



Section 6

United Nations
and its Specialized
Agencies

6.1. General Assembly



The General Assembly (GA) occupies a central position as the chief deliberative organ of the United Nations. It is comprised of all Members of the United Nations, each having one vote. It is authorized to discuss full spectrum of issues covered by the Charter. The UN GA meets September each year.

On 18 September 2018, the 73rd Session of GA was opened, with agenda containing 178 items. The Presidents of the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Uzbekistan to the UN spoke at the general debate "Making the United Nations Relevant to All People: Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Peaceful, Equitable and Sustainable Societies". Among other things, they focused on water, climate change, and energy-related issues.

Statements by representatives of Central Asian countries at the general debate of the 73rd session of the UNGA

Address by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan



Speaking from the floor of the UNGA, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov underlined that the world was facing the crises, which touched every aspect of life. "Millions of people live under a shadow of dreadful wars, such as in Syria, Yemen and many other corners of the Globe", he reminded. Search for a comprehensive solution to the Syrian conflict was the reason for Kazakhstan's initiative to hold talks in

the Astana format. Kazakhstan believes that war can never be a lasting solution to any problem, which should be resolved based on mutual respect and trust. The Minister drew attention to the resumption of the arms race, which worsens the climate of international relations. He noted that today there is growing ideological gap between East and West. The Minister called for the use of the UN for multilateral negotiations.

He highlighted that Kazakhstan has been experiencing the explosive economic growth. The government carefully preserved peace and harmony in multi-ethnic and multi-religious society.

H.E. Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov reminded that the country has proven itself to be a moral leader in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, having renounced the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal and the world's largest nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk. The Minister called upon all other countries to follow this example as nuclear weapons do not ensure either real power or true protection. Kazakhstan signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 2 March 2018, as well as sponsored General Assembly resolution that established the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

Regional cooperation in Central Asia

In his address, H.E. Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov underlined the importance of cooperation among the Central Asian states. He, particularly, noted:

"In the regional context we are committed to further extending our partnership among Central Asian countries and to enhancing our common capability to withstand threats and challenges. We consider the political, economic and cultural potential of the region as a common resource, the most rational and effective use of which is achievable only in a collective format.

Our shared goal is creating in our region of Central Asia and beyond a model for a zone of peace, security, trust, development and cooperation. Several features of such a zone are already in place, as exemplified by the Council of the Turkic Speaking States, the International Aral Sea Fund and its last Summit, that demonstrated strong political collaboration amongst regional leaders, the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Central Asia and other mechanisms.

Being the first country from the region represented in the UN Security Council, we try to deeper focus to the situation in Afghanistan with its full implications and threats in the broader regional context [...].

New globalization trends imply cross-border threats and challenges, requiring a new paradigm of addressing them. These transnational challenges are specific but common to particular regions, especially conflict-prone ones, and necessitate transit from "country-specific" to "regional" strategy to tackle them. Regional strategy becomes effective with "whole-of-system" coordination of UN structures' activities region-wide. As a pilot case we offer the establishment of a UN regional Hub for SDGs in Almaty.

As an example of regional cooperation, I would also like to outline the results of the Caspian Summit held a month ago in the city of Aktau in Western Kazakhstan. We all are extremely satisfied and proud that the long-awaited legal status of the Caspian Sea has been agreed and determined by the five littoral countries."

In conclusion, Mr. Abdrakhmanov reiterated that it was only through collective will and solidarity one can turn this world in crisis into a world of hope and promise. He also called to turn good will and good words into good action.

Full text in English:

https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/73/kz_en2.pdf

Address by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic

The President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sooronbai Zheenbekov, speaking at the general debate of the 73rd session of the General Assembly, underlined terrorism fighting, climate change, water use, environmental issues and the heritage of the radioactive industry of the Soviet era.

On Cooperation in Central Asia and Water Use Issues

Strengthening the entire spectrum of cooperation between the countries of Central Asia, we consider as the most important factor of ensuring security not only in the region, but also in the world. It is gratifying to note that our cooperation has acquired a positive momentum and has reached a fundamentally new level. The meetings of heads of state and foreign ministers of the countries of Central Asia have become traditional.



For the Kyrgyz Republic, the issue of water use is extremely important. The practice of the last decades of using water and energy resources in

Central Asia shows the need to develop new approaches. We are convinced that the integrated use of water and energy resources in the region should be determined by a system of measures aimed at the sustainable development of all the Central Asian states. Therefore, Kyrgyzstan has consistently advocated the development and implementation in Central Asia of mutually beneficial economic mechanisms in this area. Cooperation and comprehensive dialogue are considered by the Kyrgyz side as the only and without alternative way of solving existing problems. In this context, we also see a special role and a new mission of such regional organizations as the CIS, SCO, CSTO, and the EAEU. Today, overcoming the isolation policy and developing the vector of cooperation and partnership have become very important.

On Sustainable Development and Environment

The transition to sustainable development is the restoration of natural ecosystems and the environment. Kyrgyzstan recognizes climate change as a significant threat to ecosystems and people. We committed ourselves to counteract

this global phenomenon by signing the Paris Agreement.

Climate change is having an increasing impact on our glaciers and water resources, contributing to the growth of natural disasters in the mountainous regions of the country. These are the main topics of the fourth World Mountain Forum in Kyrgyzstan, organized to discuss new ways of development for the prosperous future of mountain regions.

The main issue of regional nature in the sphere of environment remains the problem of the legacy of the radioactive industry of the Soviet era - uranium tailings [...]. With a view to enter a new stage of actions to reclaim uranium tailings, Kyrgyzstan is taking the initiative to update the UN General Assembly Resolution of 2013 on the Role of the International Community in Preventing Radiation Threat in Central Asia [...].

