United Nations Development Program



The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is the UN's global development network that promotes positive change and gives countries access to the knowledge, experience and resources that help improve people's lives.

It operates in 177 countries and territories.

UNDP Activity in the Central Asian States in 2019

UNDP in Kazakhstan

UNDP in Kazakhstan focuses its activities on SDGs implementation, water and land management, environmental protection, climate change, energy and other relevant development issues. In 2019, UNDP [project](#) portfolio in Kazakhstan included 25 projects with overall budget of US \$18.14 million.

SDGs. Since 2018, the “[Partnering for Building a National SDG Platform](#)” project (2018-2019) is being implemented to support the government to nationalize, implement and monitor the SDGs. In 2019, the [Kazakhstan’s first Forum](#) on SDGs was held within the Astana Economic Forum (April, Nur-Sultan); Kazakhstan [presented](#) its first Voluntary National Review during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, United Nations’ central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs (16 July, New York).

Water management. Since 2017, the “[Irrigation and Drainage in South Kazakhstan, Capacity Building and Awareness Raising](#)” project (2017-2021) has been implemented; it is designed to develop the capacities of RSE “Kazvodkhoz” and its branches in Almaty and Turkestan regions by changing institutional management and improving irrigation water management. In 2019, the project documented 22 water saving and water counting best practices, developed nine user’s manual, selected four farms for demonstration of innovative system for water measurement, set two pilot farms to monitor soil salinization and ground water systems, covered six community settlements on new tariff/billing system, equipped four water extension centers, 67 staff of Kazvodkhoz have improved knowledge through exchange programs.

Land and ecosystems related projects implemented in 2019 include: [Conservation and Sustainable Management of Key Globally Important Ecosystems for Multiple Benefits in Kazakhstan](#) (2017-2021); [Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme](#) (2017-2021) focusing on resilient rural and peri-urban

landscapes of steppe and desert ecosystems for sustainable development and global environmental protection; [Integrated Dryland and Drought Management in South Kazakhstan](#) (2017-2019) aimed at improving livelihood strategies and resilience of vulnerable farmers and pastoral communities in the selected pilot sites to cope with drought; [Supporting Sustainable Land Management](#) (2015-2020) with a view of transformation of land use practices in critical, productive, steppe, arid and semi-arid landscapes of Kazakhstan; [Sustainable Food Systems and Improved Ecosystems Service in Northern Kazakhstan](#) (2019-2020) aimed at restoration and sustainable management of cropland and grasslands in Kazakhstan in line with LDN concept for multiple lands, climate and biodiversity and economic benefits.

Energy and climate change related activities in 2019 include [Low-carbon Urban Development](#) (2014-2019); [Energy Efficient Standards, Certification, and Labelling](#) (2017-2021) seeking to transform Kazakhstan’s markets to energy efficient appliances and equipment, thereby reducing electricity consumption and GHG emissions; [De-risking Renewable Energy Investment](#) (2017-2021); Preparation of the [Eighth National Communication and Biennial Reports](#) (2019-2022) to the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC in accordance with the commitment to the UNFCCC; [Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#) (2019-2021) to assist Kazakhstan in fulfilling international obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the carbon footprint of electricity suppliers for the leading technology company Bitfury.

Since 1995, UNDP has been involved in the development of the **National Human Development Reports** (NHDR). In 2019, UNDP has launched its NHDR “[Urbanization as an accelerator of inclusive and sustainable development in Kazakhstan](#)”.

Sources: <https://www.kz.undp.org> and <https://open.undp.org/projects>

UNDP in Kyrgyzstan

UNDP interventions in Kyrgyzstan are guided by the [United Nations Development Assistance Framework \(UNDAF\) for the Kyrgyz Republic 2018-2022](#), which outlines four priorities: (1)

sustainable and inclusive economic growth, industrial, rural and agricultural development, food security and nutrition; (2) good governance, rule of law, human rights and gender equa-

lity; (3) environment, climate change, and disaster risk management; (4) social protection, health and education.

In 2019, UNDP [project](#) portfolio in Kyrgyzstan included 27 projects with overall budget of US \$20.5 million.

Environment related projects implemented in 2019 include: Conservation of globally important biodiversity and associated land and forest resources of [Western Tian Shan mountain](#) forest ecosystems to support sustainable livelihoods (2017-2021) (*preliminary results were presented on the 18th of December at the Project Advisory Board meeting*); [Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change](#) (2016-2020) that seeks to strengthening integrated risk governance capacities and regional cooperation in CA; [Capacity in Sustainable Development Finance](#) (2018-2020); [Snow Leopard and Ecosystem](#) (2016-2020) seeking to strengthen transboundary conservation for snow leopards and their high mountain ecosystems to ensure stability of global snow leopard population; [National SDGs Adaptation](#) (2018-2020) to support the Government to enhance national capacities and raise awareness on SDG-based issues; [Climate Resilience of the Batken Province](#) (2019-2020) aimed at strengthening climate resilience of the

Batken Province of the Kyrgyz Republic through introduction of climate smart irrigation and mudflow protection measures under the UNDP Trust Fund for Development Climate Change Window (*the [coordination meeting](#) was held on the 22nd of October*); [Capacity Building in Environment](#) (2018-2022) towards securing the resilience of communities and institutions to climate and disaster risks and sustainable and inclusive natural resource management; [UN Support for Strengthening Disaster Preparedness](#) (2012-2020) to support the coordination activities of the Disaster Response Coordination Unit (DRCU) Secretariat; [HCFC Phase-out Management Plan \(HPMP\) – Stage 2 \(full\)](#) (2015-2020) for complete HCFC⁵² phase-out by 2020; [Monitoring System and Management of Environment Info](#) (2015-2019) to strengthen targeted national capacities to meet Rio Convention objectives through improved procedures and tools to monitor and manage environmental information; [Protect Human Health from Persistent Organic Pollutants](#) (2014-2018) to implement and adopt Best Environmental Practices and Best Available Technologies in healthcare facilities throughout the City of Bishkek to improve the management, treatment, and disposal of healthcare waste.

Sources: www.kg.undp.org and <https://open.undp.org/projects>

UNDP in Turkmenistan

In 2019, UNDP [project](#) portfolio in Turkmenistan included 22 projects with overall budget of US \$13.5 million.

Water management. UNDP together with the State Committee for Water Management of Turkmenistan is implementing the "[Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Sustainable Water Management in Turkmenistan](#)" project (2015-2021) funded by GEF. In 2019 the following results has been achieved: (1) improved efficiency of municipal water supply in the town of Kaahka led to water savings that was used by local residents for reclamation of around 300 ha and sowing traditional crops; (2) five physically worn obsolete pumps were replaced by brand new energy efficient ones in 2019; (3) installation of photovoltaic solar panels in three villages of Karakum desert to power water withdrawal from wells and purification/desalination of water in one of the villages; (4) methodology on development of inter-farm water use plans and

its demonstration to national water specialists through the seminar; (5) over 280 national specialists have been trained locally and abroad since the beginning of the project in various topics related to rational water management, energy efficient irrigation techniques, pump maintenance and SLM; (6) four regulatory acts to support Water Code developed, including operational regulations for pump stations; regulation for scheduled preventive maintenance and repair of water systems and facilities; technical regulations of irrigation infrastructure; and technical regulations of drainage infrastructure; (7) the National Program for the Development of Agriculture of Turkmenistan for 2019-2025 adopted. More than 120 pumps of the SNP-500/10 and SNPE-500/10 brands [were audited](#). The pumps belong to the State Committee for Water Resources of Turkmenistan. Based on the conducted audit, recommendations were made on the optimal placement of suction and pressure pipelines of pump-

⁵² Hydrochlorofluorocarbon

ping stations and the rational use of electric power equipment, ensuring the most efficient use of energy for the necessary pump performance.

