



# SECTION 6

United Nations and  
its Specialized Agencies

## 6.1. General Assembly



77<sup>th</sup> Session  
United Nations  
General Assembly

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 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly themed "A watershed moment: transformative solution to interlocking challenges" was opened under the chairmanship of Csaba Kőrösi, Hungary in New-York on 13 September.

Climate change, combating the COVID-19 and other infections, sustainable development, developing countries' debts, contemporary conflicts and crises were in the focus.

The High-Level Week (20-26 September) formed the core events and brought together Heads of State and Government and foreign ministers all over the world. For the CA countries, the year of 2022 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of membership in the UN.

### Statements from Central Asia countries at the general debate of the UNGA 77<sup>th</sup> Session

#### Address by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan



"Kazakhstan have pledged the total transformation of the oil-and coal-dependent energy sector into a net zero economy by 2060"

**The world fell victim to a new round of conflicts.** "The world appears to have entered a new, increasingly bitter period of geopolitical confrontation. The long-standing international system based on order and responsibility is giving way to a new, more chaotic and unpredictable one. The security architecture is eroding and mutual distrust between world powers is dangerously deepening. The world is falling prey to a new set of military conflicts. For the first time in two generations, we face the prospect of the use of nuclear weapons and not even as a last resort. New fault lines are creating artificial barriers and economic isolation."

Economic and political sanctions have become "a new norm" that erodes the supply chains that ensure food security, threatening millions, especially in

vulnerable communities. The President Tokayev expressed concern about soaring inflation, job losses and fears of a worldwide recession. All these crises by his words severely hamper the urgent action to combat climate change.

**The three most important UN principles are interdependent.** The President stated about the need to promote the three most important UN principles: sovereign equality of states, territorial integrity of states, and peaceful coexistence between states. "These three principles are interdependent. To respect one is to respect the other two." President of Kazakhstan called to rethink the linkages between three primordial principles, "staunchly defend these values, the UN as its core, and the spirit of cooperation." "In other words, we cannot simply shrug our shoulders and agree with polarization and division."

**Disarmament.** The President advocated for elaborating new mechanisms to ensure disarmament and nonproliferation, called for urgent measures to reduce biological risks and dangers. In this context, he reiterated his earlier proposal to establish an International Agency for Biological Safety.

**Climate change.** Kazakhstan has pledged the "total transformation of the oil-and coal-dependent energy sector into a net zero economy by 2060." To save the planet, investments are needed "at greater levels than we have ever seen"; "climate action cannot come at the expense of development or modernization."

**Reliable supplier of grain.** Kazakhstan will be a reliable supplier of grain and other food-staples" to world markets: "My country, as the world's seventh largest grain producer, is the breadbasket of Central Asia. We are committed to utilizing this agricultural potential to

fight global food insecurity. Kazakhstan will continue to act as a reliable supplier of grain and other socially important food products, especially to the poorest countries."

**Caspian Sea.** While advocating the development of a diversified global transit and transport infrastructure, in particular the land corridor from Asia to Europe, the President of Kazakhstan said that the Caspian Sea should become a "sea of new opportunities." "The Trans-Caspian International Transport Route or Middle Corridor has received a new impetus. We expect cargo volume through Kazakhstan to increase significantly in the years ahead."

**Regional cooperation.** [...] "We intend to work together with all stakeholders to address a pressing regional agenda that includes climate change, the Aral Sea, rational use of water resources, border delimitation, combating extremism, and expanding intra-regional

trade. That is why we consider it is important to establish the UN Regional Centre for SDGs for Central Asia and Afghanistan in Almaty. Kazakhstan sees the future Afghanistan as a truly independent, neutral, united, prosperous state, living in peace with its neighbors. Therefore, we support the difficult process of nation-building in that country including life-saving humanitarian assistance." [...]

**Access to energy.** Kazakhstan will help mitigate the most immediate impacts of limited access to energy and critical raw materials caused by trade and supply chain disruptions.

*Full version of the statement:*

<https://www.akorda.kz/en/speech-by-the-president-of-kazakhstan-kassym-jomart-tokayev-at-the-general-debate-of-the-77th-session-of-the-un-general-assembly-2082327>

*Record of video-address:*

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EdQRgY4\\_sA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EdQRgY4_sA)

## Address by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic

**The UN is a moral authority.** "Perhaps the founding states of the UN, who signed the international agreement to establish the organization in San Francisco in 1945, naively believed that wars, destruction, hunger, and suffering would end forever? I don't think so. Success can always be achieved if there is a mutual understanding that disputes and disagreements must be resolved in a spirit of good faith and compromise." The UN has played an important unifying role as a moral authority in maintaining peace and security and providing for people's needs and wants. The country has consistently and strictly followed the UN Charter and have been fulfilling its commitments in good faith.

**Kyrgyz-Tajik border.** Speaking about the situation related to the recent aggravation on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border, President Zhaparov noted that two close neighboring peoples "have been living side by side for a long time, united by common values, culture, traditions and customs, a common religion." [...] "It is all the more painful for me to report that on September 14, 15 and 16 of this year, military clashes took place in the south of Kyrgyzstan." About 140 thousand civilians have been evacuated from border settlements. Great material damage was caused to civilian and military facilities: houses, administrative buildings, schools, frontier posts. [...] Taking into account that our trust has been weakened by the recent lawless actions of our neighbor, Kyrgyzstan is "ready to continue negotiations in any format with Tajik side in conformity with the principles of justice and international law."

"The Kyrgyz side does not claim foreign lands, nor does it intend to give a centimeter of its land to anyone. We are convinced that all border and internal issues should be resolved over the negotiation table, and there is such will and readiness on our part."

**Sustainable development based on own capacity.** The Kyrgyz Republic is committed to the SDGs and



*"Kyrgyzstan fully supports the UN as the only universal structure authorized by all of us – the member states of the UN – to solve the challenges faced by humanity"*

their gradual implementation, taking into account national capacity. The country's own potential should be the main source and engine of sustainable development.

As it is known, Central Asia has no direct access to the sea, in this regard, the construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railroad is an important regional project.

Its implementation will expand international trade and investment, transit and tourism opportunities for Central Asia, which is located on the route of the Great Silk Road.

**Creative Economy.** As part of the ongoing policy, priority is given to the development of a "green", "digital" and "creative" economy. The country is actively developing the locomotive of the "green economy":

hydropower industry; small and medium-sized hydropower plants are put into operation. Our esteemed neighbors – Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan – will participate in the construction of the largest hydroelectric power plant – Kambarata, because this will strengthen the energy security and optimize the use of water resources in the region.

Full version of the statement:

<https://mfa.gov.kg/en/osnovnoe-menyu/press-sluzhba/novosti/vystuplenie-prezidenta-sadyra-zhaparova-na-obshchih-debatah-77-y-sessii-generalnoy-assamblei-oon>

Record of video-address:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZhJygcZgRw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZhJygcZgRw)

## Address of the Foreign Minister of Tajikistan



*"The impact of climate change on water resources is another crucial topic that requires our concerted efforts"*

**Conference on Border Security.** As the existing world order transforms, such threats as terrorism, extremism, drug and arms trafficking, cybercrime and other forms of cross-border organized crime have a tendency to increase exponentially. To further discuss the above-mentioned issues, the Government of Tajikistan, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and its partners will be holding a High-Level International Conference "International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists" in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on October 18-19.<sup>194</sup>

**Sustainable Development Goals.** "Tajikistan strongly reaffirms its commitments to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. As we are lagging behind on many SDGs, the Government of Tajikistan has taken bold steps toward integrating SDGs into national policies and development plans. Despite substantial progress made towards the achievement of SDGs, there are significant risks, such as climate-related hazards and disasters that could slow or reverse Tajikistan's path towards the realization of 2030 Agenda and threaten agricultural productivity and food security."

**Water – climate issues.** "This year the world has witnessed unprecedented water-related natural disasters.

While we all have been struggling with the consequences of these water-related disasters, we are becoming increasingly aware that water is vital and a resource we must value, protect, and manage effectively. We need actions that can make a real difference. On June 6-9, 2022, we successfully held the Second Dushanbe Conference in Tajikistan, which became a key preparatory meeting for the midterm review of the Water Decade "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 in 2023.

As you are aware, on March 22-24 2023, the UN will convene its second water conference after 46 years. The UN 2023 Water Conference will be a good opportunity for all of us to review and evaluate the progress made and the gaps and obstacles we have encountered in realizing the goals of the Water Decade "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028. Tajikistan and the Netherlands, leading the preparations for this global event, are diligently working and are determined to make the Conference a watershed moment for the whole world. To this end, we launched the Water Action Agenda as one of the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference. We expect and encourage everyone to come to the Conference with new commitments to enrich the Water Action Agenda. This is important and necessary not only for us today, but for our children, our future generation!

The impact of climate change on water resources is another crucial topic that requires our concerted efforts. Alongside the increase in mudflows and floods, water scarcities and droughts, and changes in the hydrological cycle, today, the accelerated melting of glaciers, the primary sources of fresh water on the planet, is of great concern. To this end, Tajikistan is actively promoting an integrated approach to addressing water and climate issues, including within Water and Climate Coalition. During the Coalition's first meeting, H.E. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, proposed declaring 2025 as an international year of Glaciers' Preservation. We are currently working on the draft resolution to advance the said initiative through the second committee of the U.N. General Assembly. We seek your constructive engagement and support for this important resolution." [...]