As the great son of the Kyrgyz people, famous writer, philosopher, humanist Chingiz Aitmatov said *“There is no greater wealth for a man than to live together and peacefully”*. Only unity and harmony will keep the world together!

Full text (in Russian):

https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/73/kg_ru.pdf

Address by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the UN



Effective regional cooperation should also facilitate achieving sustainable development

Speaking from the floor of the UNGA, H.E. Mr. Mahmadinov Mahmadinov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the UN, highlighted that the unprecedented level of instability and uncertainty was on the rise in many parts of the world. Global chal-

lenges such as climate change, terrorism and extremism, large-scale conflicts, inequality, poverty, food and water security, lack of education and economic opportunities, unemployment, to name a few, further affect the status quo. Today's global challenges exert pressure on the very foundations of the world order and principles of international relations. He underlined that they undermined the efforts of the international community at achieving the 2030 Agenda and its sustainable development goals.

Peace on Earth and Afghanistan

H.E. Mr. M.Mahmadaminov has underlined that peace is a prerequisite for sustainable development, and Tajikistan supports the international strategy for a comprehensive settlement and post-conflict rehabilitation in Afghanistan. He also called to strengthen our assistance to the Government of Afghanistan, especially during Afghanistan's Transformation Decade (2015-2024). Urgent socio-economic recovery is a must for development and prosperity of

Afghanistan. Tajikistan is willing to take part in the rehabilitation of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan through connecting the transport arteries of our two countries, creating an energy bridge CASA-1000, providing the Afghan population with essential commodities and training specialists.

Sustainable Development Goals

With regard to the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, Mr. M. Mahmadinov expressed concern about the development of the situation with the achievement of SDGs by 2030, particularly at the stage, when the countries just started incorporating/aligning the 2030 Agenda with their national development strategies. It is essential to revitalize international trade and investments – the main engines of economic growth and development. He also noted the importance of regional cooperation.

Address by the President of Turkmenistan

The President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has put forward an initiative to declare 2019 as the year of Peace and Trust. He proposed specific measures aimed at reducing tensions, peaceful political and diplomatic resolution of disputes and contradictions and adoption of appropriate responsible and substantiated decisions.

Security in Central Asia and Afghanistan

“Ensuring long-term and comprehensive security represents a key issue for the Central Asian states [...]. In this regard we believe that it is crucially important to involve Afghanistan in the implementation of major energy, transport and communications projects as a full-fledged partner. We regard this issue as a strategic guideline for Afghanistan, its role in regional and global processes and the guarantee of the prosperity and well-being of the Afghan people [...].

Sustainable Development Goals

Turkmenistan has taken an active part in the elaboration of the Sustainable Development Agenda for the period up to the year 2030 and has tabled a number of specific proposals [...].

Implementation of the SDGs in Turkmenistan has an especially prominent social orientation.

International Water Cooperation

He concluded that Dushanbe, Tajikistan hosted the High-Level International Conference in June, which launched the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028. The Conference brought together around 1,500 people from 111 countries of the world. It was organized jointly by the Government of Tajikistan and the UN with the support of partners. The Conference also provided a timely and necessary platform for elaborating recommendations in the run-up to the HLPF where the SDG 6 had been reviewed. He noted that Tajikistan would continue to promote water issues in the global agenda.

Full text: <https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/tajikistan>



By this we mean such important issues as ensuring food security and improvement of people's nutrition, all-round promotion of a healthy way of life, ensuring full gender equality by guaranteeing the rights and opportunities for all women and girls, and creating the conditions for a comprehensive, equitable and high-quality education.

Parallel to this we devote great attention to achieving the goal of ensuring the availability and rational use of water resources and sanitation for all.

Water Issues and Aral Sea Problem

Turkmenistan firmly adheres to the principle stipulating that water is the common heritage of all the nations of the planet and that equal and equitable access to clean drinking water is the fundamental right of human beings. Development of states, their economy and social sphere as well as the level of well-being and quality of life of the people directly depends on access to water resources and their effective use. Therefore equality of rights, mutual respect and responsibility should become the main criteria that determine relations among Central Asian states.

By steadfastly adhering to those positions Turkmenistan has always declared that water and energy issues existing in our region should be resolved: first, on the basis of generally accepted rules of international law; second, on the basis of the consideration of the interests of each country; and third, on the basis of active participation of international organizations and primarily of the United Nations [...].

The issue of saving the Aral Sea stands prominently among the major topics of cooperation between the countries of the region and the international community. It is apparent that preservation of the Aral Sea can no longer be considered as an internal regional problem. Its successful solution requires assistance from the international community, an innovative purpose oriented and comprehensive international approach and systematic participation of the United Nations in this endeavor.

In this connection we have embarked on the implementation of Turkmenistan's initiative regarding the elaboration of a Special UN Program for the Aral Sea basin and earmarking the Aral problem as a separate sphere of Organization's work [...].

He also called on the international community to join measures to preserve the Aral Sea and support Turkmenistan's initiative in this area. He cited the recent signing of the Caspian Sea agreement as a positive example of international cooperation".

Full text: <https://www.mfa.gov.tm/en/articles/321>

Address by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the UN



Thanks to joint efforts of the countries of the region, within a short period of time in Central Asia we've created a fundamentally new political atmosphere

H.E. Mr. Bakhtiyor Ibragimov, the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations, speaking at the general debate of the 73rd session of the UNGA, shared the first results of the large-scale transformations taking place in the country and the country's priorities in foreign policy.

