

The background features a repeating pattern of overlapping circles. On the left side, a vertical strip contains solid blue circles. The rest of the page is filled with a grid of white circles, each containing a complex, multi-layered geometric pattern of concentric lines that resemble stylized floral or mandala designs.

Section 6

United Nations and
its Specialized Agencies

6.1. General Assembly



76th 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.

The 76th Session of the UN General Assembly opened on the theme "Building Resilience through hope to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalize the United Nations".

Discussions in this 76th Session were focused on collective challenges the world must tackle, including political and security crises and global issues such as the fight against climate change, biodiversity protection, health, the defense of human rights, international humanitarian law, gender equality and access to free, pluralistic and reliable information. The Session took place in a hybrid format due to the COVID-19 pandemic with in-person meetings and videoconferences.

Statements from Central Asian countries at the general debate of the UNGA 76th Session

Address by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan



"In many ways, the pandemic has exposed our vulnerability..."

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev focused on the triple threat humankind faces today: COVID-19 recovery; the climate crisis; and the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

Pandemic and inequality. The President of Kazakhstan reminded that in the last year, the COVID-19 pandemic had exploded from 32 million to 225 million confirmed cases and the economic and social repercussions remained very difficult. Unemployment has risen sharply and hundreds of millions of people are losing their livelihoods. More than 130 million people are now living in extreme poverty. Decades of development progress are being lost.

Climate change. [...] "Carbon dioxide levels are at record highs. Wildfires, cyclones, floods and droughts have become the new normal, devastating populations and causing much preventable human suffering.

As a large landlocked country, Kazakhstan's climate is warming faster than the global average and threatening our population and economy. The median annual temperature has increased 2°C in the last 75 years with serious droughts now striking twice every five years. In response, Kazakhstan intends to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. We are launching a national 2050 low carbon development strategy next month to reduce GDP energy intensity by 50% from 2008 levels. Since almost 70% of Kazakhstan's electricity generation depends on coal, the energy transition presents significant challenges. Access to green financing and green technologies will be critical to this transition, and we look to the upcoming COP26 conference in Glasgow for clear commitment on these issues. Without ambitious green financing, ambitious climate action is empty. We also give great importance to the COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming in October 2021." [...]

Aid to Afghanistan. Turning to Afghanistan, the President of Kazakhstan endorsed the UN Security Council's call for the establishment, through negotiations, of a new Government that is inclusive. "A consensus-based system must be put in place where groups of different values, or ethnic, religious and gender background can coexist in the same country. In general, Kazakhstan envisions Afghanistan as a truly independent, sovereign nation living at peace with itself and its neighbors."

SDGs. [...] "Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs has suffered a considerable setback. Least Developed countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States – some 91 countries in total – are disproportionately affected by the pandemic given their limited means to respond to shocks and vulnerability to a debt crisis. As the Global Chair of the LLDCs, Kazakhstan appeals to

all UN agencies to work together to deliver on the 2024 Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Program of Action. The 2030 Agenda will remain unattainable until all countries have the financial capacity to invest in a sustainable and inclusive future. In this regard, we specifically call on all deve-

lopment partners to jointly address international liquidity and debt vulnerabilities." [...]

Full version of the statement:

<https://www.akorda.kz/en/kazakhstan-president-kassym-jomart-tokayevs-video-statement-at-the-general-debate-of-the-76th-session-of-the-un-general-assembly-228202>

Address by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic

Given the situation in Afghanistan, the question of the security of Central Asia was once again on the forefront, stated the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov. In his video-address to participants of the 76th Session, he proposed holding in 2022 a Central Asia-UN Summit and establishing a Center to combat international organized crime in Bishkek.

Afghanistan. "We cannot fail to mention our concern regarding recent events in Afghanistan. We are in a position to provide five hundred young Afghans with an opportunity to study in our universities and also to provide humanitarian assistance to those in needs, first of all, these would be ethnic Kirghiz living in little and big Pamir area of Afghanistan," said the President. He stated that Kyrgyzstan is ready to temporarily relocate the UN agencies from Afghanistan in Bishkek.

Pandemic and external debt. Speaking on fighting against COVID-19, Sadyr Zhaparov thanked China, Russia, Kazakhstan and Switzerland for provision of vaccines to his country. "The coronavirus pandemic was also a reason for the fact that achieving SDGs in Kyrgyzstan was not possible on time and fully. We have had to re-channel finances earmarked for the SDGs to combat the pandemic and to service external debt," noted the President. He urged creditors to support the initiatives on debt relief to back very important sustainable development projects in Kyrgyzstan. The President reminded that Kyrgyzstan celebrated on the 31st of August 30 years of country independence and next year the 2nd of March would mark a 30th anniversary of Kyrgyzstan joining the United Nations Organization as a fully-fledged member. Given this historical event, Kyrgyzstan has put forward its candidacy to the UN Human Rights Council for 2023-2025 and its candidacy as a non-permanent member to the UN Security Council for 2027-2028. "We urge all UN member states to support us in the elections," said the Head of State. By stating that Kyrgyzstan stays on the way of democracy and strong civil society, Mr. Zhaparov noted that general elections were awaited to the national parliament on the 28th of November and called for sending international observers to the elections.

Preservation of mountain ecosystems. [...] "Over the past three decades Kyrgyzstan has been active advocate of the interests of mountain states that are landlocked in order to tackle the challenges of the sustainable development and climate change. On our initiative, 2002 was declared The International Year of Mountains and that year in Bishkek there was a first Global Mountains Summit, and in 2018 there



"We pay particular attention to protecting the areas of our mountain forests that ... also play a very important role of preserving water resources"

was the 4th World Mountains Summit. During the Session of UN General Assembly, as a member of the Group of the friends of mountain countries, we are hoping that 2022 will be declared the International Year of Mountains, this would confirm the five-year plan for sustainable development in mountain regions up to 2027 and then to create a Global Summit "Bishkek+25". [...]

Fight against climate change. [...] "In the past few years, the people and nature in our country have significantly felt the negative impact of climate change. The position and views of our country will be put forward clearly in the forthcoming COP26 in Glasgow. And I would take an opportunity of this important rostrum to make a few remarks nonetheless. For mountainous Kyrgyzstan one of the priority urgent areas is climate change adaptation. We pay particular attention to the protecting the areas of our mountain forests. Along with playing a natural function of absorbing carbon, they also play a very important role of preserving water resources. In this context, we are in favor of developing and adopting under aegis of the UN a special target program on mountainous forests to protect, reclaim and afforest mountain slopes. As I previously mentioned, age-old glaciers, rivers and mountain biodiversity are under threat in Kyrgyzstan. This year in UNESCO we are initiating a resolution to protect mountain glaciers and, at the same time, to continue working with international partners to implement provisions of the resolution "Nature knows no borders" put forward by Kyrgyzstan and recently approved by the UNGA.

Some significant achievements have already been made. For example, thanks to the work with different countries and international organizations, we have managed to protect such a precious animal as snow leopard. Furthermore, by 2050, Kyrgyzstan will try to achieve carbon neutrality. Kyrgyzstan's economy is becoming "greener" and we are going to turn to carbon-free energy sources, and I think this involve, first of all, hydroelectricity. In order to ensure energy security, Kyrgyzstan intends to gradually implement a number of projects to build hydroelectric stations that are ecologically clean sources of energy. Access to modern, environmentally friendly and inexpensive energy resources in developing countries is extremely important in terms of achieving global development goals of the 2030 Agenda. We believe that implementation of hydroenergy projects in Kyrgyzstan will meet the needs of Central Asian countries for hydro-

electricity and this will create good conditions for sustainable development of our region. I would invite investors for mutually beneficial cooperation in the hydroenergy sector, including on base of public-private partnership principle in the spirit of the Paris Agreement. In concluding this particular topic, Kyrgyzstan trusts that the support and assistance of the world community, the UN and international financing institutions will be paid to solving the problems of ecosystems of mountainous countries especially those that are landlocked. In this regard we trust that the issue of setting up a special global fund within the UN to support the mountainous countries in achieving the several development goals and adapting to climate change will be tackled." [...]

Record of video-address:
<https://media.un.org/en/asset/k19/k19mus3qov>

Address by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan



"As a result of climate change and unprecedented warming, more than 1,000 of 13,000 glaciers in Tajikistan's mountains have completely melted"

In his video address to participants of the 76th Session of the UNGA the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon urged that an inclusive Government of Afghanistan be formed and include ethnic Tajiks. He paid particular attention to the issue of climate change, underlining that more than thousand of 13,000 glaciers in the mountains of Tajikistan had already melted.

"The already volatile situation in the current world is further complicated by geopolitical and geo-economic competition and the growing level of threats and challenges, as well as the unprecedented spread of infectious diseases," said the President.

Afghanistan. Speaking on Afghanistan, he underlined that recent developments in Afghanistan posed a serious threat to regional security and stability in the country, which shares almost 1,400 km of border with Afghanistan. "The rise to power of the Taliban, which is listed as a terrorist group by the United Nations Security Council, has further deteriorated the region's already complex geopolitical process", added Mr.