**Afghanistan.** "Tajikistan, a peace-loving country that went through a devastating imposed Civil War, is very aware of its cost and long-lasting consequences. Therefore, we can't stay indifferent to the fate of our im-

<sup>194</sup> a High-Level Conference "International and regional border security and management cooperation to counter terrorism and prevent the movement of terrorists" was held in Dushanbe on October 18-19

mediate neighbors....” To ease the suffering of the Afghan people during these difficult times, Tajikistan has offered its infrastructure, territory, and communication means to all stakeholders and donor countries to deliver humanitarian assistance directly to the people of Afghanistan. We have also never stopped providing the people of Afghanistan with much needed electricity since the Taliban came to power. In the current alarming situation, it is paramount for Tajikistan to strengthen its border with Afghanistan and create the necessary border infrastructure along its entire length, which share 1,400 km of border with this country. Tajikistan is convinced that the international community shall begin working to engage Afghanistan in multifaceted regional cooperation.

**Tajik-Kyrgyz border.** All hostilities on the border between the two States have ceased, the parties are negotiating settlement options and joint inspection was organized in the border area. [...] “As a result of military aggression of Kyrgyzstan, more than forty civilians of Tajikistan were killed and about two hundred were injured [...]. In addition to border facilities, schools, hospitals, religious buildings, residential buildings, infrastructure and utilities were destroyed.”

Since 1950s, Kyrgyzstan has arbitrarily seized more than 2 thous. km<sup>2</sup> that rightfully belong to Tajikistan. Over the

twenty-year history of negotiations with Kyrgyzstan, we have signed dozens of protocols. As of today, both countries managed to agree on and develop a draft description of about 600 km of joint border, which is approximately 61% of its total length. “Tajikistan, relying on the international practice of border delimitation, has repeatedly offered its neighbors to document the results of this many years of work, by signing an agreement on separate sections of the border. But our neighbors strictly decline this proposal. Border issues are not resolved by the populist statements and the creation of crisis situations. We need daily, thoughtful, joint work based on the political will of the parties. We stand ready to continue negotiations and firmly believe that the Tajik and Kyrgyz peoples have the right to live and build together an atmosphere of peace, friendship and harmony.”

“The time has come for Tajikistan to seek for the first time, its non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2028-2029. We are looking forward to closely working with all the U.N. member states to gain the trust and support for this vital campaign.”

*Full version of the statement:*

<https://mfa.tj/en/main/view/11140/statementbyhe-mr-sirojiddin-muhriddin-minister-of-foreign-affairs-of-the-republic-of-tajikistangeneral-debates-of-the-77th-session-of-the-united-nations-general-assembly>

## Address by the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the UN

**Cooperation for peace.** Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the UN, A. Ataeva urged the countries to peacefully resolve conflicts and disagreements, referring to a dialogue as the only acceptable way of interstate cooperation. “Further promoting the philosophy of trust-based dialogue in international relations, Turkmenistan intends to propose to the UN General Assembly to consider the draft resolution “Dialogue is a guarantee of peace”. [...] Reinforcing our efforts in this direction, we propose that the international community declare 2025 the “Year of Peace and Trust”, based on the provisions of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly adopted earlier at the initiative of Turkmenistan. [...] Turkmenistan will continue working actively with partners to expand the membership of the **Group of Friends of Neutrality for peace, security and sustainable development.**” [...]

**Global food security.** “We are particularly concerned about the currently growing threats to global food security, which are rapidly spreading to an increasing number of countries and entire regions. [...] In order to maintain the stability of the global food market, jointly search for solutions to complicated problems of providing food to the most vulnerable countries, as well as supporting the efforts of the UN Secretary-General in this direction, we propose to hold an International Forum on Food Security in Turkmenistan.”

**Climate change and water.** “In Central Asia, for objective reasons, climate change and water issues are the most important, and in some cases, determining factors in the development of regional processes,



having a significant impact on the overall situation, the implementation of socio-economic development programs, and the solution of serious environmental issues. Based on the positions of Turkmenistan on adaptation and mitigation of climate change, presented in November 2021 at the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow, as well as practically considered during multilateral consultations within the framework of the Climate Conference in Bonn in June this year, Turkmenistan is preparing for the establishment in Ashgabat a Regio-

nal Center for Climate Technologies for Central Asian Countries. At the same time, noting the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Turkmenistan in May 2022 within the framework of the implementation of obligations under the Paris Agreement, Turkmenistan intends to intensify efforts to implement the goals outlined in this document, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting the Global Methane Pledge... We will persistently and purposefully strive to single out the Aral Sea issue as a separate area of the UN's activities. To this end, in May 2023, we intend to resume negotiations on the draft resolution of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on the establishment of the UN Special Program for the Aral Sea Basin, which will be based on the provisions of the UN General Assembly resolutions "On cooperation between the United

Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS)" adopted in 2018 and 2019. "

**Strengthening the health care system.** The impact of the pandemic requires us to continue our coordinated efforts to address the identified vulnerabilities of global and national health systems. Turkmenistan will continue to support the joint activities of the world community to combat this new type of coronavirus infection, to establish tools for health diplomacy. Emphasizing the key role of WHO in developing consolidated responses to common challenges, we support the **global One Health concept** and will promote it within the framework of the **Roadmap for health and well-being in Central Asia until 2025.**"

Full version of the statement:  
<https://www.mfa.gov.tm/en/news/3363>

## Address by the Foreign Minister of Republic of Uzbekistan



*"We are ready to actively participate in multilateral efforts to promote topical issues of the green agenda and curb climate change processes."*

**Strengthening trust.** "The world today is facing a deep crisis of trust at the global level, an intensification of numerous challenges to stability and security, growth of geopolitical confrontation and increase of risks of bloc mentality. No country can avoid global risks and challenges or cope with them alone. Under the current conditions, we strongly believe it is important to strengthen the central role of the UN in addressing global and regional challenges. The UN should evolve to respond effectively to transformation taking place. The establishment of inter-civilizational and inter-cultural relations and dialogue is also extremely important in finding the coherent approaches and solutions, relieving global tension, uncertainty and unpredictability. With this in mind, at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in Samarkand on September 16 the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev put forward the Samarkand Solidarity Initiative for Common Security and Pro-

sperity. Its goal is to contribute to the restoration of mutual trust and stability in international relations, as well as to strengthen solidarity through the establishment of a broad dialogue free from geopolitical rivalry, ideological contradictions, and disputes."

**Reforms are for young people.** Uzbekistan is on the eve of an important political event – a constitutional reform, the key goal of which is to make the process of transforming the system of state and public administration sustainable. [...] In many ways, this reform is focused on young people. They should play a key role in processes that have a direct bearing on the country's future. Uzbekistan plans to convene the first meeting of the Youth Council of the countries of Central and South Asia in 2023, which will become a platform for new ideas and specific initiatives. On November 14-16, 2022, jointly with the UNESCO we will host a World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education in Tashkent.<sup>195</sup>

**New political atmosphere in Central Asia.** Thanks to the joint efforts of the Central Asian states, a fundamentally new political atmosphere has been created in the region. Launched at initiative of Uzbekistan, the mechanism of consultative meetings of the Heads of State of the region has become "a vivid symbol of a new era of regional cooperation". High-level international forums are organized regularly in the region, with the international conference on the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia becoming one of them in March 22 in Tashkent. "Taking into account the outcomes of the forum, we propose opening the UN Counter-Terrorism Regional Office in Central Asia to successfully implement the global strategy."

**Assistance to Afghanistan.** The prospects for the development of Central Asia are inextricably linked with ensuring peace in neighboring Afghanistan. Uzbekistan is concerned about the decline in international attention to this country, which is experiencing a

<sup>195</sup> <https://www.unesco.org/ru/early-childhood-education/2022-world-conference>

deep humanitarian crisis and considers it extremely important to prevent the isolation of Afghanistan. The International Conference on Afghanistan was held in July in Tashkent with the participation of the delegation of the interim government. "We are convinced that the general priority of the international community should be the restoration of the Afghan economy, its integration into interregional economic processes, the implementation of infrastructure and socially significant projects. To solve these problems, the support of the UN, international financial institutions, and donor countries is needed. Uzbekistan is making a feasible contribution to the international efforts to assist Afghanistan. Uzbekistan has established the International Transport and Logistics Hub in the border city of Termez, which is actively used by UN agencies to provide humanitarian assistance to this country.

**Combating climate change.** "Today, the negative consequences of climate change are acutely manifested in our region. We stand ready to actively participate in the multilateral efforts to promote the topical issues of the green agenda and curb climate change processes. Uzbekistan has taken on an ad-

ditional obligation to reduce greenhouse emissions under the Paris Agreement and is implementing a comprehensive strategy for the transition to a green economy and the development of renewable energy. In 2021, President of Uzbekistan launched a massive initiative called "Yashil Makon" (Green Land) on planting 1 billion trees and shrubs across the country over the next five years. The Aral Sea is the biggest environmental crisis in our region. Over the past 5 years, 1.7 million hectares of forest plantations have been planted on the dried sea bed. I take this opportunity to thank the General Assembly for adopting the resolution on declaring the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies. This year we plan to host the First Aral Sea International Forum under the UN auspices in Nukus. In 2023, for the first time, we will host the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, as well as a meeting of the Committee to Review the Implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Uzbekistan."