The following events were held:

- EU project “Support to Further Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Turkmenistan (SARD III)” organized [a study visit](#) for specialists from the agricultural and water sectors of Turkmenistan to the University of Cordoba to familiarize the specialists with the agricultural practices in Spain and, in particular, the rational distribution and use of irrigation water in the hottest province of the country Andalusia which is similar in climatic conditions to Turkmenistan (14-20 July, Cordoba, Spain);
- [workshop](#) for agricultural and water specialists, land users – agricultural producers in order to familiarize them with the main results of research and production activities on improvement of degraded and salinized lands using modern irrigation technologies and agricultural work (23 October, Ashgabat);
- [seminar](#) to improve monitoring of the use of water resources and planning for water use in irrigation systems (20 December).

Climate change. UNDP [creates a platform](#) for national and international experts in the spheres of climate change, mitigation and adaptation to revise and create an updated version of the

UNDP in Uzbekistan

UNDP interventions at country level are guided by the Country Program Document for the period of 2016-2020, which includes four outcome areas: (1) inclusive economic development, with focus on employment and social protection; (2) environmental protection to ensure sustainable development; (3) effective governance to enhance public service delivery; and (4) protection of rights.

In 2019, UNDP [project](#) portfolio in Uzbekistan included 34 projects with overall budget of US \$16.4 million.

SDGs. UNDP is implementing the “[Support to Policy Research for Sustainable Development](#)” project to support the Government of Uzbekis-

tan in policy research, formulation, planning and monitoring for the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, in particular SDGs (2017-2019).

National strategy on climate change of Turkmenistan and prepare the Action plan for implementation of the Paris Agreement. In 2019, two climate-related projects were implemented: Preparation of Turkmenistan’s Fourth National Communication (NC4) and Initial Biennial Update Report (BUR1) under the UNFCCC; [Supporting Climate Resilient Livelihoods in Agriculture](#) to support climate resilient livelihoods in agricultural communities in drought-prone areas of Turkmenistan (2016-2021).

The following events were organized:

- UNDP and the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan held the [final workshop](#) on preparation of the training manual “Climate Box” to use in class and during extracurricular hours (4 April, Ashgabat);
- [national seminar](#) on access to international climate financing for implementation of the National Climate Change Strategy of Turkmenistan (17 December, Ashgabat).

Other relevant projects implemented in 2019 include: [Sustainable Cities](#): Integrated Green Urban Development in Ashgabat and Awaza (2017-2023); [Partnering for SDG Acceleration](#) aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan as a responsible authority for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of SDGs (2018-2020).

Sources: www.tm.undp.org and <https://open.undp.org/projects>

tan in policy research, formulation, planning and monitoring for the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, in particular SDGs (2017-2019).

Water management. UNDP continued to implement the “[Sustainable Management of Water Resources in Rural Areas](#)” project in Uzbekistan: Component 2 on Technical Capacity Building EU-WATER project (2016-2020). Key results in 2019 include: (1) improvement of material-technical base of TIAME, Institute of Irrigation and Water Problems, MoWR, and six BISAs; (2) irrigated land reclamation monitoring system is created at national level by equipping the central office of the Ministry and 13 regional reclamation expeditions with modern equip-

ment and software products; (3) capacity building programme and five training modules prepared, 54 trainers trained, 560 water professionals enhanced their professional skills through training courses; (4) water losses reduced by about 30-40% in project pilot sites due to reconstructions of canals, construction and repair of water gates, construction of pump stations; (5) a series of regulatory documents to support sustainability of water management developed; (6) 7,600 hectares of irrigated agricultural lands were returned to production and water supply was improved on 8,200 hectares.

Climate related activities implemented in 2019.

UNDP continued to implement the “[Developing Climate Resilience](#)” project to develop climate resilience of farming and pastoral communities in the drought prone parts of Uzbekistan, specifically Karakalpakstan (2014-2021). The following events were held: [seminar](#) “Modern methods of decision-making by local authorities and the inclusion of climate change factors in them” (15 November, Samarkand); [round table](#) “Towards Transition of the Aral Sea Region from Disaster Prone Zone to Zone of Innovations and Sustainable Development (Agriculture Sector)”, which presented the results of piloting agro- and water-saving practices and measures to restore natural degraded pastures (23 November, Nukus). In 2018-2019, 10 pasture communities were created with a cooperative management principle in 5 pilot areas of the project in Karakalpakstan. Today, these communities brought together 47,830 rural residents, who are working to restore degraded pastures and create new ones. To support the initiative, 34,960 ha of territories were allocated by the local authorities of the pilot districts to pasture cooperatives for a period of 25-30 years.

Other climate-related activities/projects: [Green Climate Fund \(GCF\) Readiness Program in Uzbekistan](#) to support the Government of Uzbekistan in strengthening their national capacities to effectively and efficiently plan for access, manage, deploy and monitor climate financing in particular through the GCF (2015-2019); [Resilience of Farming to Climate Change Risks in Fergana](#) aims to institutionalize integrated services to agricultural producers in the pilot region that enhance their adaptation to the impacts of

climate change (2019-2021); [Promoting Green Urban Development in Tashkent](#) to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles in the City of Tashkent that can be replicated in other cities in RUz, significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector, and improve urban environmental quality (2019-2020). Young scientists from Inha University in Tashkent, with the support of UNDP, developed a [weather station](#), pheromone traps and special software which allows keeping records of farms and sending out SMS alerts about the spread of diseases and pests of plants. The main advantages of these inventions are their affordable cost compared to imported analogy, more accurate prediction due to adaptation to local entomology, and availability of Uzbek interface.

Land management and ecosystem related activities. [Integrated Landscape Management \(LAND\)](#) to support the improved, more sustainable and more resilient land use management of non-irrigated arid desert, steppe and mountain landscapes of Uzbekistan (2014-2019); [Sustainable Development of Mountain Ecosystems](#) with the aim of improving sustainable natural resource use and forest management in key mountainous areas important for globally significant biodiversity (2017-2022); [Sustainable Rural Housing and Settlements in Uzbekistan](#) to transform the rapidly growing rural housing sector in Uzbekistan towards a more sustainable and low-carbon development pathway by designing, piloting and scaling-up a green mortgage market mechanism (2015-2023); [Complete HCFC Phase-out in Uzbekistan](#) through Promotion of zero ODS⁵³ low GWP Energy Efficient Technologies (2018-2024).

Activities in the Aral Sea. [Building the Resilience of Communities Affected by the Aral Sea Disaster](#) through a Multi-Partner Human Security Fund for the Aral Sea (2016-2019); [Addressing the Urgent Human Insecurities in the Aral Sea](#) to address the environmental, social and economic insecurities in the most vulnerable communities of the Aral Sea (2019-2021) (see Section “[Comprehensive Remote and Ground Surveys of the Dried Bed of the Aral Sea](#)”).

Sources: www.uz.undp.org and <https://open.undp.org/projects>

⁵³ Ozone-depleting substances

UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan

On 27 November, the UN Headquarters in New York hosted a High-Level Event on the launch of the **UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan** (MPHSTF).

MPHSTF Activities in 2019

Three meetings of the MPHSTF's Steering Committee were held. The **first Steering Committee meeting** discussed the organizational and practical issues of the Trust Fund, including those related to the operational procedures and programmatic strategy of the Fund. The composition of the Technical Secretariat, the Operational Manual of the Trust Fund were discussed and approved, the date of announcement of the first Call for proposals was agreed ([24 January](#)). The **second Steering Committee meeting** approved two project proposals with a total budget of US \$ 3.1 million: [Improvement of Quality in Perinatal Care Service to Most Vulnerable Mothers and Newborns](#) (UNFPA/UNICEF, US \$1.6 million) and [Addressing the Urgent Human Insecurities in the Aral Sea Region through Promoting Sustainable Rural Development](#) (UNDP/UNESCO, US \$1.5 million). The **third Steering Committee meeting** discussed the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea region on the platform of the Trust Fund. The establishment of the Advisory Committee as a single platform will allow for constructive dialogue between the government, civil society and development partners on various aspects of the development of the Aral Sea region ([16 December](#)).