Rahmon. The President expressed regret at the Taliban's failure to deliver on its earlier promises to form an inclusive government. An extensive dialogue with the involvement of all segments of the Afghan society, including ethnic Tajiks, could only lead to the lasting peace and stability in that country. "In this regard, along with other ethnic groups of this country, the Tajiks of Afghanistan, who comprise more than 46% of the population of this country, have the right to take their deserved pie in the public affairs," stressed the Head of Tajikistan. He condemned all forms of lawlessness, murder, looting and oppression against the people of Afghanistan and told about the humanitarian crisis in Panjshir Province by stating that the current situation was a humanitarian catastrophe there. By stating that Tajikistan will not interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, the President proposed to set the structure of the government in that country through a referendum, taking into account positions of all citizens in the country. "During more than 40 years of war and instability, which the Afghan people are not to blame for, Afghanistan has become the ground for geopolitical games; and the world is well aware of the consequences of the horrible events of September 2001", said E. Rahmon. The President of Tajikistan expressed his concerns over the pandemic and its negative effects on economy and welcomed the UN Comprehensive Response to COVID-19 launched by the Secretary General.

Climate change. [...] "Climate change challenges are also a serious obstacle to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in various countries, including Tajikistan. Tajikistan with 93 percent of its territory covered by mountains is concerned, along with other countries in the region, about changes in the hydrological cycle leading to severe floods and droughts and causing a negative impact on water, energy and food security. Unfortunately, our country loses hundreds of millions of dollars annually as a result of waterborne disasters, and in many cases, natural disasters cause human losses and destruct the vital infrastructure. We are today on the eve of the 26th session of the

United Nations Convention on Climate Change. We believe that this meeting will significantly contribute to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and accelerating the efforts of the international community in the fight against climate change. One of the serious consequences of this process is the melting of glaciers. As a result of climate change and unprecedented warming, more than 1,000 of 13,000 glaciers in Tajikistan's mountains have completely melted. According to available statistics, the Fedchenko Glacier alone has shrunk to 11 square kilometers in recent decades in Tajikistan and lost 2 cubic kilometers of ice. This all is happening despite the fact that up to 60% of Central Asia's water resources originate from Tajikistan's glaciers. Our country ranks 135th in the world in terms of carbon dioxide emissions and generates 96% of its electricity at hydropower plants. As the leader of such a country, I have made concrete proposals at international conferences on several occasions to find solutions to the problems associated with climate change. In this regard, as a member of the founding group of the World Water and Climate Coalition, I proposed at its first high-level meeting to declare 2025 as the International Year for Preservation of Glaciers. It is my firm belief that this initiative will help to attract more attention of the world community to the water and climate challenges and the melting of glaciers. Establishing the International Fund for Glacier Preservation under the auspices of the United Nations is another step that could provide a basis for comprehensive research and effective solutions to this global problem. Tajikistan contributes to the process of promoting water and climate issues in the Global Development Agenda and submits relevant UN resolutions on these issues. The

International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028" initiated by Tajikistan and declared by the United Nations, is under implementation currently. The international community is looking forward to the United Nations Conference on the Comprehensive Mid-Term Review of this Decade, to be held in New York City in 2023. Because in almost 50 years, this will be the second Special Conference of the United Nations on Water, which will once again prove the key role of water in the global development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. We are proud that Tajikistan, together with the Kingdom of the Netherlands, is elected as a co-chair of this important international forum. In this regard, we have already begun preparations with our partners, including the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, and are taking steps to organize a comprehensive and high-level conference. We would like to encourage all stakeholders to cooperate extensively in this process. Let me recall that in 2022, our country will host the International High-Level Conference on the Review of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development". We believe that this forum will play an important role in the preparations for the 2023 Water Conference. Taking this opportunity, I reaffirm my country's readiness to advance water and climate issues at all levels, especially in cooperation with the United Nations".

Full version of the statement:

<https://www.mfa.tj/en/main/view/8705/speech-by-the-president-of-the-republic-of-tajikistan-at-the-general-debates-within-the-76th-session-of-the-un-general-assembly>

Address by the President of Turkmenistan

Recent years, the world has not become safer, and the global community needs to take measures to ensure more active international cooperation and enhance mutual trust. This was what the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov spoke about at the 76th Session of the UNGA.

Peace and neutrality. "The past period was marked by serious problems in terms of ensuring global peace and security, exacerbating local and regional conflicts. Under such circumstances, Turkmenistan, as a responsible member of the world community will continue to consistently assist in resolving international issues by only peaceful, political, and diplomatic means based on principles and norms of the UN Charter." The President of Turkmenistan informed on the plans to summon an International conference "The policy of peace and trust as the foundation of international security, stability, and development" in December this year in Ashgabat, proposed to draft a General Assembly Resolution "Strengthening regional and international cooperation aimed at ensuring peace, stability and sustainable development in the Central Asian region", and reiterated his proposal to create the zone of peace, trust, and cooperation in "Central Asia–Caspian region."

Fight against the pandemic. Speaking about combatting COVID-19, the President of Turkmenistan



"We will continue to pay and draw the world community's unflagging attention to issues on mitigating the consequences of an ecological catastrophe of the Aral Sea"

underlined that the world community efforts in that direction were still insufficient and the pandemic had exposed serious systemic failures in the international response to such challenges. "... the World Health Organization is a major platform for multilateral dialogue to develop consolidated and mutually agreed

responses to common challenges in the field of global healthcare," stressed G. Berdimuhamedov in his statement. The President proposed to consider issues on instituting the following international and regional instruments during the 76th session: the World Health Organization Special Program for studying the genome of coronavirus; Multilateral mechanism of WHO to fight against pneumonia; Methodological center of WHO to treat and prevent acute infections; the Central Asian regional center for epidemiology, virology and bacteriology.

Situation in Afghanistan. Concerning the situation in Afghanistan, the President stressed that Turkmenistan was deeply interested in the political stability and security in Afghanistan, the well-being and unity of Afghan people. "At the same time, we are firm adherents of resolving contradictions by peaceful, political and diplomatic means. Turkmenistan, for its part, will provide comprehensive economic and humanitarian aid to Afghanistan as before."

Sustainable Development Goals. [...] "During this session, Turkmenistan looks forward to continuing broad dialogue on achieving Sustainable Development Goals. In our view, effective collaboration and practical compatibility of the global, regional, and national instruments for SDG implementation have become a major priority today. We stand for the active promotion of adequate financing of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, we think it necessary to organize another international conference on development financing very soon. We will continue to pay and draw the world community's unflinching attention to issues on mitigating the consequences of an ecological catastrophe of the Aral Sea. Turkmenistan plans to achieve the goal of establishing a UN Special Program for the Aral Sea basin with its partners from the region during the upcoming session." [...]

Full version of the statement:
<https://www.mfa.gov.tm/en/articles/537>

Address by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan



COVID-19, Afghanistan, and ecology were among the main topics addressed by the President of Uzbekistan during the general debate of the 76th UNGA Session. In his video-address, Shavkat Mirziyoyev shared the plans to make Uzbekistan one of the countries with the above-middle income by 2030.

Pandemic. The President of Uzbekistan qualified the COVID-19 as "a global disaster" and expressed his gratitude to foreign partners, who have provided the assistance in the framework of the COVAX global platform for equitable access to vaccines. Shavkat Mirziyoyev informed that Uzbekistan had developed the Code of Voluntary Commitments of States during Pandemic and distributed as an official document of the UN General Assembly.

New Uzbekistan Strategy. The President told on the developed New Uzbekistan Strategy, which was to "strengthen the role of civil society institutions, protect

human rights, reduce poverty, provide each citizen with a guaranteed source of income and achieve sustainable environmental development." Uzbekistan is to become one of the countries with above-middle income in terms of the per capita income by 2030.

Afghanistan. "Our main objective is to make Central Asia a place of prosperity and sustainable development, trust and friendship," stated President Mirziyoyev, underlining that Afghanistan is an integral part of Central Asia. He informed that the Uzbek-Afghan border had been recently opened and the supply of basic-needs and oil products, as well as electricity had been resumed to this country. "During these challenging times, Afghanistan may not be isolated and left to face a range of its problems alone."

Counter-terrorism and fight against drugs. Speaking on conflicts and terrorism, the Head of Uzbekistan reminded on the international conference to be held in November in Tashkent to present the results of the ten-year joint plan of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. During the conference, Uzbekistan intends to sign a Regional Program for Central Asia for 2022-2025 with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and develop a joint action plan against drugs with the participation of this UN Office, covering the countries of Central and South Asia.

Ecology and clean energy. [...] "Uzbekistan pays a special attention to combatting the climate change, protecting the environment and biodiversity. This is our noble human duty not only for today, but also before the future generations. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to all Member States for the adoption of a Special Resolution of the UN General Assembly declaring the Aral Sea Region a zone of environmental innovation and technology. We are determined to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. We are taking concrete steps to move towards the renewable energy sources. In

particular, it is envisaged to double the energy efficiency of our economy by 2030, increase the share of renewable energy by 25% and develop environmentally clean transport. By 2025, it is scheduled to commission new solar and wind power plants with a total capacity of 2,900 megawatts. In 2022, we intend to hold a High-Level International Forum in cooperation with the United Nations on “green energy” in the Aral Sea Region in the city of Nukus.