Transformations in Uzbekistan

Today, the Republic of Uzbekistan is on an important stage of radical and dynamic transformations. Mr. Ibragimov spoke on significant steps on streamlining the national system of protection of human rights and freedom, strengthening independence of the judicial system, as well as large scale measures on liberalization of economy, creating conditions for free entrepreneurship, ensuring inviolability of private property, improving investment climate.

Reforming UN and Initiatives of Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan proposes "to strengthen the central role of the United Nations in international relations, especially in supporting of the three pillars of the Organization, i.e. efforts on ensuring peace, security and sustainable development of countries and regions as well as the protection of human rights. Uzbekistan supports steps taken by the leadership of the United Nations on streamlining the governing system of

the Organization as well as it calls for gradual reforming its organs, including the Security Council taking into account today's realities and challenges" [...].

Uzbekistan "is ready to actively participate in UN efforts on promoting comprehensive peace, stability and development on the basis of respecting for human rights and freedom, democratization and the rule of law. In this regard, Uzbekistan has for the first time nominated its candidacy to the United Nations Human Rights Council for the period of 2021-2023". He underlined that the President of Uzbekistan initiated the development and adoption of a UN Convention "On the rights of youth" and a General Assembly resolution entitled "Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance".

Central Asia is a Main Foreign Policy Priority

"Central Asia remains as a main foreign policy priority of Uzbekistan. Today the situation in this region differs from the one we had not long ago. Thanks to joint efforts of the countries of the region, within a short period of time in Central Asia we've created a fundamentally new political atmosphere, raised the level of political trust, strengthened traditionally friendly and good neighborly relations among ourselves.

The important outcome of all of this work is the significant progress in resolving such acute issues as demarcation of borders, management of the water resources, and joint use of transport communications. One should note that these very issues have not only remained unresolved for an extended period of time but were also sources of regional tension [...]. Most importantly – we are now more convinced that we are united not only by our one past, but by our common future [...].

UNGA Resolutions on Regional Cooperation, Water and Environment

On 12 April at the 82nd plenary meeting of the 72nd session, the UNGA adopted a draft resolution [72/273](#) on "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea". Turkmenistan, under its chairmanship of the IFAS, proposed this resolution for consideration. Particularly, UNGA noted the need for further improvement of the activities of the IFAS; also notes the importance of strengthening cooperation and coordination between the UN system and IFAS, making use of

Sustainable Development, Ecological Equilibrium and Aral Sea Problem

The sustainable development of Central Asia stipulates maintaining ecological equilibrium in the region which directly depends on the mitigation of the consequences of the drying up of the Aral Sea. For the past several years Uzbekistan has implemented a number of large scale projects in the Aral Sea zone. Uzbekistan has initiated the establishment of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region, which was supported by the United Nations [...]. The establishment under the auspices of the United Nations of this Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region is an attempt to highlight major risks that pose threats to the most vulnerable population, and also opens a new level of dialogue aimed at comprehensive and human based solutions which focus on the real needs of people, taking into account existing risks and challenges [...].

Peaceful Process in Afghanistan

When we speak about Central Asia, we can't help but to mention Afghanistan – the country which we consider a historical part of the single cultural-civilizational space of our region. Stable Afghanistan is a prerequisite for the sustainable development of Central Asia as a whole. Recently Uzbekistan has notably expanded its bilateral relations with Afghanistan, actively joined multilateral efforts on resolving the Afghan problem and is making real contribution to restoring the country's economy as well as to developing close trade-economic and transport-communication ties".

Sources:

https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/.../73/uz_en.pdf

consultations between the Secretary-General and the Chair of the Executive Committee of IFAS; and invites the specialized agencies of the UN system and international financial institutions to develop their cooperation with IFAS.

Full text of the resolution:

<https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/72/273>

On 22 June, GA adopted a resolution entitled "Strengthening Regional and International

Cooperation to Ensure Peace, Stability and Sustainable Development in the Central Asian Region” ([A/RES/72/283](#)). Uzbekistan proposed this draft resolution for consideration. Particularly, UNGA expressed its support for the ongoing regional efforts and initiatives to strengthen stability and economic cooperation in Central Asia; encouraged the efforts of the Central Asian States to promote the peace process and social and economic development in Afghanistan; noted the importance of developing and strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation in the sphere of the rational and integrated use of water and energy resources in Central Asia; and called upon Member States to support the efforts of the Central Asian States aimed at mitigating the environmental and

socioeconomic consequences of the drying up of the Aral Sea.

Full text of the resolution:
<https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/72/283>

On December 20, the UNGA adopted a resolution 73/226 “Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028”. The draft resolution was presented by Tajikistan in co-authorship with 190 UN countries. UNGA emphasizes that water is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and notes the need for climate adaptation strategies to address water issues.

Full text of the resolution:
<https://undocs.org/ru/A/RES/73/226>

International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028

On 21 December 2016, at its 66th plenary session, the UNGA adopted its [resolution 71/222](#), which proclaimed the period from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”. The Decade commenced on World Water Day 22 March 2018 and would terminate on [World Water Day](#), 22 March 2028.

The International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 is the Tajikistan's fourth global water-related initiative, which was first announced by the President of Tajikistan during the 7th World Water Forum in the Republic of Korea on 12-17 April 2015.



**WATER
ACTION DECAD**
2018-2028

The International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 builds on the achievements of the previous International Decade for Action “Water for Life”, 2005-2015. The report of the UN General-Secretary “International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources” notes that “the Decade helped maintain momentum, provided the impetus for continued actions and activities and helped water become the focus of a level of attention greater than any witnessed previously” (item 42), as well “it has also shown where the shortfalls lie and what slows down progress on water-related goals and targets. There are still a myriad of constraints on human, institutional and financial resources” (item 44). The new Decade should be a follow up of the previous Decade, while enriching it with new measures and efforts to achieve SDGs.