Allocated funds. The Government of Uzbekistan and the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office in New York signed a Standard Agreement confirming a contribution of US \$6.5 million by Uzbekistan to MPHSTF. The transfer will be made in four tranches from 2019 to 2022 (27 November). In 2019, the [first tranche](#) in the amount of US \$2 million was transferred. Agreements were signed for US \$1.1 million with the Government of Norway ([1 April](#)) and €5.2 million with EU (11 November) to support MPHSTF.

Ongoing projects. The "Addressing the Urgent Human Insecurities in the Aral Sea Region through Promoting Sustainable Rural Development" project was launched. The project goal is to address the environmental, social and eco-

economic insecurities in the most vulnerable communities of the Aral Sea region ([26 September, Nukus](#)) by bringing comprehensive solutions to addressing environmental issues, promoting access to basic services, improving the livelihoods, development of sustainable tourism in Takhtakupir, Muynak and Chimbay districts of Karakalpakstan. The project will provide access to drinking water for more than 2,230 rural people; expand income generation opportunities for over 1,000 representatives of vulnerable communities through support to SMEs and community level eco-tourism development. Evidence-based afforestation initiatives in the dried bed of the Aral Sea will help to promote climate change adaptation actions in the pilot districts.

Within the framework of the project, SIC ICWC together with the International Innovation Center for the Aral Sea Basin under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan [organized an expedition](#) to study the dried Aral Sea (20 September-20 October). The second expedition of the project is scheduled for spring 2020 (see Section "[Comprehensive Remote and Ground Surveys of the Dried Bed of the Aral Sea](#)").

[Improvement of Quality in Perinatal Care Service to Most Vulnerable Mothers and Newborns](#) project aimed at ensuring access of the population to perinatal services by improving infrastructure and provision of essential equipment for level II perinatal referral facilities and increasing the quality of maternal and newborn health care services, and to increase the capacity of families to make informed choices about health and nutrition (August 2019-December 2020). The project will cover 8 out of 15 districts including 3 districts that have most suffered from land degradation, reduction of biodiversity, climate change, deterioration of the health of the population. It is expected that the project allows 26,000 pregnant women and newborns to receive quality perinatal care, while 500 medical workers are expected to improve their skills through dedicated training programs.

Sources: www.aral.mptf.uz, www.mfa.uz

6.5. UN Water



In 2013, the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination established the inter-agency coordination mechanism UN-Water. It coordinates the efforts of UN entities and international organizations working on water and sanitation issues. Over 30 UN organizations carry out water and sanitation programs.

The United Nations World Water Development Report, [Leaving no one behind](#), launched on 19 March, demonstrates how improvements in water resources management and access to water supply and sanitation services are essential to addressing various social and economic inequities. The Report is the result of collaboration between 32 United Nations entities and 41 international partners who make up UN-Water.

The 30th UN-Water Meeting was convened at the headquarters of IFAD [in early February](#). Participants addressed ongoing work on SDG 6 indicators, upcoming global awareness-raising events, and the UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution that calls for two high-level meetings – one in 2021 and one in 2023 – on water and sanitation issues, and options for how UN-Water could contribute to the preparations for these meetings.

Meeting Coverage is available on:
<http://enb.iisd.org/water/un/30/html/enbplus82num34e.html>

On [July 12](#), during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, a side-event on climate change and water was hosted. In the side-event, the UN-Water launched an update of its [Policy Brief](#) on Climate Change and Water.

This Brief has presented some recommended policies and actions for water-smart climate mitigation and adaptation measures, within and across sectors.

The 31st UN-Water Meeting was convened in Stockholm on [August 23-24](#). The participants discussed progress on and next steps for joint initiatives that UN-Water Members and Partners have undertaken to ensure that the UN is “delivering as one” to address global water challenges.

Meeting Coverage is available on:
<http://enb.iisd.org/water/un/31/>

On [August 27](#), during the World Water Week in Stockholm, the UN-Water SDG 6 Data Portal was launched. The SDG 6 Data portal is now live on www.sdg6data.org. The portal brings together data on all the SDG 6 global indicators and other key social, economic and environmental parameters, and tracks overall progress towards SDG 6 at global, regional and national levels.

On [December 10](#), the UN-Water Expert Group on Water and Climate organized the side event “Climate-resilient Water Management Approaches” at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Madrid. Participants acknowledged the crucial role of integrated approach to climate change and water management for successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement. The panelists agreed that water-related mitigation and adaptation interventions should be appropriately included in nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

Source: www.unwater.org

6.6. UN Economic Commission for Europe



UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is one of five regional commissions of the United Nations set up in 1947. Its main scope of work includes environment, transport, statistics, sustainable energy, trade, wood products and forests, housing and land use, population and economic cooperation and integration.

UNECE and Water Convention

UNECE serves as the Secretariat for the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention). In 2019, the Parties to the Convention, together with UNECE, other countries and

partners, launched the [Program of work](#) for 2019-2021 consisting of 7 program areas: increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the experience of cooperation; supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins; promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water manage-

ment at all levels; adapting to climate change in transboundary basins; facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation; reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention; partnerships, communication and knowledge management. Kazakhstan takes over the chairmanship of the Water Convention for the period of 2019-2021.

Activities in 2019

In 2019 under the Water Convention and Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE organized the following events: fourth meeting of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation (14-15 February); twenty-eighth meeting of the Bureau of the Water Convention (27-28 February); twenty-second meeting of the Bureau of the Protocol on Water and Health (5 April); Global workshop on Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Transboundary Basins (29-30 April); tenth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (1 May); eighteenth meeting of the Compliance Committee (1-2 July); Regional workshop on SDG indicator 6.5.2 for the Pan-European region (21 October); fourteenth meeting of the Working Group on IWRM (22-24 October); twenty-ninth meeting of the Bureau of the Water Convention (24-25 October); fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (19-21 November); tenth meeting of the Implementation Committee (2-3 December); Global workshop on exchange

of data and information in transboundary basins (4-5 December); fifteenth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (6 December).

Details: www.unece.org/env/water/meetings

Development of a Handbook on Transboundary Water Allocation

In 2019, the handbook on supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in the transboundary context has been in the process of development. The International Water Assessment Center is handling this process in Central Asia, addressing such issues as sustainable water allocation in the transboundary context and environmental flow – the basis for conservation of the ecosystem. The [technical meeting](#) of Experts on Water Allocation and Environmental Flow Assessment in the Transboundary Context was held on December 12-13 in Nur-Sultan.

UNECE Activities in Central Asia

Transboundary cooperation. In 2018, the project “Enhancing Climate Resilience and Adaptive Capacity in the Transboundary Chu-Talas Basin” (September 2015-December 2018), funded by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs under the FinWaterWei II Initiative, was concluded. It was aimed to establish a framework for regular and strategic climate change adaptation action in the Chu-Talas River Basin and enable the Chu-Talas Water Commission and local authorities to facilitate climate change adaptation in the basin. The Annex on climate adaptation to the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and measures for climate change adaptation for the Strategic Action Program (SAP) have been developed. Although the SAP document was accepted at the 24th Session of the Chu-Talas Water Commission (27 February 2018), the document has never been approved at the government level till the end of the project. In 2019, UNECE continued supporting the SAP alignment and approval process by providing technical

expertise, discussing the issue with relevant agencies and supporting the Chu-Talas Water Commission Secretariat.