*Full version of the statement:*

[https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/77/uz\\_en.pdf](https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/77/uz_en.pdf)

## Selected Resolutions on Water, Environment and Development Adopted by the UNGA 77<sup>th</sup> Session

"Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts" (A/77/415); "The law of transboundary aquifers" (A/77/424); "Information and communications technologies for sustainable development" (A/77/440); "Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21" (A/77/443/

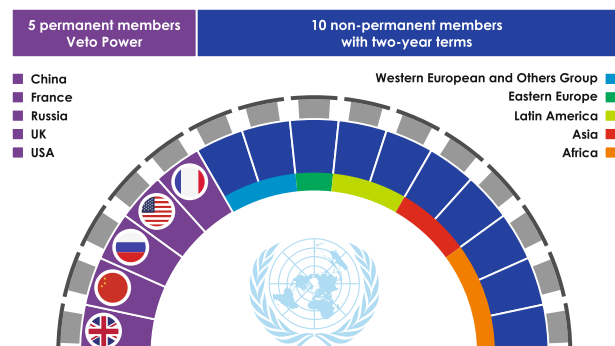
ADD.1); "Disaster risk reduction" (A/77/443/ADD.3); "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind" (A/77/443/ADD.4); "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/77/443/ADD.6); "Harmony with Nature" (A/77/443/ADD.8); "Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all" (A/77/443/ADD.9); "Agriculture development, food security and nutrition" (A/77/449).

## 6.2. Security Council

The Security Council (SC) 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 the UNGA for two-year terms of five countries each year.

### UNSC activity in 2022

"Arria-formula" meetings were organized: (1) at the ministerial-level on climate finance<sup>196</sup> as a means to build and sustain peace in conflict, post-conflict and crisis situations (March 9, UAE); (2) on "Climate, Peace and Security: Opportunities for the UN Peace and Security Architecture", which entailed exploring ways to strengthen national and local efforts to build resilience and reduce vulnerabilities to climate shocks



and touched on cooperation in natural resource management, early warning systems, enhanced climate finance and inclusive decision-making (November 29, New York).

<sup>196</sup> Climate finance can be broadly defined as local, national or transnational funding for initiatives that address climate change and its impacts

The Informal Expert Group (IEG)<sup>197</sup> convened a briefing on evidence and research from different regions on the linkages between climate change and security (February 4); IEG meetings were also held to

discuss climate-related security challenges in Iraq (May 5) and Mali (June 2), respectively.

Source: [www.securitycouncilreport.org/](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/)

### 6.3. Secretariat



“ 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*

The Secretariat is one of the main organs of UN. At the head of the United Nations Secretariat is the Secretary-General, appointed by GA upon recommendation of UNSC for a 5-year term. Since January 2022, Antonio Guterres (Portugal) has been serving as the 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. 2022 Report highlights the work in the following key area: (1) **sustainable development** (United Nations country teams led by resident coordinators work in 162 countries and territories to help to implement the 2030 Agenda); (2) **development in Africa** (helping 54 countries to leapfrog development challenges and catalyze a sustainable and equitable recovery from COVID-19); (3) **human rights** (facilitated assistance for 46,000 victims of torture and 13,000+ victims of contemporary forms of slavery); (4) **humanitarian assistance** (helped to mobilize a record \$20.3B to assist 174M people across 60 countries and territories); (5) **justice and international law** (639 multilateral treaties addressing matters of worldwide interest are deposited with the Secretary-General); (6) **disarmament** (channeled funds to 104 arms-control-related projects benefiting 145 Member States. (7) **drugs, crime and terrorism** (drugs monitoring platform provided a multi-source system shares with more than 14,000 pieces of data on individual drug seizures from more than 125 countries).

Source: UN

### 6.4. The UN Development Program (UNDP)

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 activities in the Central Asian countries in 2022

##### 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 2022, UNDP's project portfolio in Kazakhstan included 37 projects with a total cost of \$20.51 million.

**Nature, land resources and ecosystem management.** Continued: (1) "Sustainable forest management" aimed to conserve and sustainably manage key globally important ecosystems for multiple benefits

(2018-2024); (2) "Ecological education in Kazakhstan" (2020-2025), the output of which is to train more than 6 thousand teachers and develop teaching aids in the field of environmental protection, nature management, ecological and economic security. (3) "Integrated dryland and drought management in South Kazakhstan regions" (2017-2022), aimed to improve and maintain livelihood strategies and resilience of vulnerable farmers and pastoral communities in the selected pilot sites to cope with drought; (4) "Reintroducing of Turan tiger" (2021-2025).

<sup>197</sup> an entity established in 2020 to help Council members develop a more systematic approach to climate-related security risks. The IEG is currently co-chaired by Kenya and Norway



**Energy and climate change.** Continued: (1) “Low-carbon urban development” (2014-2023); (2) “Energy efficient standards and labelling” (2017-2024); (3) “De-risking renewable energy investment” (2017-2023); (4) development of Kazakhstan’s National communication and biennial reports (2019-2023); (5) “Forest carbon offset mechanisms, Bifury initiative” (2019-2024) to assist Kazakhstan in fulfilling international obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the carbon footprint of electricity suppliers; (6) “National determined contributions program in Kazakhstan” (2020-2022); (7) “Improving chemicals management under environmental conventions” (2019-2022); (8) “Attracting investors in the field of energy efficiency” (2021-2026) to improve energy efficiency of buildings, infrastructure, and other facilities. The project “Leveraging nationally determined contributions” has been launched (2022-2023) to achieve net-zero emissions and climate-resilient development in response to the climate emergency.

UNDP designed a pocket manual for a wide audience to explain the causes of climate change and its impact on the livelihoods of the people in Kazakhstan.

A new project was launched as part of the “Climate Promise: from Pledge to Impact” initiative jointly with Japan to introduce climate-smart agri-technologies (\$975 thousand). It is planned to support farmers in the regions of Kazakhstan, as well as pilot renewable energy solutions (wind and solar) with digital monitoring in agricultural production.

**SDGs.** (1) “Support of the Government with SDG financing strategy” (2020-2022) for adopting an integ-

## UNDP in Kyrgyzstan

In 2022, UNDP’s project portfolio in Kyrgyzstan included 28 projects with a total value of \$26.65 million.

**Water management.** UNDP organized a training session on integrating climate risks into water policies and basin management plans in Kyrgyzstan as part of the regional project “Climate Change and Resilience in Central Asia”. The training session was held for the key national and local authorities working in the field of water and climate risk management (July 12-13, Issyk-Kul province; October 17-18, Osh).

**Environmental protection and climate change.** Ongoing projects: (1) Conservation of globally important biodiversity and associated land and forest resources of Western Tian Shan mountain forest ecosystems to support sustainable livelihoods (2017-2023); (2) “Strengthening climate resilience of the Batken province through introduction of climate smart irrigation and mudflow protection measures” (2019-2023)<sup>199</sup> – a five-day training was held on how to work with soft-



rated national financing framework; (2) “Regional SDG platform in Central Asia” (2021-2023) to establish a regional SDG platform that serves as a mechanism to accelerate countries’ efforts in wider regional strategies for the attainment of the 2030 Agenda.

Kazakhstan presented its Second Voluntary National Review on the implementation of SDGs at the UN High-Level Political Forum (July 14, New York, USA).

**Capacity building.** The following regional projects are ongoing: “Supporting the economic empowerment of Afghan women” (2019-2025)<sup>198</sup> – the UNDP and EU discussed progress on the project (December 15, online); and, “Empowerment of Afghan women, Phase 2” (2021-2026).

Sources: [www.kz.undp.org](http://www.kz.undp.org) and [open.undp.org/projects](http://open.undp.org/projects)

ware for predicting future hydro-climatic changes. (3) “Disaster risk reduction and climate change” (2016-2023) aimed at strengthening integrated risk governance capacities and regional cooperation in CA; (4) “Capacity building towards securing the resilience of communities and institutions to climate and disaster risks and sustainable and inclusive natural resource management” (2018-2022); (5) “UN support for strengthening disaster preparedness” (2012-2023) to support the coordination activities of the Disaster Response Coordination Unit Secretariat; – two national policy documents on gender mainstreamed and low-carbon development were drafted; (6) “HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP)” – Stage 2 (2015-2023); (7) “PPG: Pamir-Alai project” (2021-2022) aimed at integrated community-based management of high value mountain ecosystems in southern Kyrgyzstan for multiple benefits.

Bishkek hosted the following events: (1) two meetings<sup>200</sup> of interdepartmental working group “Climate

<sup>198</sup> implemented with financial support from the EU

<sup>199</sup> implemented by UNDP with the financial support from the Russian Federation

<sup>200</sup> with the support of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic and the UNDP Kyrgyzstan

Promise-2"<sup>201</sup> (NDC) and National Adaption Planning (NAP)<sup>202</sup> (April 12 and July 18); (2) the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Conference of Youth on Climate Change; the conference program was based on keynote speeches, intergenerational "Green Talks" with senior experts in various sectors, educational science-based Climate Fresk<sup>203</sup> games, group work, and many more (December 1-3).