According to the UNGA Resolution 71/222, objectives of the 2018-2028 Decade include a greater focus on the sustainable development

and integrated management of water resources for the achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives; implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects; furtherance of cooperation and partnership at all levels in order to help to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including SDG (item 4). It also highlights the importance of promoting efficient water usage at all levels, taking into account the water, food, energy, environment nexus (item 5).

The resolution decides (item 6) that these objectives should be pursued by:

- improving knowledge generation and dissemination, facilitating access to knowledge and the exchange of good practices, generating new information relevant to the water-related SDG;
- pursuing advocacy;
- networking and promoting partnership and action by different actors to imple-

ment the water-related Goals and targets;

- strengthening communication actions at various levels for the implementation of the water-related Goals.

Implementation of the International Decade for Action in 2018

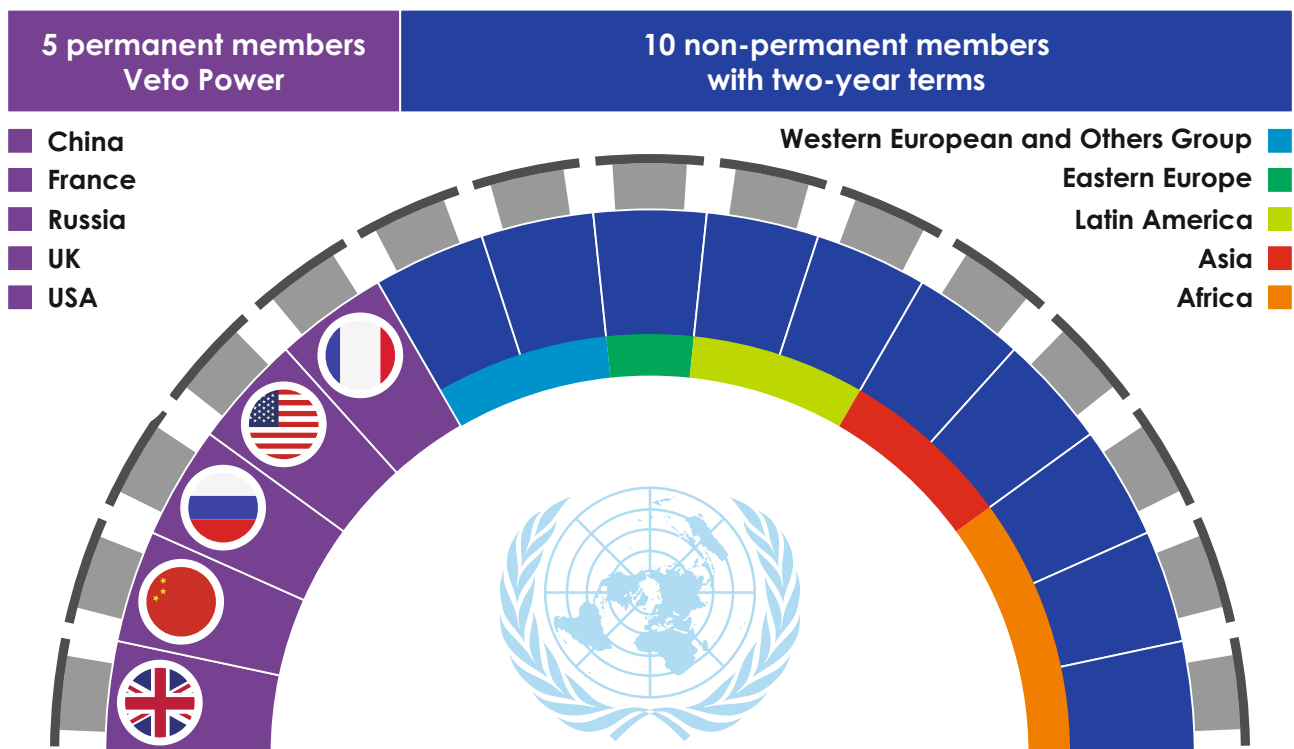
On 22 March, a [High-Level Event](#) was organized to launch the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 (New York, USA).

On March 23-24, an International scientific and practical conference “Water for sustainable development of Central Asia”, dedicated to the launch of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, was held in Dushanbe. The event was aimed at sharing information, knowledge and experience in rational water use in the Central Asian countries under the climate change. Based on the results of the conference, a collection of materials was published.

On June 20-21, an [International High-Level Conference](#) on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 was held at the initiative of the Government of Tajikistan in cooperation with UN (Dushanbe). The Conference was aimed at raising awareness of the timely and effective implementation of SDG 6 and other water-related SDGs, as well as discussing next steps in the implementation of the Plan of Action of the International Decade of Action for 2018-2028 at the global, regional and country levels. For details, see Section [“Major Events in Central Asian Countries”](#).

On December 20, at its 62nd plenary meeting of the 73rd session, the UNGA adopted a draft resolution [73/226](#) “Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028” presented by Tajikistan in co-authorship with 190 UN countries.

6.2. Security Council



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

Outcome of Kazakhstan's Presidency of UN Security Council: Regional and Global Success of Initiatives of the Head of State



In 2018, Kazakhstan completed its work as President of the UN Security Council. The Kazakh presidency ensured smooth day-to-day work of the Security Council with the assistance of the UN Secretariat and performed the functions under its mandate. The Kazakh presidency held about 30 consultations, briefings and debates, which resulted in resolutions and press statements of the Council President.