We support the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Program in the near future. In addition, in the future we stand ready to host one of the meetings of the parties to the Biodiversity Convention in our country. Along with this, we propose to hold the Sixth High-

Level Assembly under the auspices of the United Nations in 2023 in Uzbekistan for in-depth discussions of the priorities of global environmental policy. The participants of the Assembly will have an opportunity to learn about the difficult situation in the Aral Sea Region, which is the center of an ecological disaster caused by the drying up of the Aral Sea, and draw necessary conclusions. In addition, we intend to put forward an initiative in the Assembly to develop a Global Environment Charter aimed to lay the foundations of a new environmental policy of the United Nations." [...]

Full version of the statement:
<https://president.uz/en/lists/view/4632>

Selected Resolutions on water, environment and development adopted by the 76th Session of the UNGA:

Protection of the atmosphere (A/RES/76/112); International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development, 2022 (A/RES/76/129); The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation (A/RES/76/153); Agricultural technology for sustainable development (A/RES/76/200); Disaster risk reduction (A/RES/76/204); Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (A/RES/76/205); Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experi-

encing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (A/RES/76/206); Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development (A/RES/76/207); Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/RES/76/208); Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (A/RES/76/210); Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development (A/RES/76/213).

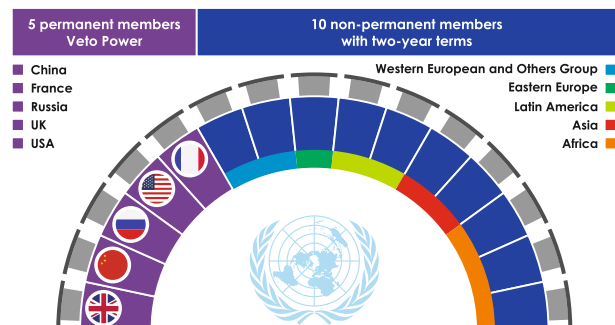
6.2. Security Council

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 (Great Britain, China, Russia, USA, France) and 10 non-permanent, elected by UNGA for two-year terms for five countries each year.

UNSC activity in 2021

Several high level open debates took place:

- **“Addressing climate-related security risks to international peace and security through mitigation and resilience building”**. During the meeting, which was attended by heads of state and government, several Council members, including Kenya and Niger, underlined the link between climate change and conflict while others, including Russia and China, questioned this view, arguing that political and economic factors are the key drivers of tension and conflict. At the meeting, Guterres called the climate emergency “the defining issue of our time”. Advocating for enhanced “preparations for the escalating implications of the climate crisis for international peace and security”, he highlighted four priorities to address the crisis: (1) cutting greenhouse gas emissions; (2) increasing investment to help countries and communities adapt and develop resilience; (3) encouraging a concept of security that “puts people at



its center”, whereby “[p]reventing and addressing the poverty, food insecurity and displacement caused by climate disruption contribute to sustaining peace and reducing the risk of conflict”; and, (4) calling for a collaborative approach between actors within and outside the UN system to help tackle the climate crisis (February 23).

- **“Security in the context of climate change”**. António Guterres and Ilwad Elman, the chief operating officer of the Mogadishu-based Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre, briefed. During the meeting, Guterres emphasized that “climate change and environmental mismanagement are risk multipliers” and that when “coping capacities are limited and there is high dependence on shrinking natural resources and ecosystem services such as water and

fertile land, grievances and tensions can explode, complicating efforts to prevent conflict and sustain peace". Elman said that her organization had realized that their peacebuilding goals and mediation work "could not succeed or be sustained unless we addressed the broader environmental issues related to security – whether it be the locust- and drought-induced scarcity of resources that multiplies the threat of intraclan conflict, the decrease of tuna swarms that drives Somali fishing communities towards piracy, or the flooding that continues to drive regional displacement and vulnerable people to violent extremist groups". She called on the UN, including the Security Council, to be receptive to bottom-up, local efforts to build resilience to the adverse effects of climate change. (September 23).

■ **"Security in the context of terrorism and climate change"** chaired by the President of Niger M. Bazoum. A. Guterres, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chair of the African Union Commission, and Mr. Mamman Nuhu, Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commis-

sion and Head of the Multinational Joint Task Force briefed in the meeting (December 9).

The Informal Expert Group of Members of the Security Council on Climate and Security (IEG) has held **two meetings** to discuss the security implications of climate change in situations on the Council's agenda. The first meeting, held on 12 March, focused on the area covered by the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). A senior UNOWAS official briefed the IEG on the impact that climate change is having in the region and highlighted the challenges and opportunities for UNOWAS in addressing climate change-related security risks. During the second meeting of the IEG, held on 30 April, the group met with the deputy head of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Guang Cong. The discussion centered on what the mission is doing to integrate climate change-related security risks into its work in light of the adoption of resolution 2567 on 12 March, which included new language on climate change in the mission's mandate.

Source: www.securitycouncilreport.org/

6.3. Secretariat

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. In June 2021, Antonio Guterres (Portugal) was re-elected for a second term of the Secretary-General position (January 1, 2022-December 31, 2026).

"In these turbulent times, the work of the United Nations is more necessary than ever to reduce suffering, prevent crises, manage risks and build a sustainable future for all."

António Guterres, Secretary-General

Each year, the Secretary-General reports on the work of the Organization, including priority areas of the UN's activity and future plans. 2021 Report highlights the work in the following key area: **sustainable development** (more than **240 million people** received essential services with support from UN country

teams and resident coordinators; **120 million people** benefited from social schemes); **peace and security** (deployed **40+** peacekeeping, special political missions and offices to prevent conflict and support peacebuilding efforts); **development in Africa** (supported **38** countries and **3** Regional Economic Communities in developing national strategies to harness the benefit of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement); **human rights** (engaged with resident coordinators and country teams in **59+** countries to place human rights at the center of COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plans); **humanitarian assistance** (helped mobilize \$19.1B to assist **264.2M people** in **64** countries and territories); **international justice and law** (deposited **632** multilateral treaties with the Secretary-General addressing matters of worldwide interest); **disarmament** (supported the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force on 22 January 2021, following the fiftieth ratification); **drugs, crime and terrorism** (contributed to COVID-19 preparedness in detention centers in **more than 50** Member States, resulting in improved prison conditions and basic services for detainees).

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

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 2021

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 2021, UNDP project portfolio in Kazakhstan included 40 projects at the total cost of US\$ 21.58 million.

SDGs. The Project “Support of the Government with SDG Financing Strategy” (2020-2022) to support the Government in aligning policy and financing with SDGs towards adopting an Integrated National Financing Framework continued. Since 1st of July, the Project “Regional SDG Platform” (2021-2023) is implemented to establish a regional SDG platform that will serve as a mechanism that will accelerate countries' national efforts in wider regional strategies for the attainment of the 2030 Agenda. A regional workshop on the Development Finance Assessment in the framework of the regional platform on SDGs in Central Asia was held. The key purpose of the Regional workshop on the DFA was to provide an overview of the DFA tool which is an integral element of the Integrated National Financing Framework's first structural block “Assessment and Diagnostics”.

SDG Coordination Council's 5th meeting, chaired by the First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Alikhan Smailov, took place on 12 March 2021. The key objective of the meeting was to look through/assess and discuss the outcomes of the work that has been conducted on SDGs implementation throughout 2020; to set up new priority objectives for 2021 and to approve the national list of SDG targets and indicators to be mainstreamed into the State planning system documents.

Water management. The Irrigation and Drainage in Kazakhstan, Capacity Building and Awareness Raising Project (2017-2021) was completed. The Project was 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. The 2021 results: a new national development plan for RSE Kazvodkhoz 2020-2030 was drawn up and adopted by the Water Resources Committee in June; RSE Kazvodkhoz Chairman has endorsed the concept of irrigation water automation in August; three new formulas for the irrigation water tariffing for motorized and non-motorized pumping stations have been developed and accepted by the Committee for Regulation of Natural Monopolies in August.

Nature, land resources and ecosystem management. Continued: (1) Sustainable Forest Management (2017-2021) for conservation and sustainable management of key globally important ecosystems for multiple benefits; (2) Ecological Education in Kazakhstan (2020-2025). The key outcome of the project is training of over 6 thousand teachers and creating a network of educational and model sites, pre-

paration of educational and methodological packages in the field of environment protection, natural resource management, and environment and economic security.

The following projects have been completed: (1) Supporting Sustainable Land Management (2015-2021) to transform land use practices in critical, productive, steppe, arid and semi-arid landscapes of Kazakhstan. The 2021 results: The Integrated Land Use Plan (ILUP) has been integrated into the educational curricula of the three agricultural extension centers in the Kyzylorda, Almaty, and Kostanai regions; the new Agro-Industry Sector Development Strategy 2022-2026 was approved by the Ministry of Agriculture on February 4; (2) Small Grants Program (2017-2021) focused on improving resilience of rural and peri-urban landscapes of steppe and desert ecosystems for sustainable development and global environmental protection.

UNDP recommendations on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity were reflected in the new Environmental Code of Kazakhstan signed by the President of Kazakhstan on January 2, 2021. The document includes legal norms aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, based on the principle of equitable distribution of natural benefits and access to them. They include compensation for biodiversity losses, voluntary payments for ecosystem services, principles of sustainable ecotourism and the responsibilities of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the development and approval of methods for calculating greenhouse gas emissions and uptake, including for the forest sector.