## UNDP in Tajikistan

In 2022, UNDP's project portfolio in Tajikistan included 48 projects with a total value of \$30.66 million.

**Land and water resources.** Continued: (1) "Building climate resilience in agricultural and water sectors of rural Tajikistan" (2019-2022) – 3 subprojects on drip irrigation and 1 subproject on disaster risk reduction were completed; two concept notes for international/domestic funding were developed; (2) "Support to water initiatives of Tajikistan" (2021-2022) – the 2<sup>nd</sup> International conference within the framework of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 (June 6-9, Dushanbe); (3) "Strengthening communities in Khatlon region and Rasht valley of Tajikistan" (2020-2022) – 4 mobile applications to facilitate access to information/services were developed; the forum on rural development issues was held to make rural areas more attractive and 3 campaigns on raising awareness on improved service delivery were organized.

New projects: (1) "Improvement of water resources management in Khatlon" (2022-2024), aimed at improving livelihoods of rural communities in project area vulnerable to climate change; (2) "Technical support to Tajikistan water sector reform" (2022-2024) to achieve an efficiently planned, developed and managed water sector.

**Energy.** As part of the "Green energy SME development full-size project" (2018-2023), the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on RES was established and held two meetings; the draft Concept of energy sector development was developed and agreed with the Government of Tajikistan; the draft Concept of fuel and energy sectors development of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2040 was prepared.

**Climate change, ecosystems.** Continued: (1) "Conservation and sustainable use of Pamir Alay and Tien

**SDGs.** Continued: (1) "National SDGs acceleration support program" (2018-2023) – a platform for advancing SDGs integrated approaches; (2) "UN joint SDG fund, reinforce SDG financing architecture" (2020-2023), aimed at creating a holistic, comprehensive and integrated financing strategy or Integrated National Financing Framework.

Sources: <https://www.undp.org/ru/kyrgyzstan> and [open.undp.org/projects](https://open.undp.org/projects)

Shan ecosystems for snow leopard protection and sustainable community livelihoods" (2016-2022); (2) "Policy action for climate security in Central Asia" (2020-2022); (3) "An integrated landscape approach to enhancing the climate resilience of small-scale farmers and pastoralists in Tajikistan" (2019-2025) – 97 representatives from different local authorities and WUAs participated in a series of trainings on climate risk accounting for integrated watershed management (March); (4) "Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Capacities (SDRRRS)" (2016-2022) – district risks maps were disseminated; 22,400 seedlings planted on 69 ha in 8 districts; more than 20 initiatives on disaster risk reduction were implemented jointly with partners; (5) "Enabling an effective national adaptation plan for Tajikistan" (2020-2023) – Inter-departmental working group was established and two meetings were held with the involvement of sectoral coordinators.

The project "Leveraging nationally determined contributions to achieve net-zero emissions and climate-resilient development in response to the climate emergency" has been launched (2022-2023).

It is aimed to support local communities and authorities in the East Khatlon province with eco-based solutions for the effective watershed management of the Tebalay River to reduce incidence and impact of the hydro-meteorological hazards.

**SDGs.** The ongoing project "Financing SDGs in Tajikistan" (2020-2022) is aimed to support the Government of Tajikistan in achieving its national SDG targets through an integrated resource mobilization framework.

Source: [open.undp.org/projects](https://open.undp.org/projects)

<sup>201</sup> UNDP's "Climate promise" project works with 119 countries to accelerate the fight against climate change, promote equity, fight poverty and enhance social and environmental sustainability

<sup>202</sup> the objectives of the NAP process are to strengthen institutions and enhance vertical and horizontal coordination of climate change adaptation planning, ensure that climate risks are addressed at the national, sectoral and provincial levels, and prioritize investments for climate change adaptation measures

<sup>203</sup> "Climate Fresk" is an international innovative tool for climate education, each participant can get a complete picture of climate change process by immersing themselves into participatory activity and building all the cause-and-effect relationships, see the humans' impact on climate change and think about climate solutions

## UNDP in Turkmenistan

In 2022, UNDP project portfolio in Turkmenistan included 27 projects totaling \$41.99 million.

**Water and land management.** Continued: (1) “Developing a national adaptation planning process in Turkmenistan” (2021-2024) – the workshop “Climate change: risks, assessment, planning” was held to discuss complex risks associated with climate change, including those relevant to Turkmenistan and its main sectors of the economy, as well as review the issues of climate change-driven migration and learn about risk assessment procedures for planning policies, strategies and programs for the short, medium and long terms (November 10-11); (2) “Conservation and sustainable management of land resources and high value ecosystems in the Aral sea basin for multiple benefits” (2021-2026) – two meetings were held with key project partners in Dashoguz and Lebap velayats. The project “Energy efficiency and renewable energy for sustainable water management in Turkmenistan” (2015-2022) was successfully completed.

**Climate change and environmental protection.** Continued: (1) “Supporting climate resilient livelihoods in agricultural communities in drought-prone areas of Turkmenistan” (2016-2022) – the final reports on implementation of the gender-oriented local adaptation plans have been prepared and approved for six farmers associations and two livestock farms; the report on implementation of the small grant activities under the first and the second cycles (in total 19 grants)

have been prepared and approved; a working meeting was held to discuss the curriculum on IWRM (February 15, online); (2) “Sustainable cities in Turkmenistan: Integrated green urban development in Ashgabat and Awaza” (2017-2024) – a working meeting was held to discuss preparation of the First Biennial Report and the Fourth National Communication of Turkmenistan on climate change, as well as the implementation of the “Nationally Determined Contribution” (NDC) in accordance with the Paris Climate Agreement (October 7); a training seminar “Introducing international experience in the development of regulatory and technical documents for the promotion of renewable energy sources in Turkmenistan” was held (May 30, online).

UNDP and the British Embassy in Turkmenistan convened the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> coordination meetings of the Development Partners Climate Group in Ashgabat aimed at continuing the established dialogue to accelerate the Government of Turkmenistan’s efforts to meet its international commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement (May 31 and September 6).

**SDGs.** As a part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the “Partnering for SDG acceleration” project (2021-2023), a draft Periodic National Report on the progress of the SDG implementation was prepared.

Sources: [www.tm.undp.org](http://www.tm.undp.org) and [open.undp.org/projects](http://open.undp.org/projects)

## UNDP in Uzbekistan

The directions of UNDP’s work in Uzbekistan reflect the current UN Country Programme Document (CPD) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2021-2025. They also align with the national SDGs within the 2030 Agenda.

In 2022, the UNDP project portfolio included 50 projects totaling \$31.58 million.

**Land and ecosystem management.** Continued: (1) “Sustainable natural resource use and forest management in key mountainous areas important for globally significant biodiversity” (2017-2022) – SMART patrolling system was tested in pilot areas in Chatkal State Biosphere Reserve and Gissar State Nature Reserve, guidelines for implementation of SMART patrolling system in all protected areas of the country were developed and published; pasture management plans for 8 forestries were tested and approved; snow leopard research and monitoring methodology was approved by the Academy of Sciences and the State Committee on Ecology; snow leopard research center was established at the Institute of Zoology; (2)

“Sustainable rural housing and settlements in Uzbekistan” (2015-2023) aimed to transform this sector 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 low GWP energy efficient technologies and equipment including recovery/recycling of HCFC.

Projects launched: (1) “Assisted afforestation of the vulnerable terrains of Uzbekistan”<sup>204</sup> (2022-2023) – 100 ha of land in Termez city and three districts of Surkhandarya province are planted with anti-erosion plantations and forest species; 625 people (91 of them women), including 448 Afghan citizens (56 of them women) living in Surkhandarya are involved in the project; (2) “Sustainable rural development” (2022-2025, \$338 million), aimed to create favorable living conditions for rural residents and ensure their access to basic infrastructure, socio-economic services including access to health and education. The project provides for construction and renovation of social facilities in 20 districts: the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Navoi, Bukhara and

<sup>204</sup> in order to implement Uzbekistan’s “Yashil Makon” initiative, launched by the President of Uzbekistan in November 2021, which planned the planting of 1 billion tree and shrub seedlings across the country over the next five years

Khorezm regions. By the end of 2022, 66 community development plans have been drafted.

**Climate change.** Continued: (1) “Promoting green urban development in Tashkent city through accelerating investments in low emission infrastructure” (2021-2027); (2) “Towards green recovery in Uzbekistan” (2021-2022); (3) “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) – a seminar “Efficient use of land and water resources in agriculture” was held (November 28, Tashkent); (4) “Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to increase resilience of Uzbekistan communities to climate change-induced hazards” (2021-2028) – introductory workshops were held to present the concept and objectives of the project (August-November); (5) “The sector-driven National Adaptation Plan (NAP)” (2020-2023) – the draft of National Climate Change Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030 was developed and submitted to the Government of Uzbekistan for consideration. A new project “Leveraging Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)” (2022-2023) was launched on net zero emissions and climate-resilient development in response to a climate emergency. 15 automated agrometeorological stations to expand the existing network of hydro and agrometeorological stations in the Ferghana Valley were purchased.