The flagship event of Kazakhstan's presidency of the UN Security Council was a **high-level thematic briefing Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction: Confidence-Building Measures held on January 18 and chaired by President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev**. The meeting demonstrated that confidence-building measures, as well as the strengthening of preventive diplomacy tools, can serve as a starting point for making progress on many critical issues that may not be resolved in a timely manner due to the political situation in the relations of world powers. **The Statement by the President of the UN Security Council (S/PRST/2018/1)** adopted at the end of the meeting is devoted to a comprehensive conflict prevention strategy. In addition to early warning, preventive deployment, mediation, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding, and, accountability measures, this document included for the first time the problems of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This is what makes the adopted document unique.

Kazakhstan, being the first Central Asian state elected to the UN Security Council, during its presidency continued actively promoting the interests of all states of our region.

The central event was the **ministerial debates of the UN Security Council held on January 19 focusing on Building Regional Partnership in Afghanistan and Central Asia as a Model to Link Security and Development chaired by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kairat Abd-rakhmanov**. The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministers of Kuwait, Russia, Poland, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, deputy foreign ministers of Great Britain, the Netherlands, the United States, Equatorial Guinea and Afghanistan, as well as delegations of the UN Security Council member states and the European Union. UN Secretary-General António Guterres delivered a keynote address. The meeting resulted in the adoption of **Presidential Statement S/PRST/2018/2**. The document stresses the importance of advancing regional, interregional and international cooperation to achieve long-term peace, stability and sustainable development in Afghanistan and Central Asia and supports the joint efforts of countries of the region towards the enhancement of a zone of peace, cooperation and prosperity.

An important event of Kazakhstan's presidency was the **visit of the UN Security Council delegation to Kabul** on January 12-15. During the visit, meetings were held with the country's top leadership, representatives of political parties and civil society. In the course of the visit, the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to address a wide range of interrelated problems were considered and it was determined how the Security Council could further promote efforts on the ground. The field mission to Kabul was the Security Council's first visit to Afghanistan since 2010, gave insight into the situation and an objective understanding of the real interests and priorities of the country and its civilian population.

On January 18, Kazakhstan held a **special high-level event at the UN headquarters to launch the draft Code of Conduct for the Achievement of a Terrorism-Free World**. The main goal of the document is to achieve a terrorism-free world by 2045 and create a broad international coalition of partner countries. The UN leadership and counterterrorism-related committees of the Security Council, heads and representatives of more than a hundred delegations of Member States supported the relevance and significance of the Code.

The Kazakh presidency held **planned activities** (briefings and consultations) on the situation in the Middle East and Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Darfur (Sudan), West Africa and the Sahel, Libya, Mali, Somalia and Southern Sudan, on the efforts of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, as well as arranged the trip of the UN Security Council members to Washington to meet with the leadership of the United States. One of the initiatives of Kazakhstan's presidency was the official **ceremony to mark the start of a new term** for six newly-elected UN Security Council members: Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Peru and Poland on January 2, who

solemnly placed their flags in front of the UN Security Council Chamber.

The success of the events initiated by the Kazakh delegation during its presidency and the adoption of outcome documents demonstrated negotiation skills and relevance of the peacekeeping potential of our country, constructive approaches to the biggest challenges of today's world, and was due to the credibility of Kazakhstan.

Source: The website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan www.mfa.gov.kz/; Report on the work of Kazakhstan as the president of the UNSC <http://undocs.org/ru/S/2018/575>

Security Council Arria-formula Meeting on Water, Peace and Security

On 26 October 2018 an Arria-formula meeting was held on water, peace and security. The meeting is being co-hosted by Security Council members Bolivia, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Netherlands. Panelists in the meeting were Danilo Türk, chair of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace; UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Miroslav Jenča; and Manish Bapna, the Executive Vice President and Managing Director of the World Resources Institute on behalf of the Water, Peace and Security Initiative.

Water is seldom the only driver of conflict, but is often among the important contributing factors. This calls for strengthened global monitoring of developments relating to water quantity and quality and strengthened water diplomacy, as it represents a major contribution to maintaining international peace and security. A key objective of the meeting was to explore ways in which risk assessments and management strategies can be developed, in

accordance with these Council outcomes, so that the Council can be provided with the information it needs to make timely and well-informed decisions that address underlying factors sparking conflict.

Several Council members, including France, the Netherlands, Peru, Sweden, the UK, and others have shown interest in the security risks of water insecurity. The Council's focus on water security issues is likely to continue in the coming years.

Sources:
<http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/treatybodies/watch/arria-formula-meeting-on-waterpeace-andsecurity/5854096417001/?term=http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/treaty-bodies/watch/children-onthe-move-preventing-child-trafficking-byimplementing-the-un-global-plan-ofaction/5588262537001/>;
www.whatsinblue.org/2018/10/water-peace-andsecurity-arria-formula-meeting.php

Security Council and Climate-related Security Risks

On 11 July 2018 the Security Council held a debate on climate-related security risks (SC/13417). The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Margot Wallström, chaired the debate. Among other ideas, delegates proposed the appointment of a new Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Climate and Security, as well as the establishment of an "institutional home" or "hub" for the topic within the UN system. While speakers agreed that climate change and its impacts –

including desertification, droughts, floods and food insecurity – all posed grave threats, they nevertheless diverged over the extent of the Council's responsibility to address those phenomena, with some warning against expanding the organ's mandate or encroaching on the jurisdiction of other bodies.