Energy and climate change. Continued: (1) Low-Carbon Urban Development (2014-2021); (2) Energy Efficient Standards and Labeling (2017-2022) to transform Kazakhstan's markets to energy efficient appliances and equipment, thereby reducing electricity consumption and GHG emissions; (3) De-Risking Renewable Energy Investment (2017-2023); (4) development of Kazakhstan's Eighth National Communication and Preparation of Two (Fourth and Fifth) Biennial Reports (2019-2022): chapters on national circumstances, education, transfer technologies and financial resources, GHG projections were developed; (5) Forest Carbon Offset Mechanisms, Bifury Initiative (2019-2024) to assist to the Republic of Kazakhstan in fulfilling international obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the carbon footprint of electricity suppliers for the leading technology company Bifury; (6) National Determined Contributions Programme in Kazakhstan (2020-2022). Attracting Investors in the Field of Energy Efficiency Project was started to advance energy efficiency of buildings, infrastructure, and other facilities by attracting investment from investors and financial institutions to small and medium-sized enterprises (2021-2026).

Kazakhstan has developed a long-term [Doctrine of Carbon Neutral Development](#) until 2060 – a framework with a clear sustainable recovery, low-carbon development pathway, and energy sector transition. The doctrine provides a set of key measures to reduce emissions and decarbonize the economy, such as the abandonment of new coal-fired generation projects and the phasing out of coal combustion (2021-2025), the implementation of a program to plant 2 billion trees (2025), doubling of the share of renewable energy sources in electricity generation (2030), 100% sorting of municipal solid waste (2040),

sustainable agriculture on 75% of arable land (2045), 100% electrification of personal passenger transport (2045), the use of green hydrogen only and complete refusal to use coal-fired production from 2050 onwards.

Capacity building. Continued [Supporting the Economic Empowerment of Afghan Women](#) (2019-2025).

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

UNDP in Kyrgyzstan

In 2021, the UNDP project portfolio in Kyrgyzstan included 29 projects totaling US\$26.5 million.

SDGs. Continued (1) [National SDGs Acceleration Support Platform](#) (2018-2024) – an anchor point for advancing SDG integrated approaches; (2) [project](#) of the UN Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund (2020-2022) aimed at creating an Integrated National Financing Framework.

Environmental protection. Continued: (1) [Biodiversity of Western Tian Shan](#) (2017-2022); (2) [Climate Resilience of the Batken Province](#) (2019-2022) under the UNDP Trust Fund for Development Climate Change Window. A workshop was held to coordinate actions with the national and development partners to ensure project sustainability and get recommendations on implementation of food security and gender strategy in Batken province (September) and the "Agroclimatic reference book in Batken Province" was presented; (3) [Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change](#) (2016-2022) to strengthen integrated risk governance capacities and regional cooperation in CA. Results to date: completed construction of the Dolon avalanche station; held consultations at regional level (expert level and high level) to develop regional cooperation; adopted an updated joint action plan; (4) [Capacity in Sustainable Development Finance](#) (2018-2022); (5) [Capacity Building in Environment](#) (2018-2022); (6) [UN Support for Strengthening Disaster Preparedness](#) (2012-2021) to support the coordination activities of the Disaster Response Coordi-

nation Unit; (7) [Pamir-Alai Project](#) (2021-2022) for integrated community-based management of high value mountain ecosystems in Southern Kyrgyzstan for multiple benefits.

Two meetings of the Working Group on updating Kyrgyzstan's NDC were held in January and April. The members of the working group were presented with information on the process of updating the NDCs, in particular on the development of the main sections, on the international reporting and verification monitoring system, on gender aspects and on the calculation of the cost of mitigation and adaptation measures.

In June, Kyrgyzstan hosted the [First Local Conference of Youth](#) (LCOY), which consisted of a series of three events in different regions of the country. The youth conference was organized by the public association "Students of Kyrgyzstan for a Green Economy" (SKGE) together with representatives of other youth organizations and university students in the country. The event became a reality with strong support from the "Policy Action for Climate Security in Central Asia" project, the second phase of which was launched in October.

The [project](#) aimed at improving institutionalization of gender mainstreaming practices into national policies according to the Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2022 has been completed.

Source: <https://open.undp.org/projects>

UNDP in Tajikistan

In 2021, UNDP project portfolio in Tajikistan included 42 projects with overall budget of US\$ 29.65 million.

SDGs. Continued: (1) [Financing SDGs in Tajikistan](#) (2020-2022) to support the Government of Tajikistan in achieving its national SDG targets through an integrated resource mobilization framework; (2) [Monitoring the SDGs in Tajikistan](#) (2020-2022) for exploring the needs for and expanding support to strengthening national system for monitoring of SDG national indicators in close partnership with the Agency of Statistics under the President of Tajikistan. As a result, strategies for preparation of indicators/metadata for

monitoring SDGs, including draft national framework on SDG have been developed.

Land and water resources. Continued: (1) [Building Climate Resilience in Agriculture and Water Sectors of Rural Tajikistan](#) (2019-2022), with the following results achieved: 4 local communities and 2 Jamoats were trained and have practical experience to rehabilitate watersheds with high flood risk; new orchards established in 28.4 ha of land; 7 projects on irrigation water and mudflow infrastructure rehabilitation initiated; two demoplots on drip irrigation established; (2) [Support to Water Initiatives of Tajikistan](#)

(2021-2022), the objective of which is to provide support in organization of the 2nd International Conference within the framework of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, to be held in June 2022 in Dushanbe; (3) [Strengthening Communities in Khatlon Region and Rasht Valley of Tajikistan \(2020-2022\)](#) to equip the residents of pilot rural areas with skills for employment, self-employment and innovations in farming and agribusiness spheres.

The [Tajikistan Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Phase III \(2018-2021\)](#) aimed to strengthen relevant policy and reform development at the national level has been completed. The project results in 2021 included: developed and approved new version of the law on drinking water supply and wastewater disposal; developed and approved methodology for calculating tariffs for water supply and sanitation services; developed and approved technical guidance for water supply system and wastewater management in rural areas.

Energy. The [Green Energy SME Development Full-Size Project \(2018-2023\)](#) aimed to facilitate the transformation of Tajikistan's energy sector, in particular the emergence of independent energy entrepreneurs, has continued. An agreement was signed with the Tajik Ministry of Energy and Water Resources in October to develop the Energy Sector Development Concept, prepare awareness-raising stuff on energy conservation, energy efficiency and RES, and develop two special green loan products.

Climate change, ecosystems. Continued: (1) [Snow Leopard Protection \(2016-2022\)](#) aimed at conservation and sustainable use of Pamir Alay and Tian Shan ecosystems for snow leopard protection and sustainable community livelihoods; (2) [Policy Action for Climate Security in Central Asia \(2020-2022\)](#); (3) [Integrated Landscape Approach to Climate Resilience \(2019-2025\)](#); (4) [Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Capacities \(2016-2022\)](#) that supports the Government of Tajikistan to undertake a nation-wide risk assessment, establish and implement risk reduction measures and improve early warning.

UNDP in Turkmenistan

In 2021, UNDP project portfolio in Turkmenistan included 28 projects totaling US\$23.46 million.

SDGs. The [Partnering for SDG Acceleration, Phase II \(2021-2023\)](#) has been launched: series of meetings on updating the Sustainable Development Goals matrix, reporting, clarifying the responsible ministries and departments for each indicator for analysis and reporting was held; draft periodic national reports on the progress of the SDGs have been prepared; functional database of SDG indicators was created; and, a webinar on applying public-private partnerships to achieve the SDGs was organized. UN and the Government of Turkmenistan held the [first meeting](#) of the Joint Expert Group (JEG) to study and develop proposals for introduction of an Integrated National Fi-

ancing Framework (INFF) for SDG financing in Turkmenistan.

In particular, risk assessments results were presented and riskinfo.tj portal was launched, and 70,000 seedlings were planted in 217.5 ha of land.

The following projects have been completed: (1) [Conservation and Sustainable Management of High-Value Arid Ecosystems in the Lower Amu Darya Basin \(2020-2021\)](#). Results achieved in 2021: all required technical reviews and studies conducted (gender analysis, identification of project sites, financial planning, co-financing, etc.); validation workshop conducted and report developed summarizing the outcomes of the validation workshop and other consultations; (2) [Climate Promise: Support to NDC Revision in Tajikistan \(2020-2021\)](#). Results achieved in 2021: the NDC Implementation Plan developed (5-10 year) and submitted to the Government; three position papers for UNDP-led policy work in support of the climate action in Tajikistan developed; (3) [First Biennial Update Report and Fourth National Communication under the UNFCCC \(2016-2021\)](#) to establish effective institutional, legislative and policy frameworks in place to enhance the implementation of disaster and climate risk management measures at national and sub-national levels. *Results achieved in 2021:* multilateral and bilateral consultations with key national ministries and departments for the GHG emission forecast exercise conducted; training of the local experts and specialists, engaged in energy (hydro-power), transport, agriculture and industry sectors, delivered to capacitate them on the GHG emission current trends and forecast as well as on potential measures their agencies might undertake to minimize the climate change impact; (4) [Facilitating Climate Resilience in Tajikistan \(2017-2021\)](#) aimed to contribute to building climate resilient communities and address specific threats to lives and social infrastructure posed by climate-induced natural hazards. *Results achieved in 2021:* Dekonte LLC was contracted to conduct the assessment of the cost of no-adaptation studies in forestry and water sectors. Asian Institute for Technologies was involved to conduct assessment on introduction of climate risk insurance.