**SDGs.** The ongoing “Financing for Sustainable Development” project (2020-2023) is aimed at achieving SDGs in Uzbekistan through more efficient, transparent and result-oriented public financing. The draft Integrated National Financing Strategy was discussed with more than 60 representatives (40 men and 20 women) from government, private sector, research institutions, development partners in the financial dialogues (October 31-November 1). The Government of Uzbekistan has developed and issued the first SDG

Bond Allocation and Impact report that provides information on how the proceeds from the bond issuance are helping to achieve the Government's development priorities and highlights Uzbekistan's commitment to attain the SDGs.

**The Aral Sea.** Continued: (1) “Building the resilience of local communities against health, environmental and economic insecurities in the Aral Sea region” (2020-2022); (2) “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); (3) “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.

Projects launched: (1) “Conservation and sustainable management of lakes, wetlands and riparian corridors” (2022-2026), aimed at improving a resilient Aral basin landscape supporting sustainable livelihoods – the project started the analysis of hydroclimatic scenarios and water management models to optimize water allocation among multiple users. (2) “Strengthening the capacity of rural communities in infrastructure management in the Aral Sea region” (\$5 million). Work will be carried out to introduce water- and energy-efficient, new agricultural, ozone-friendly technologies in different sectors in a balanced manner.

**Gender.** New project “Achieving gender equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan” was launched (2022-2024). The Project aims to support the implementation of the Strategy for achieving gender equality in the republic – a policy brief on nationwide survey on gender stereotypes and patriarchal norms is to be finalized.

Sources: [www.uz.undp.org](http://www.uz.undp.org) and <https://open.undp.org/projects>

## The UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund (MPHSTF) 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).

A Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in Meeting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Uzbekistan was signed between the Global Green Growth Institute and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Uzbekistan (March 30) (in the context of the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework) by actively seeking solutions to human security issues in the Aral Sea region through the MPHSTF. The Parties aim to make progress on recovery and resilience to climate change in the post-pandemic COVID-19 era in key sectoral areas of common interest.

The Government of Uzbekistan made its fourth contribution of \$1.5 million to support the activities of MPHSTF.

Under the Third Call for Proposals, the MPHSTF Steering Committee approved \$4.4 million in financing for two new projects addressing such priority areas as youth employment and innovation, health, and green growth (November 16).

**Ongoing projects.** The MPHSTF finances the UNDP/ UNESCO Joint Program aimed to enhance the technical capacity of Forestry Department of the Takhtakupir district through the trainings on “Innovative methods of afforestation”, etc., as well as to increase the scope of afforestation work in the dried bed of the Aral Sea.

Enhanced technical capacity helped to plant saxaul and other species on 3 thousand ha of land that was 6 times more than in previous project interventions. The afforestation resulted in more income for the staff of the Forestry Department.

The following projects were continued: (1) "Towards universal health coverage and security in Karakalpakstan" (2021-2023) to assess the health system. The local population has been consulted on its health needs and vision for health sector investment; a refined proposal for health sector investment in Muynak city and surrounding region was developed; (2) "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). 30 vulnerable unemployed women and girls from target districts were trained in cooking, 30 young people were trained in plumber skills; 13 projects were selected to start an individual or family business. Trainings in livestock and water saving technologies were conducted with a total of 75 beneficiaries, including a workshop on "Benefits and the effectiveness of innovative technologies "Buried Diffuser" (subsoil irrigation) in the cultivation of crops" on the arranged demonstration site in the territory of the International Innovation Center of the Aral Sea Region under the President of the Re-

public of Uzbekistan (October). Access to clean drinking water was provided to the Kungrad central republican hospital, polyclinic and two schools with a total number of 7,208 beneficiaries. The Project's Coordinating Council discussed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting progress, results for 2022 and prospects for future cooperation (December 15); (3) "Investing in a resilient future of Karkalpakstan 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, (Muynak, Kungrad, and Bozatau districts). 30 facilitators were trained to enhance the capacity of the public education specialists of the Ministry of Public Education in Karakalpakstan. UNICEF is in the process of developing a knowledge hub (<https://bilim.tma.uz/>) which will serve as a one-stop digital platform for communication, information sharing and repository of all training materials and resources on health topics for healthcare workers in the country.

Source: [www.aral.mptf.uz](http://www.aral.mptf.uz)

## 6.5. UN-Water

In 2003, 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 2022

The following events were organized: (1) the UN-Water integrated monitoring initiative for SDG 6 Steering Committee meeting to review the 2021 results and plan for the 2022 (March 2-3); (2) the 36<sup>th</sup> UN-Water meeting to discuss the preparation to the UN 2023 Water Conference, the Global Acceleration Framework for SDG 6 (April 7-8, Geneva, Switzerland); (3) the 37<sup>th</sup> UN-Water meeting to discuss preparation to the UN 2023 Water Conference, the SDG 6 capacity development initiative, SDG6 global monitoring



(December 5-6, Paris, France); (4) UN-Water summit on groundwater (December 7-8, Paris, France).

The latest edition of the UN World Water Development Report "Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible" draws attention to the issues related to groundwater, emphasizing their special role, challenges and opportunities associated with the development, management and governance of groundwater across the world.

Source: [www.unwater.org](http://www.unwater.org)

## 6.6. UN Economic Commission for Europe



The United Nations 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, as well as the Protocol on Water and Health

UNECE is hosting the Secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and is

providing the secretariat for the Protocol on Water and Health together with WHO/Europe. In 2022, the Water Convention was working on implementation

of its Program of Work for the period 2022-2024 and the Protocol was preparing to its sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 16-18 November

2022). In 2022 Kazakhstan was a Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention.

### Activities in 2022

Under the Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE organized: (1) 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Bureau of the Protocol on Water and Health (February 2-3; May 17-18); (2) 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Global Network of Basins working on climate change adaptation (April 25); (3) 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health (May 19-20); (4) Regional workshop on equitable access to water and sanitation (June 13-14); (5) 4<sup>th</sup> joint meeting of Working Group on IWRM and Working Group on Monitoring

and Assessment, marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Water Convention (June 28-30); (6) 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (October 6); (7) Global workshop on water, agriculture and climate change (October 17-18); (8) 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (October 19); (9) 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Bureau to the Water Convention (October 20-21); (10) the 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (November 16-18); (11) 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food Energy Ecosystems Nexus (December 12-13); (12) Global workshop on source-to-sea management (December 14-16).

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

## UNECE Activities in Central Asia

**Transboundary cooperation.** In 2022 UNECE continued to support the Secretariat of the Chu-Talas Commission and was in close contact with UNDP regarding the process of signing of the joint statement on the SAP. In particular, UNECE provided guidance and advice through several transboundary and national discussions. Consequently, the joint statement on SAP was endorsed by Kyrgyzstan in October 2022 and is in the process of endorsement by Kazakhstan.

*Results of past projects are available on:* <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-convention/transboundary-cooperation-chu-and-talas-river-basin> and in the brochure on [https://unece.org/DAM/env/water/Chu-Talas/RUS\\_ClimateProofingChuTalas\\_web\\_10Dec2018.pdf](https://unece.org/DAM/env/water/Chu-Talas/RUS_ClimateProofingChuTalas_web_10Dec2018.pdf)

**National Policy Dialogues on Water (NPDs).** Since 2019 the NPD process in Central Asian countries has been supported through a regional NPD project, implemented by UNECE in cooperation with OECD, as part of the WECOOP program which supports the EU-Central Asia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (WGECC).

**NPD launch in Uzbekistan.** The First Steering Committee meeting of the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) on Integrated Water Resources Management took place in hybrid format on 27 September. Key stakeholders, including national experts from Uzbekistan, representatives of the EU, international and regional organizations, and NGOs attended this event. The participants discussed Uzbekistan's achievements, challenges and priorities related to the water policy and agreed on a way forward for the NPD implementation. The meeting launched the National Water Policy Dialogue in Uzbekistan.

**NPD in Kazakhstan.** The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Interagency Coordination Council for the National Dialogue on Water Policy (NPD) in Kazakhstan took place on 14 December. The composition of the Interagency Coordination Council, the NPD governing body, has recently been updated and includes representatives of all stakeholders in the national authorities, business, research institutes, public and international organizations. At the meeting, the participants discussed the issues of

protection and use of groundwaters, water and sanitation, pollution (including emergency pollution) in the Syr Darya River, transboundary cooperation, and the results of the work of international partners.

**SPECA program.** The 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment of the United Nations Special Program for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA WG on WEE) was held online on 15 November in the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Almaty Energy Forum, co-organized by UNECE and ESCAP and hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan. The Working Group discussed ongoing initiatives supported by the EU, GIZ, USAID, UNDP, OECD, ADB, UNECE, and UNESCAP, to foster the integration of water, energy, food and environmental sectoral policies and actions in SPECA countries.

**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 Environment. 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 five years project, which is expected to start in 2023, will include activities at regional and national level in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. 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](http://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.

### Activities in 2022

IWAC in cooperation with the UNECE continued implementing the project "Development of joint measures to prevent and respond to pollution of the Syr Darya River in emergency situations". 2<sup>nd</sup> working meeting of experts was held online to present the collected information and identify further actions on the project (January 19).