Project results are available on: www.unece.org/env/water/centralasia/chutalas.html#c65768 and in the brochure: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/Chu-Talas/RUS_ClimateProofingChuTalas_web_10Dec2018.pdf

National Policy Dialogues. The work to support NPDs under the EU Water Initiative is ongoing in close cooperation with OECD and [WECCOOP2](#) project financed by EU. In 2019, particularly, the Steering Committee Meetings of NPDs and working groups were held in [Kazakhstan](#) and [Tajikistan](#). At these high-level meetings, representatives of ministries and agencies discussed pressing issues of water governance reform, including development and implementation of sectoral strategies and programs, as well as transboundary cooperation, ensuring safety of

hydraulic structures, prevention of accidental water pollution, work on the Public-Private Partnership on water supply and sanitation, etc. Members of the Steering Committees also discussed and made decisions on projects implemented by development partners. In 2019-2022, support to the NPDs in Central Asia will be continued under a new EU-funded project in the context of the new phase of the WECOOP program.

Cooperation on dam safety. The [third phase of the project](#) "Capacity Building for Cooperation on Dam Safety" in Central Asia was continued. In 2019, the project supported a number of activities in the field of dam safety management in Central Asia. A [regional meeting](#) enabled countries take stock of the results achieved under the project as well as exchange experiences (1-3 May, Tashkent). One of the key outcomes of the meeting was a consensus to develop a regional agreement on dam safety in Central Asia. On the margins of the regional meeting, two bilateral meetings were held between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. These meetings discussed the possible transboundary cooperation on safe management of dams located on transboundary rivers. The events aimed to raise awareness on the problems of safe management of dams among donor and development organizations, deepen and expand cooperation in the area and mobilize additional support. The result was the organization, with financial support from the OSCE, GIZ and the Slovak Vodohospodarska vystavba, s.o.e., of a one-week training seminar for 20 Central Asian dam and water management experts in the Slovak Republic.

Water quality in Central Asia. Within the framework of the "Water Quality in Central Asia" [project](#), a [meeting](#) of the Working Group on Water Quality was held to finalize the mandate of RWG-WQ⁵⁴, and develop and agree upon the Group's [Work Plan](#) for 2019-2020 (5 February, Tashkent).

Facilitating the work of EECCA NWO. SIC ICWC with support of UNECE held the International Conference of EECCA NWO "Science and Innovations for Water Security" (23-24 September, Yekaterinburg), (see Section "[INBO](#)").

SPECA Program. Together with UNESCAP, UNECE leads the United Nations Special Program for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) promoting economic cooperation among the seven parti-

cipating countries of the Program (see Section "[Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific](#)"). ECE coordinated the [23rd Session](#) of the Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment, the main objectives of which were to finalize and agree on its draft Terms of Reference and to discuss the Concept of the SPECA Strategy on Water, Energy and Environment (2 October, Tashkent). The Terms of Reference adopted by the Group were subsequently endorsed by the 14th Session of the SPECA Governing Council (21 November, Ashgabat).

Source: UNECE, www.unece.org/env/water.htm

International Water Assessment Center

The International Water Assessment Center (IWAC) is the center for international cooperation on integrated water resource management, which has been established as a subsidiary body of the Water Convention in Astana in 2017. The main purpose of IWAC is to support the implementation of the Water Convention and its relevant work programs.

IWAC Activities in 2019

Events held at the IWAC Office:

- first meeting of the Working Group on Kazakhstan's chairmanship at the Bureau of the Water Convention, which discussed issues of the 28th meeting of the Bureau (27-28 February) and the IWAC Program of Work for 2019 ([25 February](#));
- meeting of the IWAC Director Mr. S. Akhmetov with Mr. Guy Bonvin, Special Envoy for Water for Central Asia of SDC to discuss opportunities for developing cooperation under the Blue Peace joint dialogue in Central Asia and the IWAC project on creating a youth network for water sector professionals ([12 March](#)).

Within the framework of the XII Astana Economic Forum, IWAC jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, SDC, WB and the EU Delegation in Kazakhstan held a high-level panel session "*Water as a factor of economic growth and security in Central Asia*" ([17 May](#)). During the panel session, national needs and views on sustainable water management at the regional level were discussed; the possibilities of creating an international water and energy consortium in Central Asia were considered.

⁵⁴ Regional Working Group on Water Quality

The state-owned Slovak Vodohospodarska vystavba, s. o. e. held a [training seminar](#) on ensuring the safety of hydraulic structures in cooperation with UNECE and IWAC. The purpose of the seminar was to familiarize specialists from

Central Asian countries with the Slovak experience in managing hydraulic structures (October 7-11, Bratislava, Slovak Republic).

Source: www.iwac.kz

6.7. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Established in 1947, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is one of the five regional missions of the UN. ESCAP works to overcome some of the region's greatest challenges by providing results oriented projects, technical assistance and capacity building to member States in the following areas: macroeconomic policy and development; trade and investment; transport; social development; environment and sustainable development; information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction; statistics and sub-regional activities for development.

SPECA Program. ESCAP in cooperation with UNECE manages SPECA. In 2019 under SPECA, the following events were organized: [23rd Session](#) of the Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment (2 October, Tashkent; see Section "[UN Economic Commission for Europe](#)"); [SPECA Economic forum](#) "Connectivity: Sustainable



Transport and Trade Facilitation in the SPECA Subregion" (20-21 November, Ashgabat); [14th Session](#) of the SPECA Governing Council, which adopted the [Ashgabat Initiative](#) on reducing barriers to trade and transport using United Nations legal instruments, norms, standards and recommendations while bolstering connectivity in the SPECA region; received [progress reports on the activities of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups](#); adopted the [SPECA Innovation Strategy For Sustainable Development](#); approved the [SPECA Work Plan](#) for 2020-2021; elected Kyrgyzstan to chair the Program in 2020 (21 November, Ashgabat).

Sources: www.unescap.org, www.unece.org

6.8. United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) was established on the initiative of the five Governments of Central Asia in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in 2007 to support national authorities in identifying and addressing existing and potential threats to regional peace and security. In implementing its initiatives, UNRCCA interacts with regional and international organizations. The Centre began operations in 2008 and is led by a Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

In 2010, UNRCCA launched its water project to support five CA countries in their search for mutually acceptable water agreements. Particularly, UNRCCA promotes dialogues between the Central Asia states on transboundary water resource management and supports initiatives aimed at solving water, environmental and



other problems influencing the situation in the Aral Sea basin. UNRCCA assists the Governments of the region in the development of a comprehensive mechanism for the effective use of water and energy resources, on the basis of recognized norms of international law, and taking into consideration the interests and needs of all states. It supports the governments in capacity building for water diplomacy by developing the skills and raising the awareness of civil servants in Central Asia and Afghanistan. The Centre focuses on collecting and sharing data for early warning and on hazards related to glacier melt and climate change, and on identifying the needs of countries in this area.

UNRCCA Activities in 2019

In 2019, building on new approaches in the context of growing water scarcity and global climate change and taking into account the Agenda 2030, the Center developed a new three-year project to support regional transboundary water cooperation for 2019-2021. The project focuses on the following main areas arising from the preventive mandate of UNRCCA: (1) using preventive and water diplomacy to build confidence; (2) strengthening relevant institutions and legal base in the region; (3) enhancing transparency, cooperation and partnership.

Within the framework of the water project, the Center continues to organize training seminars and meetings of national experts from Central Asia and Afghanistan, which help to raise awareness of participants, establish contacts, contribute to understanding of key problems and existing benefits of cooperation.