Sources: <https://open.undp.org/projects> and www.tj.undp.org/content/tajikistan/en/home.html

ancing Framework (INFF) for SDG financing in Turkmenistan.

Water management. The [Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Sustainable Water Management in Turkmenistan Project \(2015-2022\)](#) has continued. In 2021, a scientific and practical seminar for specialists of water and agricultural sectors, land users, producers of agricultural products and students of agricultural universities of the country was organized to address the issues of irrigation water use efficiency.

Land management. The [Conservation and Sustainable Management of Land Resources and High Value Ecosystems in the Aral Sea Basin for Multiple Benefits Project \(2020-2021\)](#) has been completed.

Climate change and environmental protection. Continued: (1) [Supporting Climate Resilient Livelihoods in Agriculture \(2016-2022\)](#). Results achieved in 2021: gender sensitive local adaptation plans for farmer associations (6) and livestock farms (2) were designed and adopted; 3,061 targeted farmers of which 25% are women-headed households – and their family members, have adopted improved climate resilient on-farm soil and water management approaches; [field days](#) dedicated to rational use of irrigation water were organized in Lebap and Dashoguz project pilot regions; a national [workshop](#) on the development of a system of measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of adaptation measures and a [roundtable](#) for discussion of a draft Law on agricultural extension services in Turkmenistan were organized; (2) [Sustainable Cities in Turkmenistan: Integrated](#)

[Green Urban Development in Ashgabat and Awaza \(2017-2023\)](#). In 2021, a [webinar](#) on the topic "Learning international experience in the development of regulatory technical documents for the development of renewable energy in Turkmenistan" and a [training seminar](#) "Practical use of new laboratory equipment and capacity building of the environmental monitoring and control system" were organized; a national [workshop](#) was held on preparation of the Fourth National Communication on Climate Change and Initial Biennial Update Report of Turkmenistan under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

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

UNDP in Uzbekistan

The directions of UNDP's work in Uzbekistan [reflect](#) the current UN Country Programme Document and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2021-2025. They also align with the national SDGs within the 2030 Agenda, and Uzbekistan's Development Strategy for 2017-2021.

In 2021, UNDP project portfolio in Uzbekistan included 40 projects with overall budget of US\$25.54 million.

SDGs. The [Financing for Sustainable Development Project](#) was continued in 2021. Overall objective of the project is to enhance dialogue, coordination, national capacities and policy measures aimed at facilitation of effective financing strategy for the achievement of national SDGs in Uzbekistan. A draft Comprehensive national financing strategy has been developed and presented to stakeholders in the course of the international roundtable "Comprehensive SDG financing strategy in Uzbekistan" (November 17).

Water management. The [Sustainable Management of Water Resources in Rural Areas in Uzbekistan: Component 2 on Technical Capacity Building](#) started in 2016 has been completed.

Land and ecosystem management. Continued: (1) [Sustainable Development of Mountain Ecosystems \(2017-2022\)](#). The project developed the Snow Leopard monitoring SMART application to increase the efficiency of animal survey; a training workshop was organized on the use of the application for pilot protected areas, Gissar state reserve and Chatkal state biosphere reserve. The project also introduced a computer software for protected areas that are working with the camera traps. The Cabinet of Ministers has approved an Action Plan on Snow Leopard Conservation for 2021-2030; (2) [Sustainable Rural Housing and Settlements in Uzbekistan \(2015-2023\)](#) 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; (3) [Complete HCFC Phase-Out in Uzbekistan \(2018-2024\)](#) through promotion of zero ODS and low GWP energy efficient technologies.

Climate change. As part of the [National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) Project \(2020-2023\)](#): the composition of an Inter-Agency Working Group on climate change adaptation was set and approved; UzHydromet has drafted the Climate Action Strategy for Uzbekistan until 2030 and submitted it to the Government; and, gender sensitive indicators were developed.

The following projects have been completed: (1) [Resilience of Farming to Climate Change Risks in Fergana Valley \(2019-2021\)](#); (2) [Developing Climate Resilience \(2014-2021\)](#) of farming and pastoral communities in the drought prone parts of Uzbekistan, specifically Karakalpakstan.

A number of new projects have been launched: (1) [Towards Green Recovery in Uzbekistan \(2021-2022\)](#): an International online forum "Building forward better: green recovery of Uzbekistan after the COVID-19" was organized on [March 3-4](#); (2) [Supporting an inclusive transition to a "green" economy in the Agri-food sector and development of a "climate-smart" Uzbek Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System \(UAKIS\) \(2021-2025\)](#); (3) [Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System \(2021-2028\)](#) to increase resilience of Uzbekistan communities to climate change-induced hazards.

Aral Sea. Continued: (1) [Sustainable Management of Lakes and Wetlands \(2020-2021\)](#) as pillars of a resilient Aral basin landscape supporting sustainable livelihoods; (2) [Building the Resilience of Local Communities against Health, Environmental and Economic Insecurities in the Aral Sea Region \(2020-2022\)](#); (3) [Unleashing young people's and vulnerable citizens' creativity and innovation by strengthening their adaptive capacity to address the economic and food insecurities in the exposed communities of the Aral Sea region \(2021-2023\)](#); (4) [Addressing the Urgent Human Insecurities in the Aral Sea \(2019-2022\)](#) to address the environmental, social and economic insecurities in the most vulnerable communities of the Aral Sea Region (see 2020 Yearbook, [Expeditions on the Exposed Bed of the Aral Sea in 2019-2020](#)).

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

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

On 27 November 2018, 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).

The UN General Assembly adopted on 18 May the resolution declaring the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies. For implementation of the resolution, a Roadmap and a list of priority innovation projects were approved by the President's Decree (PP-5202 of July 29, 2021).

The Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea Region⁸⁶ held its 2nd and 3rd meetings on 30 March and 8 July, respectively. To date, the Advisory Committee has made considerable progress. The Government of Uzbekistan presented the draft of the Integrated Roadmap for the achievement of environmental equilibrium and ensuring of socio-economic development in this region. The socio-economic trends for the last decades and 2030 forecast scenarios for Karakalpakstan have been presented by UNDP.

Resources of MPHSTF. By November 2021, US\$15.5 million has been mobilized in total. The Government of Uzbekistan provided its third tranche in the amount of US\$1.5 million in February, and the Alwaleed Philanthropies, a philanthropic organization in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, made a contribution of US\$200,000 to the Fund in May.

Projects. In 2021, the below projects were implemented:

- **Towards universal health coverage and security in Karakalpakstan (2021-2023):** A fourth expert mission was conducted on December 13-17, 2021 to Nukus, Kungrad and Muynaq. The outputs were: (1) a functional plan developed for the Muynaq-Kungrad medical network, including links to PHC; (2) preliminary ToRs drafted for a building plan for the Muynaq and Kungrad hospitals, including blue, green and resilient infrastructure.

- **Unleashing young people's and vulnerable citizens' creativity and innovation by strengthening their adaptive capacity to address the economic and food insecurities in the exposed communities of the Aral Sea region (2021-2023),** the objective of which is to increase the efficiency and innovations in agriculture, promoting smart and digitalized communities, with favorable infrastructure and facilitating active labor market initiatives. *Results achieved in 2021:* (1) FAO conducted six trainings (two on horticulture, two on conservative agriculture, two on fishery) with a total of 155 beneficiaries, most of them women and youth;

(2) access to clean drinking water has been provided to Kungrad central Republican clinic, polyclinic, and two schools with a total number of beneficiaries of 7,208 people.

- **Investing in a resilient future of Karakalpakstan by improving health, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene and wellbeing of adolescents and by harnessing the talents of youth during and after COVID-19 (2021-2022)** aimed to address the immediate needs of vulnerable populations, in terms of safe and clean schools and health care facilities, and other health and nutrition needs and to strengthen human capital and the resilience of youth in three districts (Muynak, Kungrad, and Bozatau). *Results achieved in 2021:* process of developing a knowledge hub (<https://bilim.tma.uz/>), which will serve as a one-stop digital platform for communication, information sharing, and a repository of all training materials and resources on health topics for healthcare workers in the country to support telemedicine and distance learning systems; equipped 88 young people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized with social and living skills, and supported 15 youth-led projects.

- **Improving the quality of perinatal care service to most vulnerable mothers and newborns (2019-2021),** objective of which is to ensure the population's access to perinatal services through infrastructure improvement and provision of essential equipment to medical facilities and increase the quality of maternal and newborn health care services. *Results achieved in 2021:* 730 healthcare providers were trained on evidence-based maternal and newborn survival practices; 70% of Karakalpakstan's population is served with modernized target inter-district perinatal centers in Kungrad and Beruniy districts and Nukus city.

- **Addressing the urgent human insecurities in the Aral Sea region through promoting sustainable rural development (2019-2021),** aimed to mitigate the negative environmental, social and economic consequences for region's more vulnerable communities. *Results achieved in 2021:* 5 infrastructure projects on water purification and supply of drinking water implemented in Takhtakupir district; developed training module and brochures on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) for the population and a total of 150 people trained in WASH rules; two research expeditions were conducted on the dried seabed of the Aral Sea, covering 1.2 million ha of land. The book "Monitoring of the Dried Seabed of the Aral Sea" was published in Russian and English.