Many delegates shared the view that climate change is a real threat and the impact of climate change – a "multiplier" that puts

additional stress on existing political, social and economic pressures. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, said climate change is becoming a central theme throughout the world community. It poses a risk as a “threat multiplier”. Calling for “climate diplomacy” to become a part of the UN overall conflict prevention efforts, he said it should also be treated as an underpinning concept in sustaining peace – not an end process, but one which ran parallel to prevention, resolution, recovery and rehabilitation. He also called for better climate-related security risk assessments and management strategies, stronger international cooperation, more joint projects to build the capacity of developing countries and investments in new diversified economies. Kazakhstan, for its part, has taken voluntary action to cut its use of fossil fuels by 2030 and replace it with renewable energy by 2050.

The representative of China said the international community should work together to address climate change by “actively rising up to existing challenges”. That means providing assistance to developing countries, including through technology transfer. Calling on the global community to build a new concept of common, comprehensive security and sustainable development, he said China has long participated in global action on climate change, including in the context of South-South cooperation, and remains committed to assisting other countries going forward.

The Russian Federation’s delegate, underscoring the threat posed by climate change, nevertheless expressed concern that today’s meeting marked yet another attempt to link the issue of environmental conservation to interna-

tional peace and security. “We are creating an illusion that the Council will tackle climate issues and that there will be some kind of turning point,” he added. Climate change is not a universal challenge to be addressed as a matter of international peace and security, and should instead be addressed within national borders and in the context of the appropriate UN agencies and departments, he said.

Also speaking were Government Ministers and other senior officials and representatives from Iraq, Peru, Côte d’Ivoire, Nauru, Sweden, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, France, China, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Poland, Kuwait, Maldives, Trinidad and Tobago and Sudan.

In 2018, the Council has recognized the need for risk assessment and management strategies to address climate-related risk factors such as water security, drought, and food insecurity in the context West Africa and the Sahel ([S/PRST/2018/3](#) of 30 January 2018) and Somalia ([S/RES/2408](#) of 27 March 2018). In the future, while differences of view are likely to persist, it appears that the connection between climate and security will continue to be a focus of attention in the Council. Several of the newly elected members that will serve on the Council in 2019-2020 advocate its engagement on this issue; one of them (Belgium) has called for the appointment of a Special Envoy on Climate Change, while another (Germany) spearheaded the negotiations on the 2011 presidential statement on the issue.

Sources:

www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13417.doc.htm;
www.whatsinblue.org/2018/07/climate-related-security-risks-debate.php

6.3. Secretariat

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

Each year, the Secretary-General reports on the work of the Organization, including priority areas of the UN’s activity and future plans. [2018 Report](#) highlights the work in the following areas: promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development; maintenance of international peace and security; development of Africa; promotion and protection of human rights; effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts; promotion of justice and

international law; disarmament; drug control, crime prevention and combating terrorism.

The Report highlights key elements of the Secretary-General’s major reform initiatives announced in 2018-2018 including, among others: established a finance strategy to ensure objectives of the 2030 Agenda, including by accelerating implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; mobilized political support among Member States, the UN system and other stakeholders in preparation for a climate summit in 2019; established the Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration.

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

6.4. United Nations Development Program

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

It operates in 177 countries and territories.



UNDP Activity in the Central Asian States in 2018

Kazakhstan

On 4-5 May, the UNDP and EU delegation [visited](#) the early flood warning system and agro-industrial complex in Aktobe. The event and meetings were organized by the Akimat of Aktobe region. The goal of the event was to demonstrate ways of practical application of modern technologies in the hydraulic facilities in Aktobe region for early flood warning, as well as to familiarize oneself with the local agro-industrial complex.

On 24 August, an opening ceremony of the [pilot project](#) "Efficient management of water

infrastructure: reconstruction of the drainage system, use of water saving technologies and improvement of drinking water quality in Almaty region" was held within the framework of the joint EU/UNDP/UNECE project "Supporting Kazakhstan's Transition to a Green Economy Model". The project is aimed to demonstrate the practical use of "green" technologies in the area of effective management of water resources and infrastructure on the example of Akshi village of Enbekshikazakh district.

Source: www.kz.undp.org

Tajikistan

On 20 June, UNDP and UNESCO hold an [Action Panel](#) on Capacity Building in Knowledge Improvement and Education within the High-Level International Conference on International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028. The panelists strongly advocate for creation and development of programs targeting decision makers and water professionals to raise awareness about the importance of investing in capacity building and strong international cooperation on the highest political level.

On 22 June, international experts on climate change conducted a Validation [Workshop](#) on integrated landscape approach to increasing climate resilience of rural communities in Tajikistan. Government institutions, international agencies and civil society organizations took part at the workshop. Participants were introduced to the comprehensive insights

about the Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in Tajikistan, methods of reducing the exposure of vulnerable communities to climate hazards, and increasing the resilience of communities and ecosystems to the impacts of climate hazards.

On 6 December, UNDP has conducted the [first national workshop](#) on strengthening opportunities for women in energy sector, one that has been inherently perceived as masculine. Representatives of governmental institutions, including the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and the Committee of Women and Family Affairs, private sector, donors, financial institutions, and international organizations gathered to discuss ways of increasing women's participation in the industry.

Source: <http://www.tj.undp.org/>

Turkmenistan

On 17 April, UNDP, GEF and the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management of Turkmenistan launched a [water pipeline](#) Kaahka-Khivabad of roughly 15 km long. The pipeline will help reduce water infiltration and evaporation of the transboundary river Layinsuv at the territory of Kaahka district.

The project helps to preserve water resources to provide it to the local population of Kaahka town. In turn, it will decrease the volume of CO₂ emissions by 240 tonnes and ensure energy efficiency by 486 MW per year by reducing the number of electric pumps used to deliver the water from several dozen water wells previously constructed for the residents of Kaahka due to limited availability of water resources.