Representatives of relevant ministries and institutions from the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan, as well as national and international experts gathered in Almaty [to discuss](#) issues of water cooperation (June 18-19). The meeting was organized by UNRCCA within the framework of its mandate to promote water dialogue in the region through preventive diplomacy. The event consisted of two parts. On the first day, a training seminar on gender equality in water management was held through the lens of best practices and international standards in human rights. The second day of the meeting was devoted to discussions of issues relating to existing agreements between the countries of the region in transboundary water cooperation. Meeting participants also reviewed the institutional and legal framework for water cooperation, as well as competing needs for promoting regional dialogue in this field.

UNRCCA co-organized the second Central Asian Expert Forum with the Kazakh Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Central Asia (5-6 September, Nur-Sultan and Burabay). This year's theme was "Dialogue on Water Issues in Central Asia: From the National to the Regional Levels". Participants focused on key issues of ensuring regional cooperation aimed at addressing issues of water, energy, ecology and tourism in Central Asia. They also discussed ways to improve cross-border water management and mitigate the consequences of the desiccation of the Aral Sea to arrive at common strategies to generate new initiatives and promising ideas for the

Governments of the Central Asian states in these areas.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Natalia Gherman expressed the readiness of UNRCCA to continue to support the regional initiatives and endeavors of all of the countries of Central Asia to consolidate regional peace and security through enhanced cooperation and building trust.

SRSG Natalia Gherman [represented](#) the UN Secretary-General at the High-Level International Conference "Aral Sea Region – Zone of Environmental Innovations and Technologies", convened by the Government of Uzbekistan under the aegis of UN (24-25 October, Nukus). SRSG Natalia Gherman underscored the UN's constant attention to the environmental problems of the Aral Sea, and the personal engagement of the UN Secretary-General in mobilizing the international community's potential to help overcome the negative consequences extending far beyond the Aral Sea basin.

UNRCCA [organized a capacity building workshop](#) on water diplomacy practices related to disputes over water resources in the context of the "Water, Peace and Security" agenda (12 November, Dushanbe). Representatives of relevant ministries and institutions of the Central Asian countries and Afghanistan participated, along with UN agencies, partner organizations and independent experts. During the workshop, participants reviewed water diplomacy best practices and international experience related to disputes over transboundary water resources. They also discussed practical ways of benefiting from challenges and opportunities that may arise from such disputes as well as from cooperation more broadly. The workshop also provided participants with a brief overview of regional and international legal instruments and institutions that provide a framework for using transboundary waters in Central Asia. Building upon this, participants also considered possible options for improving the effectiveness of the existing framework.

UNRCCA [convened a regional capacity-building workshop](#) dedicated to water cooperation in the Central Asian region (17-18 December, Ashgabat). The event was attended by the representatives of the ministries and state agencies of the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan, international and partner organizations as well as international experts. During

the workshop, participants had an opportunity to learn more about and discuss the new innovative technologies in the rational use of water and energy resources aimed at deepening mutually beneficial cooperation between the states. In particular, they reviewed international experience, displaying concrete examples and cases how various water-saving technologies helped countries to overcome differences and arrive at mutually beneficial solutions. The delegations also exchanged their best practices at the national level and discussed ways of possible cooperation.

Back-to-back with the workshop a meeting of Central Asian experts on water, energy and

environment was held. There was meaningful exchange of views among the participants on topical streams of regional cooperation in the given areas, as well as on potential spheres of work for 2020.

In cooperation with SIC ICWC, four early warning bulletins were published with information on current and forecast situation in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya river basins in 2019, as well as the **second edition** of the [Water Year-book](#): Central Asia and around the Globe, which features key water-related events and developments in Central Asia and beyond in 2018.

Source: <https://unrcca.unmissions.org>

6.9. World Meteorological Organization

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It was established in 1950. It is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behavior of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans.

The 18th World Meteorological [Congress](#) was held, where a decision was made to overhaul the WMO [governance structure](#); a new WMO strategic plan to achieve its vision by 2030 and WMO's regular budget for the four-year period 2020-2023 were approved; the WMO President, along with other office holders and members of the Executive Committee were elected (3-4 June, Geneva). The



World Meteorological Congress approved a resolution on the [WMO Catalogue for Climate Data](#), bringing to fruition four years of work by the WMO Commission for Climatology. An initial 18 global climate datasets have been so far submitted by international domain Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and assessed.

Events organized: top-level [meetings](#) in Washington (April); [first](#) World Meteorological Centers Workshop (April); [second](#) Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference (MHEWC-II) (May); [activities](#) during the Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week (August); High Mountain [Summit](#) (29-30 October); [fourth session](#) of the Arctic Climate Forum via video-conference (30 October).

Documents concluded: [action plan](#) with WB to scale up collaboration; [agreement](#) with World Ocean Council; Framework [Memorandum](#) of Understanding with GWP on strategic collaboration to achieve the objectives of IWRM; together with the secretariat of UNFCCC [agreements](#) with the Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO) on cooperation.

WMO projects in CA and Afghanistan

[Afghanistan Early Warning System](#) (US \$2,4 million); [Central Asia Region Flash Flood Guidance \(CARFFG\) System](#); Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration [Project](#) for the Central Asia (SWFDP-CA) with support of the World Bank; Uzbekistan [Climate Data Restoration](#) (as of February 2020, Uzhydromet has converted over 7 million pages of hydrometeorological observations into digital images and this operation is on track to complete this first phase of data rescue by the end of 2020).

WMO publications

WMO Bulletins [Vol. 68\(1\)](#) – WMO for the 21st Century and [Vol. 68\(2\)](#) – Realizing the WMO 2030 Vision; [Gendered impacts of weather and climate: evidence from Asia, Pacific and Africa](#); 2019 WMO [Statement](#) on the State of the Global Climate; [WMO report on The Global Climate in 2015-2019](#); 2019 [State](#) of Climate Services.

Other WMO publications are available on: <https://library.wmo.int/>

Source: <https://public.wmo.int/en>

6.10. International Fund for Agricultural Development



The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a multilateral financial institution established in 1977. It mobilizes resources to eliminate malnutrition and improve agricultural productivity and incomes for rural poor in developing countries. It provides direct financing in the form of loans and grants, attracts additional resources to implement projects and programs. Currently it has a number of ongoing projects in Central Asia.

Uzbekistan

IFAD projects work to enable sustainable income growth for rural people through viable small-scale agricultural production and rural enterprise systems, with a specific focus on dekhani farmers, rural women and youth. The 2019 ongoing projects include [Dairy Value Chains Development Program](#) and [Agriculture Diversification and Modernization](#).

Tajikistan

IFAD has been investing in the rural poor in Tajikistan by strengthening local institutions and grassroots organizations, and expanding their access to land, productive technologies and resources. Key activities include: natural resour-

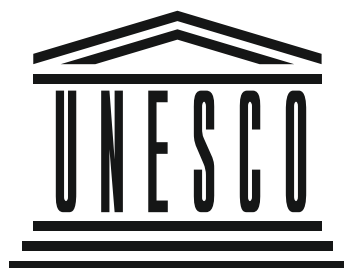
ce management; implementing land reforms; and strengthening local institutions and grassroots organizations. The 2019 ongoing projects include [Community-Based Agricultural Support](#) and [Livestock and Pasture Development](#).

Kyrgyzstan

Up to present, IFAD has provided US \$97.8 million in financing projects to improve livestock productivity; enhance climate resilience of pastoral communities; and improve integration of smallholder livestock farmers into remunerative markets. The 2019 ongoing projects include [Access to Markets](#) and [Livestock and Market Development Program II](#).

Source: www.ifad.org

6.11. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It coordinates international cooperation in these areas. Established in 1945, it includes 193 member-states. UNESCO's programs contribute to the achievement of the SDGs defined in the Agenda 2030. Key areas of activity include the following five program sectors: education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information.