Source: www.aral.mpf.uz, Newsletter, issue 01

⁸⁶ The Advisory Committee on sustainable development of the Aral Sea region was launched on 1 December 2020 under the MPHSTF to serve as a single platform for accelerating sustainable development in the Aral Sea region

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.

Activities in 2021

The 34th UN-Water Meeting was convened as a virtual event on 15-17 March 2021. The participants discussed advancing SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, the UN Conference on Midterm Review of the Water Action Decade 2018-2028, and planning for World Water Day 2021 and the UN World Water Development Report 2021.

The UN World Water Development Report 2021 “Valuing Water” was launched. The report shows that the inability to recognize the value of water is the main cause of water waste and misuse. It seems necessary to examine water’s various dimensions in order to understand the various aspects of its “value”. This is especially true in times of growing scarcity and against the backdrop of population growth and climate change.

The SDG 6 Summary Progress Update 2021 report provides the latest available country, region and world data on all of the SDG 6 global indicators. It outlines how far we have come in implementing the different aspects of SDG 6 in the different parts of the world, and where we are lagging behind.

The UN-Water issued two analytical briefs: (1) *Water-use efficiency*; (2) *The United Nations global water conventions: Fostering sustainable development and peace*.

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 2021, during the 9th session of the Meeting of Parties to the Water Convention, the Program

of Work of the Water Convention for the period 2022-2024 has been adopted. It has been developed in a consultative manner and is organized across seven program areas: awareness and inclusion, monitoring and evaluation, integrated and intersectoral approach, climate change adaptation, financing, reporting, partnerships and knowledge. In 2021 Kazakhstan chaired the Water Convention.

Activities in 2021

Under the Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE organized the following events: 31st and 32nd meetings of the Bureau to the Water Convention (January 21-22, April 29-30); 5th meeting of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation (February 26); 25th and 26th meeting of the Bureau of the Protocol on Water and

Health (March 4-5, November 18-19); 6th meeting of the Expert Group on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation (March 24-25); Global workshop on building climate resilience by improving water management and sanitation at national and transboundary levels (March 29-31); 12th meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (March 31); 12th meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health (April 14-15); 3rd joint meeting of the Working Group on IWRM and Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (April 26-28); Launch of the second Progress Report on Transboundary Water Cooperation: Global status of SDG indicator 6.5.2 and acceleration needs (September 14); 9th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (September 29-October 1).

Details: <https://unece.org/info/events/unece-meetings-and-events/environmental-policy/water-convention>

UNECE Activities in Central Asia

Transboundary cooperation. In 2021 UNECE continued to support the Secretariat of the Chu-Talas Commission and was in close contact with UNDP regarding the process of harmonization and approval of

the SAP. In particular, UNECE provided guidance and advice through several transboundary and national discussions and capacity building events under the Convention. Consequently, the SAP was endorsed by

the Chu-Talas Commission on 15 April 2021. *Project results are available on:* <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-convention/trans-boundary-cooperation-chu-and-talas-river-basin> and in the brochure on https://unece.org/DAM/env/water/Chu-Talas/RUS_ClimateProofingChuTalas_web_10Dec2018.pdf

National Policy Dialogues. The work to support NPDs as part of the EU Water Initiative is ongoing in close cooperation with OECD within a new regional project under **WECOOP** program financed by EU.

The following events were organized: (1) a **round-table expert meeting** was held in hybrid format in Tajikistan on February 2. A new methodology for calculating water balance of water bodies was presented. There are plans for wide application of the methodology in a variety of river basins. This work will have a profound impact on advancing scientifically justified approaches for water management in Tajikistan. The methodology was transferred to the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan for adoption; (2) an **expert workshop** to discuss approaches for water management took place in hybrid form in the Kyrgyz Republic on June 11. The participants discussed damage compensation approaches for water resources and water facilities, indicators of water security, especially in the transboundary context, Kyrgyzstan's cooperation with its neighboring countries on the protection and use of transboundary water resources and specifically reporting on the SDG 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation, and priorities for the national water sector development; (3) the **meeting** of the Working Group in preparation to the seventh meeting of the Inter-agency Coordination Council of the National Water Policy Dialogue (NPD) took place in hybrid format. The Working Group discussed Kazakhstan's water policy agenda, including the status of hydro-technical infrastructure, the use of water-saving technologies on irrigated areas, as well as cooperation with its neighboring countries on the protection and use of water resources of transboundary rivers.

Cooperation on dam safety. UNECE continued supporting the Central Asian region in building human and institutional capacity on the safe management of dams under the project Capacity Building for Cooperation on Dam Safety in Central Asia⁸⁷. Among other items, the virtual regional meeting (June 23) discussed a draft agreement on regional cooperation on dam safety. Meeting participants reiterated

the importance of such a document, which if endorsed, would provide a legal and institutional platform for the countries to facilitate their efforts to collectively manage transboundary dams in the region, including response measures.

SPECA Program. The 24th Session of the Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA WG on WEE) was held online on 10-11 November. The main objective of this Session was to discuss opportunities for intersectoral and regional cooperation on water, energy and environmental challenges in the context of climate change. Meeting participants noted that climate change poses increasingly severe risks for ecosystems, human health and the economy of the SPECA sub-region. Cross-sectoral and regional cooperation on the energy, water, and natural resources has potential to provide economic gains, improve the environment and increase the wellbeing of citizens. Cooperation can also support the region's adaptation to climate change, including response to natural disasters. See also "**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**".

Project "Regional mechanisms for the low-carbon, climate-resilient transformation of the energy-water-land Nexus in Central Asia", funded by Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI) from the German Federal Ministry for Environment⁸⁸. In partnership with OECD, SIC ICWC, EBRD and FAO, UNECE will implement a project funded by IKI to improve the management of water, energy, land, and environmental resources in Central Asia in the face of climate change, through analytical work and support to policy development and cooperation. The project has three main objectives: to mainstream the nexus principles into development planning process, to finance pilot projects to demonstrate benefits of investments in the "nexus", and to organize regional policy dialogues and facilitate capacity development. In particular, the UNECE will provide substantive input on nexus and transboundary cooperation, and brings political convening power to the consortium. The project will deliver a regional strategy and related national policy packages, the regional and country level dialogues, supported respectively by meetings of SPECA and National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) on Integrated Water resources Management.

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.

⁸⁷ The Project has come to an end on 30 June 2021 and an evaluation report could be obtained on https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/ENV_EV~2.PDF

⁸⁸ The five years project is expected to start in Autumn 2022

Activities in 2021

The IWAC team presented the [electronic brochure](#)⁸⁹ on "Water resources allocation in a transboundary context to strengthen water cooperation between the countries of Eurasia". The publication provides an overview of the existing regional cooperation in the basins of transboundary rivers of the Eurasian countries, a brief description of the legal and institutional framework for such cooperation and the distribution of water resources in transboundary basins. It also examines the existing problems of interaction in the allocation of water resources and offers recommendations for their resolution.

The Working Group on Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the Bureau of the Water Convention held its meetings in Nur-Sultan: (1) [3rd meeting](#), which approved the draft IWAC Program of work for 2022-2024, took note of the information on the 32nd meeting of the Bureau of the Water Convention, and the IWAC was invited to create a roadmap for the activities of the National Water Policy Dialogue for 2022-2024; (2) [4th meeting](#), which decided on the members of a delegation of Kazakhstan to participate in the Ninth Session of the Parties to the Water Convention, as well as on the candidacy from the Republic of Kazakhstan, to the Bureau of the Water Convention; (3) [5th meeting](#), which decided to prepare proposals for the imple-

mentation of decisions made at the Ninth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, as well as prepare cost estimations for representatives of Kazakhstan in the activities planned under the Water Convention in 2022.

During the 9th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention Kazakhstan declared on [completion of its chairmanship](#) in the Bureau of the Convention. The representative of Estonia was elected as the Chair of the Bureau of the Convention, while the representative of Kazakhstan was elected as the Deputy Chair of the Bureau (September 29-October 1, Geneva).

On June 17, the Director of IWAC Serik Akhmetov had a [meeting](#) with representatives of the USAID Regional Office. During the meeting USAID representatives were introduced with the activities of the IWAC and possible areas of cooperation within the framework of the USAID Water and Environment Project were identified.

IWAC in cooperation with the WECOOP Project organized an online training workshop to facilitate the exchange of experience between the Slovak Republic and the CA countries in the field of hydrometeorological services ([November 10-11](#)).

Source: www.iwac.kz

6.7. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



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 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 2021, under SPECA, the following online events were held in Tashkent: (1) [24th session](#) of the Working Group (WG) on Water, Energy and Environment (No-

ember 10-11); (2) SPECA [Economic Forum](#) "Sustainable transport and trade for a green and inclusive economy after the pandemic" (November 17-18); (3) [16th session](#) of the SPECA Governing Council which adopted the Tashkent Statement, listened to progress reports of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups, presented a draft SPECA Work Plan for 2022-2023 and adopted it (November 19). The Governing Council has decided that SPECA Chair country for 2022, the exact dates and venue of the 2022 SPECA Economic Forum and the 17th session of the SPECA Governing Council would be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

Two e-learning courses have been developed: [Integrated Action on Biodiversity/Ecosystems, Health and Climate](#); and, [Water, the Ocean and the Sustainable Development Goals](#).