IWAC organized the regional workshop "International experience related to transboundary water allocation and prospects for the development of cooperation on the joint use of water resources in Central Asia",<sup>205</sup> where general approaches to application of international experience in transboundary water allocation and development of cooperation on the joint use of water resources in Central Asia were discussed (November 2-3, Astana, Kazakhstan).

Also, IWAC organized a series of trainings on the safety of hydraulic structures in CA:<sup>206</sup> (1) 2<sup>nd</sup> International Training Workshop<sup>207</sup> to assist in studying the best practices in management of hydrotechnical structures, the exchange of knowledge and experience in ensuring safety, improving cooperation on water resources management in Central Asia (September 27-29, Bratislava, Slovakia); (2) a regional workshop<sup>208</sup> aimed at learning from the experience of Slovakia, India and other countries in ensuring HS safety, including risk management, safety monitoring and evaluation support, early warning, and ICT applications. Participants were also familiarized with the findings of the WB's Global Analysis of Dam Safety in 51 Countries (November 30, Almaty, Kazakhstan).

IWAC took part in a cooperation meeting on groundwater management in the frame of the Tashkent area transboundary aquifer<sup>209</sup>. S. Akhmetov, Director of IWAC, presented an overview of the existing framework of transboundary water management with a focus on groundwater resources at the session "Transboundary groundwater governance facilitation" (May 6, Almaty, hybrid format).

Source: [www.iwac.kz](http://www.iwac.kz)

## 6.7. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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

### SPECA program

ESCAP in cooperation with UNECE manages SPECA. The 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment was held online on November 15<sup>210</sup>. The following events were held in Almaty: (1) SPECA Economic Forum "Greener and Safer Future" on structural economic transformation, sustainable and balanced energy transition, digital transformation, while



achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in the SPECA region (November 16-17). (2) 17<sup>th</sup> session of the SPECA Governing Council summarized the results of the SPECA Economic Forum; the "Almaty Declaration" was adopted; progress reports of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups were discussed; proposal of Azerbaijan to prepare a draft resolution "On the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SPECA" for approval at the 78<sup>th</sup> UNGA session in 2023 was supported. The Governing Council approved the next session of the SPECA Council and the SPECA Economic Forum 2023 in Azerbaijan (November 18).

Sources: [www.unescap.org](http://www.unescap.org), [www.unece.org](http://www.unece.org)

<sup>205</sup> in cooperation with the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and with the support of SDC and UNECE

<sup>206</sup> as part of activities organized by WB and IWAC under the Central Asian Water and Energy Program (CAWEP)

<sup>207</sup> in cooperation with the Government of Slovakia

<sup>208</sup> in cooperation with the Slovak State Enterprise for Water Management (Vodohospodarska vystavba) and with the official support of the Slovak Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan

<sup>209</sup> under the UNESCO-IHP project "Governance of groundwater resources in transboundary aquifers" (GGRETA) supported by SDC

<sup>210</sup> as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Almaty Energy Forum organized jointly by UNECE and ESCAP and hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan

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



The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) is a special UN political mission established on the initiative of the five Governments of Central Asian 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.

The "Strategy in support of cooperation between the states of Central Asia in the field of water, energy, environment and climate for 2022-2025" (hereinafter referred to as the "Water Strategy") was adopted in 2021 with the active participation of all five CA states and focused on four main fields of activities, including: (1) preventive diplomacy and capacity building; (2) strengthening institutions and legal frameworks; (3) ensuring transparency, strengthening relationships and promoting partnerships; and (4) working on cross-cutting issues of the peace and security agenda.

### Activities in 2022

As part of "Water Strategy", UNRCCA organized: (1) a roundtable on the linkages between climate change, peace and security<sup>211</sup>. The roundtable provided an opportunity to exchange views and was able to gauge interest for a follow-up dialogue series on climate security, which could be designed to support regional efforts in identifying advantageous and mutually beneficial forms of cooperation on water, energy, environment, and climate change in the region (April 26, Turkistan, Kazakhstan); (2) a conference forum on "Water and Mountains Towards Sustainable Development"<sup>212</sup>, which provided a viable platform for exchanging experiences and best practice, familiarizing with specific case studies and projects from high mountain regions, including from Central Asia, as well as presenting the current water-related and climate policies of specific countries. As the outcome, the Conference Forum considered concrete recommendations on how to accelerate work in the field of climate, glaciers melt, as well as in the scientific, educational and advocacy fields contributing to the overall objectives of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 (June 6, Dushanbe, Tajikistan); (3) a meeting of national experts from the Central Asian states to follow up on a joint work related to reviewing and taking stock in the existing legislative basis in the field of regional water-energy cooperation in Central Asia. The participants exchanged on the latest developments in the national regulatory frameworks on water management, climate change adaptation policies, green economy strategies and shared information on recent bi-and multilateral agreements between CA countries in these sectors, exchanged opinions on the role of Afghanistan in cooperation in the Aral Sea basin and discussed monitoring and early warning on transboundary rivers of Amu Darya and Syr Darya (November 29-30, Samarkand, Uzbekistan).

In cooperation with SIC ICWC, four Aral Sea Basin Transboundary Water [Early Warning Bulletins](#) were issued. The Centre also supports activities of the regional knowledge management 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.

<sup>211</sup> within the framework of the Central Asian International Scientific and Practical Conference titled "30 years of Water Cooperation in Central Asia: facing the future"

<sup>212</sup> as part of the Second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028



### Activities in 2022

**WMO** (1) organized the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the WMO's Executive Council to discuss how to further develop the Global Framework for Climate Services, as well as the research and scientific vision for WMO. The Council also endorsed the establishment of a Consortium of WHO Education and Training Collaboration Partners (CONET) intended to broaden the engagement of education and training institutions in WMO activities (June 20-24); (2) **launched** a new web-portal to make key meteorological analyses and forecast products more readily accessible; (3) jointly with WHO, **launched** the first global knowledge platform dedicated to climate and health ([ClimaHealth.info](https://climahealth.info)) in response to growing calls for actionable information to protect

people from the health risks of climate change and other environmental hazards.

**Projects in CA and Afghanistan.** Continued: (1) "The Central Asian Flood Early Warning System"; (2) "Afghanistan Early Warning System project" (\$2.4 million); (3) "Hydromet and Early Warning Services for Resilience" (\$3.7 million); (4) "Uzbekistan Climate Data Restoration Project".

**Publications.** WMO Bulletin Vol. 71 – "Early Warning and Anticipatory Action"; 2022 WMO State of Climate Services: Energy report. Other publications can be found on <https://library.wmo.int/>.

Source: [www.wmo.int](http://www.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.

### Activities in 2022

#### Kyrgyzstan

Since 1996, IFAD has invested \$124.9 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 (2016-2024, IFAD input – \$21.17 million). The Project aims to raise incomes and enhance economic growth in Kyrgyzstan's pastoralist communities.

The "Regional Resilient Pastoral Communities" Project (2021-2026) totals \$31.28 million in funding from IFAD for farm development (it is expected to reach at least 398,000 rural households).

#### Tajikistan

The total amount of IFAD funding in Tajikistan is \$115.16 million. The organization's activities are based on the program titled "Strategic Opportunities of the Country



for 2019-2024". The Program is aimed at reducing rural poverty and strengthening national food security in rural areas of Tajikistan. This is to be addressed under two strategic goals: (1) promoting inclusive agriculture-based economic growth in poor rural communities; and (2) increasing the resilience of smallholder producers to climate change.

"Community-Based Agricultural Support" Project continued. "Community-based Agricultural Support Project 'plus'" was approved (2021-2027, IFAD's contribution – \$37.85 million).

#### Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan joined to IFAD in 2011. Since 2014, IFAD has been financing three investment projects totaling more than \$435.3 million (IFAD's contribution – \$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 dekhan farmers, rural women and youth.

Implementation of Dairy Value Chains Development Program and Agriculture Diversification and Modernization Project continued. A new program titled "Strategic Opportunities of the Country for 2023-2027" developed by IFAD with direct involvement of the Uzbek Ministry of Agriculture was presented to the Government of Uzbekistan. IFAD will invest in climate smart agriculture and sustainable land management approaches that increase productivity.

Source: [www.ifad.org](http://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.

### Activities in 2022

Second International Conference on Water, Megacities and Global Change was held online on [January 11-14](#). The goal was to address the main challenges faced by megacities in coping with the effects of global change on water issues.

UNESCO hosted the UN-Water first Summit on Groundwater on 7-8 December 2022 at its headquarters in Paris ([December 7-8](#)). One of important results of the Summit was the [launch](#) of the transboundary water cooperation coalition. This is a multistakeholder partnership of more than 30 governments and institutions making a commitment to promote and support transboundary water cooperation at all levels worldwide.