On 18-20 February, UNESCO-IHP and UNECE [organized a workshop in Istanbul](#) on Water Cooperation in the context of SDG 6 indicators 6.5.2 (Water Cooperation) and 6.5.1 (Integrated Water Resources Management, IWRM), hosted by the Turkish Water Institute (SUEN). The main objective of the meeting was to give the opportunity to participants from countries mainly located in the Mediterranean, Caucasus and Central Asia regions to receive information about the results of the first reporting cycle of indicators 6.5.2 and 6.5.1 and discuss the next steps to be taken in preparation of the next monitoring cycle of the two indicators.

On 13-14 May, the [UNESCO International Water Conference](#): Leveraging Intersectorality for Sustainable Water Security and Peace was held in Paris.

On 1 October, [the 58th Session](#) of the IHP Bureau was held, where the participants [discussed](#) further strengthening IHP's delivery on water security in support of the countries implementing the Agenda 2030 and SDGs.

At the UNFCCC **COP 25** in Madrid, Spain, the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, UNESCO Water and its partners [organized](#)

[events](#) to foster water security for climate action and sustainable development, including sessions “City-level capacity-building for resilience” and “City-level capacity-building for climate action” and side events “Water Management within Climate Informed Decision-making to Support UNFCCC and SDGs”, “Climate-resilient Water Management Approaches”, and “Mountains, Glaciers and Snow”.

Activities of the UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty

On 13-14 March, the UNESCO [Regional Workshop](#) on mobilization of youth and young professionals in science for disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Central Asia took place. Participants made recommendations to UNESCO to further expand scientific research in practice for DRR, establish a network of young experts in DRR in Central Asia, and improve science communication and media coverage of DRR. The workshop also resulted in establishment of the [Disaster and Climate Resilience Youth Network](#) (DACRYN).

In April, the UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty, together with partners, conducted a series of consultations with vulnerable local communities living in areas at risk for glacial lake outburst, including Issyk and Talgar cities (Kazakhstan), Pskem and Tepar villages (Uzbekistan), Tosh-Bulak and Yurievka villages (Kyrgyzstan), and Shugnan district of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous region (Tajikistan). The consultations were aimed at assessing vulnerability of local communities to the impacts of climate change, as well as raising awareness about adaptation. The activities were organized as part of the preparation of a regional project proposal on breakthrough lakes.

On 17-18 May, Kazakh-German University [hosted the workshop](#) “Integrated Water Resources Management Master Program Retreat”. The UNESCO session “Cooperation in Education

and Science in Central Asia” showed the experience of the work of UNESCO Centers and Chairs in Central Asia. At this session the way of how the UNESCO Chair and Institutes in Central Asia can help to develop and straiten the water related science and education was discussed.

On 24-26 July, the UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty, in cooperation with the International Hydrological Program (IHP) and in coordination with the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, [organized a meeting](#) to develop activities related to climate change impacts on melting glaciers, and particularly to strengthen the resilience by reducing vulnerabilities of Central Asian countries in response to glaciers melting. The meeting provided an opportunity to develop more synergies between the two projects, understanding among the participants on the rationale of the two projects, discuss the needs and gaps on the topic of the project.

On 2-10 September, the first in Central Asia expedition “[Adventure of Science: Women and glaciers in Central Asia](#)” was held by the Fribourg University with support of SDC and in close collaboration with the UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty. It brought 15 women from the Central Asian states for a trip to Golubin glacier in the Ala Archa, Kyrgyzstan to inspire young women pursuing their careers in research. The team discovered the nature around them, trained their mountaineering skills and documented their observations with art works.

On 3 December, the UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty [held a meeting](#) on the creation and implementation of cryosphere training modules in the universities of the Central Asian region with the participation of representatives of universities and research institutes of Central Asia. It was proposed to create a training module on the cryosphere at the Master's level, as well as identify partner institutions to establish a UNESCO Chair in this area.

Sources: en.unesco.kz; www.unesco.org

6.12. Food and Agriculture Organization

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was established in 1945.

Nutrition, climate change, gender equality, social protection, and decent rural employment are cross-cutting issues of FAO activity in the Central Asian region.



FAO Activities in the Central Asian States in 2019

Kazakhstan

FAO assistance in Kazakhstan [is shaped](#) by the FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF). Consultation and drafting of a new CPF for 2019-2021 are underway. As of May 2019, FAO has been implementing 8 national and regional projects for a total of US \$3.1 million. The prospective portfolio includes 17 different projects with confirmed funding for a total of US \$12.2 million.

Current Activities/Projects

Agriculture and forest management. The FAO [project](#) "Support to Development of Organic Farming and Institutional Capacity Building in Kazakhstan" is now working to strengthen capacities in the sector through improved legislation, institution building and strategic planning. FAO [has provided technical assistance](#) to the Forestry and Hunting Committee, operating under Kazakhstan's Ministry of Environment, Geology, and Natural Resources, for developing the National Forestry Programme and Action Plan; [Supporting the Nationalization of SDGs](#) (2018-2020, US \$95 thousand).

Food security. Kazakhstan has strengthened its commitment to improving the safety of raw milk and dairy products with the signing of [a road-map](#) that will bring the national dairy industry to the level of the EAEU standards.

Phytosanitary control. Within the framework of the FAO project "Support for Locust Control in Kazakhstan", an international FAO locust control expert started his work in Zhambyl and Turkestan regions on the 4th of May. In 2019-2021, within the framework of a regional project to strengthen locust control in the Caucasus and Central Asia, a number of activities will be organized in Kazakhstan to train relevant field services, strengthen coordination with neighboring countries, and improve phytosanitary control legislation. The Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan is considering two FAO locust control projects with financial support from Japan and USAID worth US \$1.2 million.

Planned projects. CPF Formulation (2021-2025) and preparation of the project proposals for the FAO-Kuwait Partnership Program (2020-2021, US \$86,000); Promotion and Exchange of Good Practices on the Use of Digital Technologies in Agriculture for Further Up-Scaling (2020-2021, US \$300,000).

Kyrgyzstan

As at the end of 2019, the FAO Representation in Kyrgyzstan is implementing 34 country and regional projects on fishery, crop, forestry, livestock, food security and nutrition development, rehabilitation of degraded pastures, forests and agricultural lands, and promotion of organic agriculture, worth over US \$11 million. FAO's assistance in Kyrgyzstan is shaped by the 2018-2022 FAO's CPF.

Current Activities/Projects

Forest and land management in the context of climate change. Under the joint GEF project "[Sustainable Management of Mountainous Forest and Land Resources under Climate Change Conditions](#)" (2015-2019, US \$5.5 million), Kyrgyzstan is developing the "Strategy for Mitigation of Climate Change in the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry" and the National Carbon Monitoring System. The Government of Kyrgyzstan approved the Concept of Forestry Development for the Period up to 2040 developed with FAO support (27 May). Implementation of the "[Participatory Assessment of Land Degradation and Sustainable Land Management in Grassland and Pastoral Systems](#)" project is ongoing (2017-2019).

Agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture development. The following projects are implemented: [Supporting the Implementation of Organic Agriculture Policies and Increasing the Capacities of Farmers in the Kyrgyz Republic](#) – Component 1: Support to Establish the Legal and Institutional Framework for Organic Farming in the Kyrgyz Republic (2019-2021, US \$500,000); [Towards Sustainable Aquaculture and Fisheries Development in the Kyrgyz Republic 2009-2020](#) (funded by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, US \$2.5 million); [Support to Sustainable Rural and Peri-urban Family Poultry Development](#) (2019-2021, US \$339,000).

Food security. The FAO-EU "Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation" (FIRST) Program is contributing to [building capacities](#) and preparing a new National Food Security and Nutrition Program for 2018-2022.