UNDP jointly with the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan held the first pilot seminar for 35 teachers and trainers introducing [the set of training materials](#) for school teachers and students "Climate Box". The interactive learning toolkit on climate change was developed by an interdisciplinary team of Russian experts in 2014-2015 (28-29 June, Ashgabat).

UNDP and GEF together with the State Committee for Nature Protection of Turkmenis-

tan [conducted training](#) on planning of irrigation of crops considering the natural and climatic factors using special software of FAO "AquaCrop". The training was conducted as part of the joint project "Support to the economic climate resilient livelihoods in agricultural communities in arid regions of Turkmenistan". One of the main advantages of "AquaCrop" is that it simulates the yield response of herbaceous crops to water and is particularly well suited to conditions in which water is a key limiting factor in crop production. With the practical application of "AquaCrop" and obtained knowledge, it is expected that farmers will increase the amount of yield by 25 % and reduce amount of water for irrigation by 20 %.

On 23-24 November, a [2-day training](#) on water use and irrigation water accounting was jointly held with the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management of Turkmenistan within the framework of the joint project of UNDP and GEF "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Sustainable Water Management in Turkmenistan". The participants were familiarized with methods for calculating water losses through filtration in farm irrigation canals and ways to reduce these losses, conditions and methods for water use planning.

Source: www.tm.undp.org

Uzbekistan

UNDP opened its representative office in Uzbekistan in January 1993. UNDP interventions at country level are guided by Country Program Document (CPD). The current CPD covers the period of 2016-2020 and its four outcome areas are fully aligned with three key priorities of the United Nations Development Framework for Uzbekistan for the same period. Four outcome areas of CPD 2016-2020 include: i) inclusive economic development, with focus on employment and social protection; ii) environmental protection to ensure sustainable development; iii) effective governance to enhance public service delivery; and iv) protection of rights.

Under inclusive economic development, UNDP contributes to the enhancement of national capacities, particularly in evidence-based policymaking, and supports formulation of integrated national development strategies, ensuring equitable economic growth and increased opportunities for decent employ-

ment. This includes special attention to formulation of national SDGs.

UNDP promotes sustainable, transparent, equitable and accountable management of natural resources and upscale interventions in energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy. It helps to strengthen communities' coping capacities to climate variability and climate-related hazards, and helps the country meet its obligations vis-à-vis international environmental conventions. Within CPD 2016-2020, UNDP focuses on supporting women's access and ownership of ecosystem goods and services, as well as community-based, gender-sensitive climate and disaster-resilient solutions.

Within effective and inclusive governance, UNDP supports administration reform, including strengthening capacities to formulate evidence-based strategies/road maps toward effective public administration and specific

reforms to enhance excluded groups' social protection. To further promote protection of rights and access to justice, UNDP provides policy advisory and technical support to implement obligations under international conventions and United Nations treaty bodies, including supporting the development of institutional/procedural mechanisms to strengthen judicial independence; enhancing court administration; and increasing public trust in courts.

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

As part of the "Developing climate resilience of farming communities in the drought prone parts of Uzbekistan" project, [laser leveling of fields](#) was demonstrated on May 6 in the Repub-

lic of Karakalpakstan. Firstly, the use of this technology allows saving water resources. Secondly, the uniform distribution of water on the soil surface ensures the uniformity of sprouting, which contributes to increasing yields. After all, if the surface of the field is uneven, the water starts to accumulate excessively in the lowlands, but on the contrary, it is not enough on the hills, it means that there is no need to wait for harvest in such areas.

More than 120 farmers from Andijan, Namangan and Fergana regions are attending [trainings](#) being held from 14 to 16 March, on implementation of GLOBALG.A.P international standard. The introduction of Good Agricultural Practice (G.A.P.) helps to increase quality of agricultural products, expand export markets and increase farms' profits.

Source: www.uz.undp.org

6.5. UN Water

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

The UN report, [Nature-based Solutions for Water](#), on the state of the world's water presented on 19 March highlights that today 3.6 billion people live in areas that are water-scarce for at least one month each year. By 2050, this number will increase up to 4.8-5.7 billion people.

The Director-General of UNESCO pointed out to the need for searching for new ways to manage water consumption and protection in order to prevent serious problems related to water security. However, water quality is also affected as water bodies become increasingly polluted. Another problem will be floods. By 2050, 1.6 billion people (almost 20 % of the world's population) are projected to be affected.



In the beginning of July, the Sustainable Development Goal 6 [Synthesis Report 2018](#) on Water and Sanitation was launched. It reviews the global progress made towards achieving SDG 6 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It builds on the latest data available for the 11 SDG 6 global indicators and will inform the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development during its in-depth review of SDG 6 in July 2018. The report represents a joint position from the United Nations family.

Sources:

www.unwater.org;

www.sdg6monitoring.org/;

<http://enb.iisd.org/water/un/27/>

UN MULTI-PARTNER HUMAN SECURITY TRUST FUND FOR THE ARAL SEA REGION IN UZBEKISTAN

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

Objectives and Scope of the Fund

The Fund aims to be transformative, evidence- and human-rights based, and inclusive in its goal of catalyzing and strengthening a multi-sectoral and people-centered response to address the consequences of one of the world's biggest man-made environmental disasters. The MPHSTF provides a coherent strategy to coordinate aid flows and increase government ownership to enable sustainable results.