Publications:

(1) [report](#) "Groundwater, making the invisible visible" (prepared by UNESCO World Water Assessment Program (WWAP) on behalf of UN-Water). Groundwater already provides half of the volume of water withdrawn for domestic use by the global population, including the drinking water for the vast majority of the rural population. Globally, water use is expected to grow by roughly 1% per year over the next 30 years. Reliance on groundwater supplies is likely to increase as surface water resources become more limited due to climate change;

(2) [report](#) "World heritage glaciers: sentinels of climate change" (based on a study by UNESCO in partnership with IUCN). The report shows new data that [highlight](#) the accelerated melting of glaciers in World Heritage sites. Glaciers in Western Tien-Shan (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan) have shrunk by 27% since

2000. Glaciers in a third of sites set to disappear by 2050. But it is still possible to save the glaciers in the remaining two thirds of sites if the rise in temperatures does not exceed 1.5°C compared to the pre-industrial period. This will be a major challenge for COP27.

UNESCO Projects launched in CA:

- (1) "Promoting bio- and geodiversity for sustainable societies in Central Asia" ([2022-2023](#));
- (2) "Advancing water science for societies in Central Asia" ([2022-2023](#));
- (3) "Integrated water resources management in Uzbekistan" ([2022-2023](#));
- (4) "Strengthening the resilience of Central Asian countries by enabling regional cooperation to assess glacio-nival systems to develop integrated methods for sustainable development and adaptation to climate change" ([2022-2026](#)).

### UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty

**Projects.** As part of the "Glacier Lake Outburst Floods in Central Asia: Knowledge Management Platform" (GLOFCA), the following events were organized:

- (1) a training on numerical modeling of rapid mass movements and glacier lake outburst floods ([July](#));
- (2) a four days joint field visit was conducted to the lakes close to the Adygene research station in the valley of Adygene, a western tributary to the Ala Archa river ([August](#), Kyrgyzstan);
- (3) a second regional workshop on "Assessment of downstream GLOF<sup>213</sup> hazard and community hazard mapping" ([October 31-November 1](#), Almaty, Kazakhstan), summing up project's first year. Experts drafted the first chapter of the guidelines on best practices in reducing vulnerability to glacier lake outburst in CA. This document is to be presented on the international arena as a CA experience in this field.

The third meeting on collaboration was held as part of "The governance of groundwater resources in transboundary aquifers (GGRETA)" project and was aimed at strengthening the joint management of the Tashkent area Transboundary Aquifer ([November 2](#), Almaty, Kazakhstan).

On 6 June 2022, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, UNESCO Almaty Office together with UNRCCA and in partnership with the Committee for Environmental Protection and the Center for Glacier Studies at the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan convened the

<sup>213</sup> GLOF – glacier lake outburst floods

Forum on “Water and Mountains Towards Sustainable Development” within the framework of the second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 (June 6, Dushanbe, Tajikistan). The Forum was focused on the challenges related to glacier melting in CA, as well as on water security in the context of climate change. The Forum provided a platform for exchanging experiences and best practice, familiarizing with specific case studies and projects from high mountain regions, including from Central Asia.

### UNESCO Office in Tashkent

The work on the Water Security Outlook in Uzbekistan has been completed. This was the first quantitative and qualitative assessment of water management in administrative territories. The work was implemented by SIC ICWC upon UNESCO's request. The water security assessment was completed for Navoiy, Samarqand and Khorezm provinces.

Source: [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org), [www.en.unesco.kz](http://www.en.unesco.kz)

## 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.



### Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

#### FAO Activities in CA States in 2022

##### Kazakhstan

##### Ongoing projects:

(1) “Elaboration of the 2022-2026 State Program (including the Concept) of Agro-Industrial Development” (2020-2022, \$370,000);

(2) “Supporting investments in smallholders inclusive agrifood value chain development in Kazakhstan” (2020-2022, \$474,400);

(3) “Kazakhstan resilient agroforestry and rangeland management project” (2022-2026 \$1.9 million);

(4) “Promoting the development of land market and supporting the development of small family farms” (2022-2023, \$275,000);

(5) “Technical support to the development of an International Agrifood Hub” (2022, \$95,000);

(6) “Preparation of GCF project CN on sustainable and CC resilient development” (2022, \$60,000).

Kazakhstan has been selected as a pilot country for a FAO project to test, develop and improve RS-based tools and methodologies for monitoring agricultural land and crop yields.

The project “Contribution to development and further scaling up of healthy nutrition” is to be started next year (2023-2025, \$465,000).

##### Capacity building. FAO:

(1) **completed** an inventory of obsolete pesticides in the pilot Karaganda, Akmola and Pavlodar provinces;

(2) organized trainings for national teams on FAO methodologies for pesticide inventory, data processing and storage. The trainings also focused on deve-

lopment of a roadmap and identification of ways of cooperation among agencies to provide administrative and technical support in the inventory process.

Five-day training was held for 14 representatives of credit associations, SMEs and [Kazakh National Agrarian Research University](#) on FAO “RuralInvest” toolkit to raise financial and investment awareness of farmers.

##### Kyrgyzstan

The FAO Country Programming Framework in Kyrgyzstan for 2023-2027 was signed, with key points related to improving food security and nutrition, stimulating agricultural development and promoting organic agriculture, improving, increasing household sustainability, improving environmental protection, enhancing the sustainable management of natural resource and adaptation to climate change, and boosting digitalization.

##### Ongoing projects:

(1) “Support for development of sustainable value chains for climate-smart agriculture” (2021-2023, \$350,000);

(2) “Promoting accelerated green investment in agriculture through capacity building of national financial institutions” (2021-2023, \$300,000);

(3) “Assessment and improvement of institutional capacities on food control, food safety management systems and international standards” (2021-2022, \$75,000);

(4) “Enhancing capacity for food safety management in the Kyrgyz fruit and vegetable industry” (2020-2022, \$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, \$500,000);

(6) "Strengthening capacities of public and private sector for regulation, certification and marketing of organic products" (2022-2024, \$300,000);

(7) "Support to revision of the Land Code and to development of agricultural land markets" (2022-2023, \$50,000);

(8) "Carbon sequestration through climate investment in forests and rangelands in the Kyrgyz Republic" (2022-2030, \$30 million).

**Planned projects:** "Contributing to the sustainable development of the beef sector" (2023-2025, \$200,000); "Introduction and promotion of innovative approaches for adopting best technologies for horticulture" (2023-2025, \$120,000).

**Capacity building.** FAO and the Kyrgyz Ministry of Agriculture organized an event to raise awareness about fisheries and the benefits of fish consumption within the framework of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.

To improve veterinary services' capacities in epidemiology, risk assessment and emergency response preparedness, FAO organized a two-day simulation exercise to respond to the outbreak of bovine lumpy skin disease in Bokonbaevo village in Issyk-Kul province.

## Tajikistan

### Ongoing projects:

(1) "Support of warm-water fishery sector" (2021-2023, \$95,000);

(2) "Introduce innovative approaches for adopting best technologies for apricot production in Sughd" (2021-2023, \$92,000);

(3) "Provision of Technical Assistance on E-agriculture to the Ministry of Agriculture" (2021-2023, \$90,000) – a multilateral workshop was held, with the Korean experts sharing knowledge and experiences in digital agriculture policies, programs and methods; technical assistance was provided to the Ministry in the development of the National Roadmap for boosting digitalization;

(4) "Agrobiodiversity conservation for food security and livelihood improvement" (2021-2023, \$91,000);

(5) "Enabling market access for Tajik agricultural products through improved food safety systems" (2018-2022, \$197,000);

(6) "Support to export increase of agrifood products through green development and enhanced market access" (2022-2024, \$88,000);

(7) "Strengthening capacity on promotion of conservation agriculture among farms at Romit Reserve" (2022-2023, \$39,000);

(8) "Support to agricultural sector reform and improvement of the investment climate" (2022-2023, \$95,000); (2022-2023, \$95,000);

(9) "Cooperative development and strengthening of rural institutions under the Agrarian Reform Programme" (2022-2023, \$96,000);

(10) "Strengthening resilience of the agriculture sector (2022-2026, \$2.4 million);

(11) "Facilitating agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use to promote food and nutritional resilience in Tajikistan" (2022-2025, \$1.7 million);

(12) "Strengthening the capacity of the Republic of Tajikistan to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement" (2022-2023, \$50,000).

**Capacity building.** FAO is setting up agrometeorological stations throughout the country to help farmers predict the weather more accurately. This includes a pilot agrometeorological network covering three crops – vineyards in Tursunzade district, apricots in Kanibadam district and cotton in Jaloliddin Balkhi district.

FAO provided 40 removable solar dryers for fruits and vegetables to eight farmer groups in four districts of Khatlon province; allocated \$20,000 to the most vulnerable 40 female-headed households in Yavan district; established eight farmer field schools and distributed 340 kg of high quality legume seeds; organized a series of capacity building activities for 268 farmers, 61% of whom were women; and assisted cooperatives and informal production groups in seed multiplication in six districts of the country.

FAO introduced simulation exercises for veterinary services responding to lumpy skin disease and distributed reference literature. 5 water tankers, 2 jet sprayers, 12 showers and 343 camping items were delivered to combat a possible locust infestation; support was provided for the development of a regional monthly bulletin on locust control and 2 transboundary locust surveys in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

FAO Tajikistan organized three side events within the framework of COP27 on regional cooperation on climate change and the role of agrobiodiversity and climate finance in climate change mitigation.

## Turkmenistan

Among the **highlights** of FAO's work in Turkmenistan in 2022 were improvements to the cotton value chain, increased capacity of lumpy skin disease resistance, and increased sustainability in agrifood.