Gender. The "[Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women \(RWEE\) in the Kyrgyz Republic](#)" project was continued (2014-2020, US \$1.1 million).

Other relevant projects. Technical Support in Project Component Formulation on Value Chain Development (2019-2020, US \$29,000); Support in Improving the System of Calculation of Producer Price Indices (PPI) in Agriculture and related SDG Indicators (2019-2020, US \$66,000); Strengthening Capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Preparedness in the Agricultural Sector (2018-2020, US \$363,000).

Planned project. Enhancing Capacity for Food Safety Management in the Kyrgyz Fruit and Vegetable Industry (2020-2022, US \$570,000).

Tajikistan

[FAO's assistance](#) in Tajikistan is shaped by the 2019-2021 FAO's CPF.

Current Activities/Projects

Agriculture, organic agriculture, and food security. The following projects are implemented: [Strengthening Institutions and Capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture & State Veterinary Inspection Service for Policy Formulation](#) (2016-2020, US \$5.7 million), which supported implementation of Tajikistan's Agrarian Reform Program and institutional development and capacity strengthening of the Ministry of Agriculture in relevant areas of policy-making, financial and policy analysis, disease surveillance and data management; [Improvement of Legal Framework and Institutional Capacity to Promote Organic Agriculture](#) (2019-2021, US \$95,000); [Improving Capacity and Monitoring System of GMO](#) (2019-2020, US \$93,000); [Enabling Market Access for Tajik Agricultural Products through Improved Food Safety System](#) (2018-2021, US \$197,000); [Capacity Development to Estimate Crop Water Requirements in a Context of Climate Change](#) (2019-2020, US \$250,000).

SDGs. [Support to SDG Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting](#) (2019-2020, US \$70,000).

Planned projects. Support to Improved Agricultural Mechanization Services (2020-2021, US \$250,000); Strengthening the Resilience to Climate Change through Applying Solar Powered Water Systems (2020-2021, US \$92,000); Support to Institutionalization Methodology for Assessment of Damage and Loss in Agriculture (2020, US \$68,000); Biodiversity Conservation for Adaptation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (2020, US \$50,000).

FAO established a [pilot agrometeorological network](#) of three automatic agrometeorology

stations in Tajikistan, with support from the European Union and in close collaboration with the Agency for Hydrometeorology of Tajikistan's Committee for Environmental Protection. The aim of the new network is to introduce weather data collection and analysis methods to provide early warning to farmers on climate, plant diseases and yield forecasting.

Turkmenistan

FAO interventions and resource mobilization for Turkmenistan envisages three priority areas: (1) agricultural production and food security, with a view to increasing the contribution of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to the country's economic growth; (2) sustainable natural resource management, climate change mitigation and adaptation; (3) increased resilience of rural livelihoods to agriculture and food security threats and shocks. FAO has no official representation in the country.

In 2019, the [regional project](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan and the Michael Zukkov Foundation (Germany) launched the Central Asian Desert Initiative (CADI) – Conservation and Sustainable Use of Turkmenistan Deserts. Starting in the spring of 2019, four joint scientific field expeditions to the Bereketli Garagum and Repetek nature reserves were carried out, as well as the dry subtropical deserts of Priatrechye and the Caspian region were studied to learn the components of biodiversity (botanical and zoological field expeditions). Based on the results of field expeditions, national scientific experts prepared and presented reports that are the basic information in preparing the nomination dossier for nominating the desert ecosystems of the temperate zone to the UNESCO World Heritage List. A seminar was held with the participation of international experts on assessing the management effectiveness of the Bereketli Garagum Reserve. A report was prepared on the use of the monitoring tool for management effectiveness in the Bereketli Garagum nature reserve. The existing potential of the Bereketli Garagum and Repeteksky reserves for creating information visit centers on their basis was also determined.

Uzbekistan

In January 2019, FAO and Uzbekistan [have signed](#) a Country Programming Framework document giving impetus and further guidance to their partnership through 2022.

Current Activities/Projects

Forest management. Sustainable Management of Forests in Mountain and Valley Areas in Uzbekistan (2018-2023, US \$3.2 million) to implement sustainable forest management in Uzbekistan by sequestering carbon and improving the quality of forests and tree resources.

Agriculture, fisheries, and aquaculture. National Review and Strategy for Aquaculture Sector and Fish Value Chain (2019-2021, US \$255,000); Support to Sustainable Apiculture Development (2019-2021, US \$345,000).

SDGs. Strengthening National Capacities in SDG Implementation and Monitoring (2019-2020, US \$95,000).

Gender. FAO experts provided [an assessment](#) of the gender, agriculture and rural development in Uzbekistan.

Planned project. Sustainable Forest and Rangelands Management in the Dryland Ecosystems of Uzbekistan (2020, US \$150,000).

The [Regional Conference for Europe and Central Asia](#) will be hosted by Uzbekistan in early 2020. As many as 300 delegates from the Europe and Central Asia region, including high-level country officials and representatives of partner organizations, are expected to visit Tashkent. It is the highest regional decision-making body for FAO, and what is decided there will shape FAO's work towards sustainable food and agriculture in 2020–2021 and beyond.

FAO Regional Projects

- The “Integrated Natural Resources Management in Drought-Prone and Salt-Affected Agricultural Production Landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey project” is the second phase of the Central Asian Countries Initiative on Land Management ([CACILM-2](#)) regional program, with a budget of over US \$75 million.

With support of the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan, demo sites were selected in five regions of Kazakhstan and field works began on demonstration of salt- and drought-tolerant crops, conservation technologies, practices for soil reclamation, as well as on the production of fodder and forage crops, management and restoration of rangeland resources.

In Kyrgyzstan, FAO in partnership with the non-governmental organization Camp Ala-Too is actively working on strengthening knowledge and capacities of rural communities in Naryn Oblast on sustainable pasture management.

In four districts of Tajikistan, initiative groups of women farmers have been formed. They have already begun cultivating salt-tolerant crops in their farms. The groups are designed to disseminate sustainable and climate-friendly land use technologies through Farmer Field Schools.

About forty varieties of drought and salt tolerant crops – plants and trees – were planted at demonstration sites in four regions of Uzbekistan using various field technologies. Already 100 farms in the target districts, the heads of which were trained under the project, have begun cultivating drought- and salt-tolerant crop varieties such as corn, African pearl millet, black cumin, sugar sorghum, flax and many others using hydrogel and conservation tillage methods including zero tillage.

In partnership with the Government of Uzbekistan, the project contributes to the implementation of the “Million Fruit Trees” program by arranging the planting of drought-tolerant trees on the dry bottom of the Aral Sea and other semi-desert regions.

- [Central Asian Desert Initiative](#) (CADI). Second meeting of the Coordination Committee (Nur-Sultan) and [workshop](#) of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Ashgabat) were held;

- [Lifecycle Management of Pesticides and Disposal of POPs Pesticides in Central Asian Countries and Turkey](#) with support of GEF. Workshops were organized in [Kyrgyzstan](#) and Tajikistan;

- [Developing Capacity for Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition](#);

- The [Program to Improve National and Regional Locust Management in Caucasus and Central Asia](#) to reduce occurrence and intensity of locust outbreaks in CCA, thus limiting threat or damage to crops and rangelands and safeguarding rural population food security and livelihoods, as well as minimizing impact of chemical control operations on human health and the environment. 12-day regional trainings (from 9 March, Tbilisi) and annual technical workshop (13-15 November, Tashkent) were held;

- A new FAO “Support in the Preparation of National Strategies to Promote the Export of Selected Agricultural Products in Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan” project [was launched](#) (13 March, Tashkent).