The CA countries have been assisted in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, in particular: (1) the ToR on application of carbon market tools in CA was developed; (2) the Regional dialogue on carbon pricing was organized for the CA countries on 25-26 February; (3) a regional training workshop was held for CA specialists, focused on inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and requirements for transparency reporting as part of the Paris Agreement (May

⁸⁹ Developed within the framework of the regional project

1-20); (4) the [Practical Handbook on Methodologies for GHG Emissions Inventories and Paris Agreement Reporting](#) was drafted.

Two policy briefs have been published: [SDG 6 & COVID-19: Accelerating Progress Towards SDG 6 in](#)

the Asia-Pacific Region in the Context of COVID-19 Recovery; and, [Mending the Broken Relationship with Nature: Tackling the Biodiversity, Ecosystems, Health and Climate Change Nexus Post-COVID-19](#).

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.

Key priorities for 2021-2025

The current UNRCCA Programme of Action for 2021-2025 focuses on five key priority areas, which correspond to the Centre's mandate: (1) promoting preventive diplomacy among the Governments of Central Asia; (2) monitoring and early warning in support of conflict prevention; (3) building partnerships for prevention, including with regional and sub-regional organizations; (4) strengthening the United Nations preventive diplomacy in Central Asia; (5) encouraging cooperation and interaction between Central Asia and Afghanistan in close cooperation with the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

UNRCCA Activities in 2021

Work was continued on the three-year Project in support of regional transboundary water cooperation in Central Asia over 2019-2021; work contacts and coordination were maintained with EC IFAS, SIC ICWC, SIWI, SDC, CAREC, VNIIGiM named by A. Kostyakov, as well as with UN agencies, such as UNESCO, UNECE, UNDP, etc. UNRCCA representatives, first of all, the Special Representative of the Secretary General, Head of UNRCCA took part in regional events organized both by CA governments and partner organizations.

UNRCCA organized: (1) an online [capacity-building workshop](#) dedicated to water and health nexus as well as gender equality for effective management of water resources in the region: "Challenges and Opportunities in Central Asia and Afghanistan in the post-COVID World", together with the Government of Canada. At the outcome of the event, some practical recommendations were formulated with the view to follow-up and spur this important work in the region aimed at empowerment of women in all spheres of societal life (March 15-16); (2) online capacity building [seminar and the meeting](#) of experts from



Central Asia and Afghanistan, dedicated to cooperation in the field of water and energy in the Central Asian region. Participants were able to familiarize themselves with the application of environmental and social frameworks to enable development projects on international watercourses. The seminar was also focused on addressing the promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation on transboundary water resources management in Central Asia through applying legal instruments governing common and sustainable exploitation of transboundary watercourses. The experts continued their work on inventory of regional agreements and other normative acts related to water and energy cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin. In addition, the participants exchanged and updated each other on the state-of-play in bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the neighboring countries in the water-energy and environmental fields (June 15-16); (3) [online meeting](#) of national experts from the Central Asian states, to discuss issues pertaining to support of the regional cooperation in the field of water, energy, and climate. The participants expressed their initial views on the draft of the renewed UNRCCA project to support regional cooperation in Central Asia on water, energy and climate for 2022-2025. The experts provided their feedback as regards future work aimed at enhancing cooperation on the UNRCCA platform (October 27); (4) two meetings of national experts. Delegations had an opportunity to discuss and present their views and suggestions on the draft text of the renewed UNRCCA strategy in support of water, energy and environmental cooperation among the states of Central Asia for 2022-2025. Finally, the renewed strategy was approved and adopted by national experts ([November 26, December 21-22](#)).

In cooperation with SIC ICWC, four Aral Sea Basin transboundary water [early warning bulletins](#) were issued and the fourth issue of [2020 Water Yearbook: Central Asia and Around the Globe](#) was published. The Center also supports activities of the regional knowledge management e-platform "Water Unites", <https://waterunites-ca.org>.

Source: UNRCCA

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.

WMO Activities in 2021

The following events were organized in 2021: (1) a [webinar](#) on COVID-19, air quality and meteorological factor (January 12); (2) [virtual session](#) of WMO's Executive Council, to discuss a major update to WMO's data policy, closing the gap in the global observing system and a plan of action for hydrology (June 14-25); (3) the [World Meteorological Congress](#), as a result of which the three initiatives were endorsed - WMO Unified Data Policy, the Global Basic Observing Network, and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (October 11-22).

WMO spearheaded the new [Water and Climate Coalition](#) – a voluntary effort to close the information gap in the water, food and energy nexus and tackle the growing water and climate-related impacts. The Coalition supports the implementation of the UN Water Action Decade through the UN-Water Global Accelerator Framework for SDG 6 with a concrete action mechanism.

Projects in CA and Afghanistan. Continued: (1) [Afghanistan Early Warning System Project](#) (US\$ 2.4 mil-

lion); (2) [Afghanistan: Hydromet & Early Warning Services for Resilience](#) (US\$ 3.7 million); (3) [Uzbekistan Climate Data Restoration Project](#).

Publications. WMO Bulletin Vol. 70 (1) – [The Ocean, Our Climate and Weather](#) and Vol. 70 (2) [WMO Unified Data Policy; WMO Air Quality and Climate Bulletin](#); report [United In Science 2021](#); report [The State of Climate Services 2021: Water](#). Other publications – on <https://library.wmo.int/>.

Source: wmo.int

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.

IFAD Activities in 2021

Kyrgyzstan

Since 1996, IFAD has invested US\$ 97.8 million in rural development in Kyrgyzstan. IFAD activities in the Republic are based on the [Kyrgyz Republic Country strategic opportunities programme 2018-2022](#). The goal is to support inclusive rural transformation that enables smallholders to reduce poverty and strengthen livelihood resilience. This goal will be achieved through two interrelated strategic objectives: (1) increase smallholders' equitable and sustainable returns through the improvement of services and development of livestock product value chains that enable rural producers to capitalize on market opportunities; and (2) enhance smallholders' resilience to climate change through the implementation of innovative approaches that strengthen resilience and ensure sustainable incomes from diversified livelihoods systems.

The implementation of the [Access to Markets Project](#) continued. A new [Regional Resilient Pastoral Communities Project](#) was approved for 2021-2027. The Project will reduce rural poverty and food insecurity in Kyrgyzstan by increasing resilience, income, and

economic growth in farming communities. The nationwide project is expected to reach at least 557,000 rural households.

Tajikistan

IFAD has been investing in the rural poor in Tajikistan since 2008, by strengthening local institutions and grassroots organizations, and expanding their access to land, productive technologies and resources. Key activities include: natural resource management; implementing land reforms; strengthening local institutions and grass-roots organizations.

The [Community-Based Agricultural Support Project](#) continued in 2021. A new [Community-based Agricultural Support Project 'plus'](#) was approved for the period of 2021-2028. IFAD financing will amount to US\$ 13.5 million.

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan joined to IFAD in 2011. Since 2014, IFAD has been financing three investment projects totaling more than US\$ 435.3 million (IFAD's contribution – US\$ 128.7 million) and directly targeting about 105,000 rural families. 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.

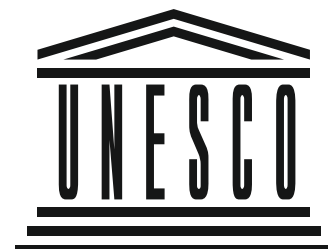
Implementation of [Dairy Value Chains Development Program](#) and [Agriculture Diversification and Moder-](#)

[nization Project](#) continued in 2021. It was decided also in 2021 to open a representative office of IFAD in Tashkent.

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.



UNESCO Activities in 2021

UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty

Project Activities. Under the "Governance of Groundwater Resources in Transboundary Aquifers" project, funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and implemented by UNESCO, the Almaty Office (1) supported participation of experts on the modeling of Pretashkent Transboundary Aquifer to take part in the 48th IAH Congress "Inspiring Groundwater". Project experts from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan made a presentation on the "Regional groundwater systems and transboundary aquifers", based on the preliminary results of the numerical modeling for the Pretashkent Transboundary Aquifer (Brussels, [September 6-10](#)); (2) organized a technical working group meeting to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and cooperation between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan experts on groundwater and discuss the joint model of Pretashkent Transboundary Aquifer and its finalization (Tashkent, November 17); (3) organized a workshop on groundwater governance at the TIIAME aiming at students and young professionals in groundwater (Tashkent, November 18-19).

Conducted assessments (1) of the current state of groundwater-related higher educational programs in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The assessment identifies gaps, needs, and challenges professionals in this field face in the educational system, and assesses the linkages between the requirements of the employees and current educational programs; (2) on the status of cooperation on transboundary aquifers (with focus on groundwater) in Central Asia. The assessment provides with recommendations from experts on facilitation of countries' collaboration and strengthening the capacities in groundwater management; (3) of water management in Batken Region for more data on water from the perspective of water availability and management, and focusing on groundwater. The assessment proposes novel potential measures focusing on groundwater in the region, as the mechanism for reducing tensions on water issues.