**Ongoing projects.** Under the project "Integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landsca-

pes in Central Asia and Turkey" (CACILM-2), experts are drafting a law related to soils, have prepared a report on early warning systems, disaster risk management and agrometeorological services. The project built 2 plant nurseries and a demonstration plot for reclamation measures to reduce soil salinization and procured 25,000 fruit tree seedlings to expand horticultural areas in various soil-climate conditions.

**Capacity building.** FAO assisted in improving cotton value chain efficiency and sector sustainability. Two reciprocal field visits of cotton experts from Turkey and Turkmenistan were organized; workshops were held on improving cotton production and mechanized harvesting. Under an agreement with the Turkish Nazilli Cotton Research Institute, work on a gender-sensitive strategy for accelerating the mechanization of the cotton industry is ongoing.

FAO organized a monthly online course for 400 veterinarians at the FAO Virtual Training Centre designed to help veterinarians better detect, prevent and control lumpy skin disease.

In March, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan held the 5th Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of Central Asia. Participants discussed how integrated natural resources management contributes to agricultural sustainability and learned about FAO tools, initiatives and projects that support its implementation.

## Uzbekistan

FAO's activities in Uzbekistan are supported by [FAO-Uzbekistan Country Programming Framework \(CPF\)](#) for 2021-2025.

The total funding budget for the implementation of the CPF is expected to be approx. \$ 17 million.

**Ongoing projects.** In agriculture and natural resource management:

(1) "Recovery and development of the potato sector in response to COVID-19" (2021-2023, \$195,000);

(2) "Strengthening sustainable food systems through geographical indications" (2021-2022, \$250,000) – support was provided to the Intellectual Property Agency under the Uzbek Ministry of Justice in drafting a new law on geographical indications, which was adopted on March 3, 2022;

(3) "Rice crop production and management support" (2020-2022, \$100,000);

(4) Support in implementation of inclusive agricultural policies (2020-2022, \$100,000) – draft strategy was developed on gender equality for the Ministry of Agriculture; assistance was provided for improving three legal instruments related to agriculture;

(5) "Preparing the grounds for digital transformation of agriculture" (2022-2023, \$315,000);

(6) "Support to country program development on sustainable agriculture" (2022-2023 \$50,000);

(7) Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program (2022-2026, \$6 million);

(8) "Capacity building to establish an integrated and enhanced transparency framework in Uzbekistan to track the national climate actions and support measures received" (2022-2025, \$1.3 million);

(9) "Multi-faceted response to the food and energy emergency in Uzbekistan" (2022, \$80,000).

## Forest management projects:

(1) "Sustainable management of forests in mountain and valley areas of Uzbekistan" (2018-2023, \$3.2 million) to sequester carbon and improve the quality of forests and tree resources;

(2) "Sustainable forest and rangelands management in the dryland ecosystems of Uzbekistan" (2022-2026, \$3.8 million).

Continued projects on the Aral Sea: "Unleashing young people's and vulnerable citizens' creativity and innovation of the Aral Sea region" (2020-2023, \$180,000) and "Empowering youth towards a brighter future through green and innovative development of the Aral Sea region" (2022-2023, \$23,000).

**Capacity building.** FAO is [providing](#) technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture for the development of a program to identify key priority areas and activities to accelerate the digitalization of the sector and strengthen agricultural knowledge and information systems.

FAO is helping smallholder farmers in three communities produce more food with less pesticides, fertilizers, water and labor, using low-cost digital and non-digital technologies. During the first crop cycle, farmers achieved a 90% increase in tomato production and a 140% increase in sweet pepper production.<sup>214</sup>

FAO built three fruit tree nurseries in three households in the Muynak, Kungrad and Bozatau regions of Karakalpakstan and planted more than 3000 seedlings. An aquaculture pond was established in Bozatau region, and two more ponds are being established in the Muynak and Kungrad regions.

## FAO at the regional level

### Completed projects:

(1) ["Developing capacity for strengthening food security and nutrition in selected countries of the](#)

<sup>214</sup> as part of the project "Smart farming for the future generation" funded by the Republic of Korea

Caucasus and Central Asia" – final project report is available in English;

(2) **Central Asian Desert Initiative/CADI** – over 6 years a wide package of measures was implemented to conserve and use sustainably cold winter deserts in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Among the multiple project outputs are the following: establishment of new protected areas; nomination of the Cold Winter Deserts of Turan as UNESCO World Heritage Site; organization of **Farmer Field Schools** to strengthen the capacities of farmers for a sustainable use of deserts, support young scientists within the CADI Fellowship program, and generate many new baseline data and knowledge about the vulnerable and endangered ecosystem of cold winter deserts.

#### Ongoing projects:

(1) "Improving national and regional locust control in the Caucasus and Central Asia" aimed at safeguarding rural population food security and livelihoods: annual regional workshop on locust data collection, analysis, forecasting and reporting was held (February 16-18, online); cross-border survey between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan was conducted (March 28-April 2); regional training of trainers on

locust control took place (October 17-28, Samarkand); 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee, which approved the workplan for the third year including the 2023 national anti-locust campaign (December 14, online). The report of the annual Technical Workshop on locusts in CA was published (November 21-24, Dushanbe);

(2) "Integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey", Phase II of the "Land Governance Initiatives of CA countries": 2<sup>nd</sup> regional workshop titled "The Road Ahead after COP26: Enhancing Targets and Compliance with Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) for Agriculture and LULUCF" was organized;

(3) "Lifecycle management of pesticides and disposal of POPs pesticides in Central Asian countries and Turkey" supported by GEF;

(4) "Strengthening regional collaboration and national capacities for management of wheat rust diseases and resistance breeding in Central Asia and the Caucasus".

Source: [www.fao.org](http://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 73<sup>rd</sup> session of ILC in 2022, reports were presented on the following topics: "Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction", "Peremptory norms of general international law (jus cogens)", "Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts", "Succession of States in respect of State responsibility", "General principles of law", etc.

The Commission considered the third report of Special Rapporteur on "Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts" (A/CN.4/750 + Corr.1 +

Add.1) as well as comments and observations received from Governments and international organizations and other parties (A/CN.4/749).

The Commission adopted, on second reading, the entire set of draft principles on **protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts** including a draft preamble and complete set of 27 draft principles together with commentaries to this set.

On the topic "Sea-level rise from the perspective of international law", the Commission reconstituted the Study Group on Sea-level rise in relation to international law, which had before it a second issue paper (A/CN.4/752 and Add.1) on issues relating to statehood and the protection of persons affected by sea-level rise. The Group exchanged views on the paper and on other issues related to the sub-themes under consideration, as well as considered a number of indicative questions prepared by the co-chairs and held discussions on the future program of work on the topic.

Source: ILC Report at the 73<sup>rd</sup> session, 2022

## 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 2022, the Court's list of cases included only two cases directly related to water disputes – the Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros project (Hungary/Slovakia) and dispute over the status and use of the waters of the Silala (Chile v. Bolivia). For the nature of the case and proceedings on Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros project (Hungary/Slovakia), see the ICJ [report](#).

**Dispute between Chile and Bolivia over the status and use of the waters of the Silala (Chile/Bolivia):** On June 6, 2016, Chile instituted proceedings against Bolivia before the International Court of Justice over the status and use of the waters of the Silala. On December 1, 2022, the Court delivered its Judgement.

In its [Judgment](#), which is final, without appeal and binding on the Parties, the Court found that the claims made by the Republic of Chile in its final submission regarding (a) the Silala River system as an international watercourse governed by customary international law, (b) Chile's entitlement to the equitable and reasonable utilization of the waters of the Silala River system, (c) Chile's entitlement to its current use of the waters of the Silala River system (d) Bolivia's obligation to prevent and control harm resulting from its activities in the vicinity of the Silala River system no longer have any object and that, therefore, the Court is not called upon to give a decision thereon.

The Court reached the same conclusion on the counter-claim made by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in its final submission concerning (a) Bolivia's alleged sovereignty over the artificial channels and drainage

mechanisms installed in its territory; and (b) Bolivia's alleged sovereignty over the "artificial" flow of Silala waters engineered, enhanced or produced in its territory.

In each of these claims, the Court declined to issue a decision because the positions of the Parties have converged in the course of the proceedings, the Court acknowledged the agreement between them on these matters and ruled that it was devoid of any object.

The Court found that Bolivia has not breached the obligation to notify and consult incumbent on it under customary international law, and rejected the claim made by the Republic of Chile in its final submission (e). Similarly, the Court rejected the counter-claim made by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in its final submission (c) regarding the alleged need to conclude an agreement for any future delivery to Chile of the "enhanced flow" of the Silala.

Judges Tomka and Charlesworth append declarations to the Judgment of the Court; Judge ad hoc Simma appends a separate opinion to the Judgment of the Court.

Some preliminary observations on the Silala case by legal scholars can be found on EJIL Talk at <https://www.ejiltalk.org/preliminary-reflections-on-the-icj-decision-in-the-dispute-between-chile-and-bolivia-over-the-status-and-use-of-the-waters-of-the-silala/>

**Source:** Judgment 1 December 2022, Dispute over the status and use of the waters of the Silala (Chile v. Bolivia)