Source: www.fao.org

6.13. United Nations Environment Program

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) was founded in 1972 by the General Assembly Resolution No 2997 of 15 December 1972. UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. Under the auspices of UNEP, World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 5th of June since its proclamation in 1974 to focus the world's attention to environmental issues.



Cooperation with the Central Asian States

In March 2015, the UNEP Almaty Office for Central Asia was opened. Ms. Aidai Kurmanova is the Head of UNEP Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia.

Cooperation with countries builds on **multi-lateral environmental agreements**. UNEP serves as the Secretariat for the following conventions: Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention); Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; Convention on Biological Diversity; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

In 2018, the UNGA adopted **two resolutions** that form a framework for enhanced cooperation with countries in the region:

- [A/RES/72/273](#) adopted on 12 April 2018 – Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea;
- [A/RES/72/283](#) adopted on 22 June 2018 – Strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in the Central Asian region.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNEP and ICSD in 2017. UNEP supports ICSD in implementing the Regional Environmental Program for Sustainable Development in Central Asia until 2030 (REP4SD-CA), which is aimed at establishing effective mechanisms for regional cooperation on effective environment protection in the region, sustainable socio-economic development, as well as conservation and rational use of natural resources. Among the priorities of REP4SD-CA are: (1) environment-related SDGs; (2) climate change adaptation and mitigation; (3) green economy; (4) UN environmental conventions and related international obligations of countries; (5) legal and institutional regulation of ICSD and its structures.

UNEP projects and activities in 2019:

On 22 January, the results of the Environmental Transparency [Rating](#) of Kazakhstan Oil and Gas Companies were presented in Astana. The project is implemented by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) with the support of UNEP and Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The rating was based on comparable information about the environmental transparency level of 19 companies and the extent of their environmental impact.

On 25-26 January, together with the Ministry of National Economy of Kazakhstan, a training ses-

sion was held in Astana for middle- and senior-level staff of government agencies on SDGs integration into strategic planning systems.

On 19-20 March, a regional workshop for Central, Eastern European and Central Asian countries was organized in Almaty to launch the [project](#) "Promoting Regulatory and Voluntary Action by Government and Industry to Phase out Lead in Paint".

On July 3-5, the Green Energy & Waste Recycling Forum 2019 was held in Nur-Sultan. The Fo-



Forum is an important event in Central Asia. This was the 4th edition of the Forum, which brought together representatives of government agencies, international organizations and industry professionals working in the field of energy and waste management, who shared their ideas, international experience and best technologies for clean energy, recycling and disposal of industrial and domestic wastes. The session on plastic pollution presented the results of the UNEP global campaign "[Beat Plastic Pollution](#)", as well as recommendations of the "Single-Use Plastics: a Roadmap for Sustainability" [report](#).

On 24 October, a regional meeting of ICSD was held in Nukus. UNEP assisted the Uzbek State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection in organizing an event, where representatives of ICSD from the Central Asian countries approved the draft REP4SD-CA until 2030. The meeting also celebrated the 25th anniversary of ICSD and passed the chairmanship to Uzbekistan for the next two years.

On 21-22 November, a workshop was held together with the Kazakh Statistics Committee in Astana to improve national environmental statistics for monitoring progress towards SDGs.

On 25-27 November, a workshop was held jointly with UNDP, UNECE and the Turkmen State Committee on Statistics in Ashgabat to improve national capacities in collection and analysis of environmental statistics for monitoring progress towards SDGs.

The Russia-funded project "Capacity Development and Technology Transfer to Improve the Generation and Use of Data and Information in Support of Monitoring the Environment in Central Asia" has been launched, under which three countries of the region will have access to full land cover and land use categorization and mapping of their respective territories, including

terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and information from existing monitoring networks. This information will inform national State of Environment Reports, sustainable management of natural resources, address transboundary environmental issues, as well as reporting to the SDGs and major multilateral environmental agreements. A digital atlas of the environment will be developed and produced, will allow the analysis and assessment of environmental change in the key domains of water, land, and biodiversity and will lead to the production of data flows, development of indicators, generation of statistics and production of pilot water and land accounts. The first national multi-stakeholder consultations were held to launch the project (11-12 December, Dushanbe).

National consultation workshops also were held to launch the "[Vanishing Treasures](#)" project, which aims to preserve the population of snow leopards in Central Asia and improve the adaptive capacity of mountain ecosystems to climate change (Bishkek, Dushanbe).

The GEF [project](#) on chemicals and waste management "Demonstration of Non-thermal Treatment of DDT Wastes in Central Asia" was started in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

At the beginning of the year, the first [PAGE](#) (Partnership for Action on Green Economy) experts' mission to Kazakhstan took place for bilateral meetings with relevant ministries and organizations to develop a Roadmap and agree on the Work Plan. PAGE represents a mechanism to coordinate actions of five UN organizations (UNEP, ILO, UNDP, UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)) launched in 2013 as a response to the call at Rio+20 to support those countries wishing to embark on greener and more inclusive growth trajectories. Kazakhstan joined PAGE in 2018 with the overall

objective of diversifying economy and achieving the ambitious targets set out in its National Development Strategy Kazakhstan 2050 and its Green Economy Concept. At the sectoral level, Kazakhstan aspires to become a regional hub

for green finance, which would provide further support for the investments in Kazakhstan's green economy.

Source: UNEP Almaty Office for Central Asia

6.14. International Law Commission

The International Law Committee (ILC) is a subsidiary body of UNGA, consisting of thirty four members of recognized competence in international law, who sit in their individual capacity and not as representatives of their Governments. The task of ILC is encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification. It was established in 1947. The Commission has no representatives of the Central Asian states in its composition.

At the 71st Session of the Commission, reports were presented on the following items: Crimes against humanity; peremptory norms of general international law (*jus cogens*); protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts; succession of States in respect of State responsibility; immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction; general principles of law; sea-level rise

in relation to international law. The Commission decided to include in its long-term program of work the topics: (1) reparation to individuals for gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law; (2) prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea.

With respect to the topic "Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts", the Commission had before it the second report of the Special Rapporteur ([A/CN.4/728](#)), which discussed questions related to the protection of the environment in non-international armed conflicts, and matters related to responsibility and liability for environmental damage.

Source: ILC report at its 71st Session, 2019, <https://undocs.org/en/A/74/10>

6.15. International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. It was established in 1945. It delivers judicial and advisory functions. No judges from Central Asia sit in the International Court. Cases submitted to the Court involve a wide variety of subject matters: territorial and maritime disputes; consular rights; human rights; environmental damage and conservation of living resources; international responsibility and compensation for harm; the immunities of States, their representatives and assets; interpretation and application of international treaties and conventions. In 2019, the Court's list of cases included only one case directly related to water.

Dispute over the Status and Use of the Waters of the Silala (Chile v. Bolivia)

On 6 June 2016, the Republic of Chile filed an Application instituting proceedings against the Plurinational State of Bolivia with regard to a dispute concerning the status and use of the waters of the Silala. For the nature of the case

and proceedings in 2016-2018, see the Yearbook editions for [2017](#) and [2018](#). By an Order dated 15 November 2018, the Court directed the submission of a Reply by Chile and a Rejoinder by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, limited to the Respondent's counter-claims, and fixed 15 February 2019 and 15 May 2019 as the respective time-limits for the filing of those written pleadings. By a letter dated 4 June 2019, the Agent of Chile informed the Court that her Government wished to avail itself of the right to present an additional pleading on the counter-claims. By a letter dated 7 June 2019, the Agent of the Plurinational State of Bolivia stated that his Government had no objection to that request. By an Order dated 18 June 2019, the Court authorized the submission by Chile of an additional pleading relating solely to the counter-claims of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and fixed 18 September 2019 as the time-limit for the filing of that pleading.

Source: ICJ report at the 74th Session of UNGA, 2019 ([A/74/4](#))