Events. The Almaty Office (1) in cooperation with Center for Sustainable Development, CARAWAN network and SIWI, organized a workshop for Central Asian countries' experts in preparation of NDCs to the Paris Agreement, in order to build capacities on how to better mainstream water related issues and climate change in the context of the NDCs (September 14-15);

(2) co-organized workshop on "Water resources management and climate security in Central Asia", in order to train the future decision makers on legislative aspects of water resources management, with a special focus on groundwater governance and demonstration of best practices in climate change adaptation measures (September 27-29); (3) organized a training workshop to develop capacities of experts working in the government organizations and scientific institutions in Central Asia, for effective use of modern remote sensing approaches for precipitation estimation ([September 27-30](#)); (4) conducted a meeting for teachers with a purpose to present the preliminary results of educational modules developed in cooperation with the Center for Sustainable Development for middle school students on water resources and its importance in combating COVID-19, and consult with teachers on how to further elaborate them (December 9); (5) organized a roundtable with the representatives of UNESCO Water Family in Central Asia: national committees of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO (UNESCO-IHP), UNESCO Chairs on water, the regional and international centers in water under the auspices UNESCO, with the aim to facilitate discussion and propose an action for cooperation under the new IHP Strategy 2022-2030 (December 10).

UNESCO Office in Tashkent

Assessment of water education in higher educational institutions in Uzbekistan. The survey conducted in HEIs showed that the number of water-related educational programs had increased twofold, and the number of graduating students per 100,000 dwellers had grown from 2 (one professional per 48,878 people) in 2016 to 3.4 (one professional per 29,090 people) in 2021. The results were analyzed additionally to get insight into quality of the education and find duplications in order to improve the educational programs based on market demands.

SIC ICWC has started work on the review of water security in Uzbekistan. This is the first quantitative and qualitative assessment of water management at the level of administrative territories. First, a model for the water security concept will be developed and then assessment will be conducted for Khorezm province.

Source: UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty, UNESCO Office in Tashkent, SIC ICWC, www.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 CA States in 2021

Kazakhstan

Agriculture. Ongoing projects: (1) "Elaboration of the State Program 2022-2026 (including the Concept) of Agro-Industrial Development" (2020-2022, US\$370,000); (2) "Supporting investments in smallholders inclusive agrifood value chain development in Kazakhstan" (2020-2022, US\$474,429).

Planned projects: (1) "Promoting the development of land market and supporting the development of small family farms" (2022-2023, US\$ 275,000); (2) "Technical support to the development of an International Agri-food Hub" (2022, US\$ 95,000); (3) "Preparation of GCF project CN on sustainable and CC resilient development" (2022, US\$ 60,000).

Kyrgyzstan

FAO's assistance in Kyrgyzstan is shaped by the 2018-2022 FAO's CPF.

Agriculture and food. Ongoing projects: (1) "Support for development of sustainable value chains for climate-smart agriculture" (2021-2023, US\$ 350,000); (2) "Promoting accelerated green investment in agriculture through capacity building of national financial institutions" (2021-2023, US\$ 300,000); (3) "Assessment and improvement of institutional capacities on food control, food safety management systems and international standards" (2021-2022, US\$ 75,000); (4) "Enhancing capacity for food safety management in the Kyrgyz fruit and vegetable industry" (2020-2022, US\$ 570,000); (5) "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" (2019-2022, US\$ 500,000).

Tajikistan

FAO's assistance in Tajikistan is shaped by the 2019-2021 FAO's CPF.

Agriculture and fisheries. Ongoing projects: (1) "Support of warm-water fishery sector" (2021-2022, US\$ 95,000); (2) "Introduce innovative approaches for adopting best technologies for apricot production in Sughd" (2021-2022, US\$ 92,000); (3) "Provision of Technical Assistance on E-agriculture to the Ministry of Agriculture" (2021-2022, US\$ 90,000); (4) "Agrobiodiversity conservation for food security and livelihood improvement" (2021-2022, US\$ 91,000); (5) "Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 on the Food Systems and Food Security" (2020-2022, US\$ 95,000); (6) "Support to improve sustainable potato production and management" (2020-2022, US\$ 95,000); (7) "Enabling market access for Tajik agricultural products through improved food safety systems" (2018-2022, US\$ 197,000).

Turkmenistan

The Country Programming Framework – a document framing the partnership for the period 2021-2025 was

signed in December. FAO is ready to support Turkmenistan in three areas: (1) collecting and analyzing data related, among others, to SDGs; (2) contributing to a more productive, effective, and digital agriculture sector with an increased export potential; and, (3) helping disaster prevention and response, as well as sustainable management of natural resources.

An Agreement was signed between FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey on the provision of services for the development of a national strategy of Turkmenistan to improve production and mechanization of cotton picking.

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov and FAO Subregional Coordinator for Central Asia Viorel Gutsu discussed a draft agreement on the opening of FAO's representative office in Turkmenistan.

Uzbekistan

The FAO-Uzbekistan Country Programming Framework (CPF) for 2021-2025 was officially launched. The framework agreement foresees the transformation of the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption, and disposal of food products originating from agriculture, forestry, and fisheries towards more sustainability, taking into consideration the wider economic, social, and natural environment. The total resource budget for implementation of the CPF is expected to be approximately US\$ 17 million.

Agriculture and natural resource management. Ongoing projects: (1) "Recovery and development of the potato sector in response to COVID-19" (2021-2023, US\$ 195,000); (2) "Strengthening sustainable food systems through geographical indications" (2021-2022, US\$ 250,000); (3) "Rice Crop Production and Management Support" (2020-2022, US\$ 100,000); (4) "Support in implementation of inclusive agricultural policies" (2020-2022, US\$ 100,000).

A new FAO four-year project "Smart farming for the future generation" was launched. The project with the total budget of US\$ 3.4 million will be implemented in Uzbekistan and Vietnam. In Uzbekistan, 3 demonstration plots will be organized for development of capacity, provision of opportunities in agribusiness and technical support.

Under the regional project "Integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt affected agricultural production systems in Central Asia and Turkey" (CACILM-2), a new laboratory for GIS was opened at the TSAU. The laboratory will serve as a tool for monitoring land use changes, mapping land degradation trends in Uzbekistan and will facilitate the

implementation of the projects on land degradation neutrality (LDN).

Forest management. Ongoing projects: (1) “Sustainable management of forests in Mountain and Valley areas in Uzbekistan” (2018-2025, US\$ 3.2 million).

Aral Sea. Continued project “Unleashing young people’s and vulnerable citizens’ creativity and innovation of the Aral Sea region” (2020-2023, US\$ 180,000).

FAO at the regional level

In 2021, the following projects were continued:

- Developing capacity for strengthening food security and nutrition in Caucasus and Central Asia;

- Programme to improve national and regional locust management in Caucasus and Central Asia in order to safeguard rural population food security and livelihoods. The following events were held in 2021: (1) e-training on locust monitoring and information management, including on automated system for data collection (ASDC) and Caucasus and Central Asia locust monitoring (CCALM) system (May); (2) online [technical workshop](#) on locusts in CCA, which addressed such matters as implementation of work program in 2021 and the work plan for 2022, CCALM, and risk reduction of locust control operations (November 23-25); (3) second regional workshop on locust data collection, analysis, forecast and reporting in CCA. The workshop allowed discussing a number of topics, including: the use of ASDC during the 2020 locust campaign; the use of GIS that can be complemented by QGIS as additional instrument for analysis

of data from different sources (March 16-18); (4) the second Project Steering Committee, which approved the 2022 locust campaign (December 7);

- Integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey (CACILM-2). The extraordinary Regional Project Steering Committee decided to extend the project till November 2024. Crop growers and livestock breeders in Turkmenistan took part in the workshops of the Farmer Field School in October;

- Lifecycle Management of Pesticides and Disposal of POPs Pesticides in Central Asian Countries and Turkey, with the GEF support;

- Strengthening regional collaboration and national capacities for management of wheat rust diseases and resistance breeding in Central Asia and the Caucasus;

- Central Asian Desert Initiative (CADI). The FAO Farmer Field School (FFS) concept continued to be developed in Uzbekistan. The following events were organized: (1) a series of FFS sessions on improved crop production on two pilot sites in Uzbekistan (January); (2) a workshop on income-generating activities for rural women of Bukhara and Navoi provinces (October 26); (3) First International Conference on Cold Winter Deserts. Researchers and experts presented their papers on biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, ecosystem services, food security, and water use in cold winter deserts in CA (December 2-3).

Source: www.fao.org

6.13. 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.

During the seventy-session of ILC in 2021, reports were presented on the following topics: protection of the atmosphere, provisional application of treaties, immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction,

succession of States in respect of State responsibility, general principles of law, etc.

The Commission had before it the sixth report of the Special Rapporteur on the topic “Protection of the atmosphere” (A/CN.4/736), comments and observations received from Governments and international organizations (A/CN.4/735) on the draft preamble and guidelines, as adopted on first reading. The Commission adopted, on second reading, the entire set of draft guidelines on the protection of the atmosphere, comprising a draft preamble and 12 draft guidelines, together with commentaries to this set.

Source: ILC Report, 2021

6.14. 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 2020, 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). For the nature of the case and proceedings, see the [ICJ report](#).

Source: ICJ report at the 76th Session of UNGA, 2021