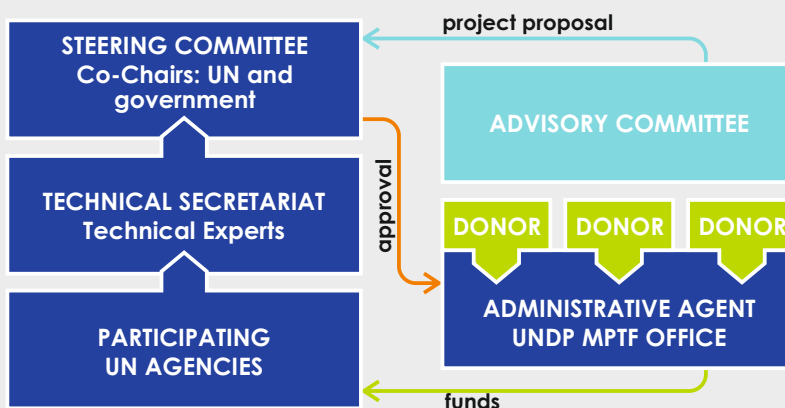
The MPHSTF's theory of change has identified **six clusters** of interrelated problems that include: i) Environmental insecurity; ii) Economic insecurity; iii) Food insecurity; iv) Health insecurity; v) Social insecurity; and vi) Ineffectiveness of donor assistance.

The MPHSTF is in line with the Busan development effectiveness principles on local ownership, focus on results, partnership of development partners, and transparency of aid. The assistance provided through the MPHSTF is based on a single programmatic framework, which has been developed based on the results of an independent socio-economic survey conducted in the communities most affected by the environmental disaster.

The Fund aims to build the resilience of communities in Uzbekistan affected by the Aral Sea ecological disaster through achieving the following **five outcomes**:

- 1) The stress on local communities due to the deteriorating environmental situation reduced
- 2) The employment and income generation opportunities for local communities increased
- 3) Local community access to affordable and healthy food and clean drinking water secured
- 4) The overall health of the local population improved and healthy lifestyle promoted
- 5) The living conditions of local populations improved, with particular focus on vulnerable groups such as women, children and youth

MPHSTF Governance and Financial Architecture



How to Contribute

Contributions to the MPHSTF may be accepted from governments, bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors, individuals and the private sector. Contributors are encouraged to make un-earmarked contributions to allow the Fund maximize the benefits of flexibility, risk pooling and coherence. Earmarked contributions by individual donors can be accepted provided that earmarking is at the Fund outcome level and thereby fully aligned to the Fund Strategy.

The MPHSTF will have an initial duration of 5 years, from 12 November 2018 to 31 December 2023. The Steering Committee has the authority to modify the MPHSTF's duration. The Administrative Agent has the authority to proceed with the closure of the MPHSTF by mutual agreement.

Source: MPHSTF web-site, www.aral.mptf.uz

6.6. UN Economic Commission for Europe

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

UNECE and Water Convention

UNECE serves as the Secretariat for the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention).

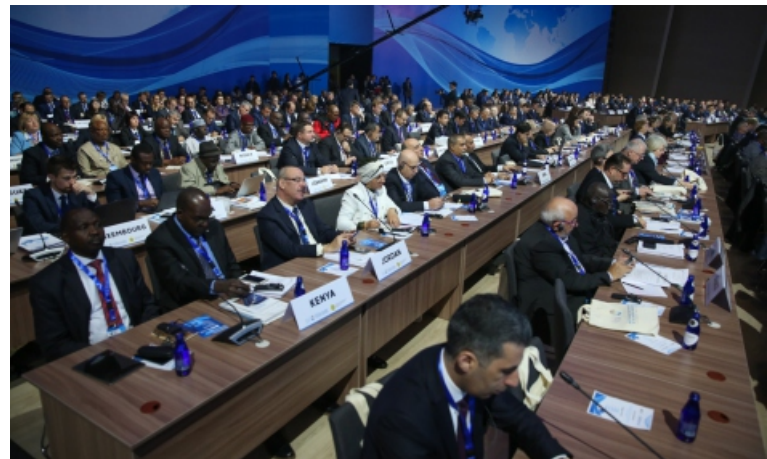


Activities in 2018

The largest event under the UNECE Water Convention was the [eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties](#) to the UNECE Water Convention held on 10-12 October in Astana, Kazakhstan. This was the first session of the Meeting of the Parties, with the participation of countries and Parties outside the pan-European region, marking a turning point in the global opening of the Convention. 88 UN countries and 35 Parties to the Convention and EU representatives participated in the event. The session was chaired by Mr. Peter Kovacs from Hungary. The Meeting consisted of a general segment and a high-level segment.

During the high-level segment, such issues were addressed as those related to the opening of the session and adoption of the agenda; status of ratification of the Convention and its Protocols; adoption of revised rules of procedure, as well as a special high-level session "Transboundary water cooperation: Sharing water for people, planet, prosperity and peace".

The general segment covered items 5 to 20 of the provisional agenda, including reporting under the Convention and on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2; opening of the Convention, promotion and partnerships; implementation and compliance; support to implementation and application of the Convention through field projects and capacity development; European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues; water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins; identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation; adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins; water and industrial accidents; International Water Assessment Center; Program of work for 2019-2021; Election



of officers; date and venue of the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.

The Meeting approved the number of decisions and documents, including the [Program of work for 2019-2021](#) consisting of 7 program areas: (i) Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation; (ii) Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins; (iii) Promoting an integrated and inter-sectoral approach to water management at all levels; (iv) Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins; (v) Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation; (vi) Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention; (vii) Partnerships, communication and knowledge management

In 2018 under the Water Convention and Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE organized following events as well: Twenty-sixth meeting of the Bureau of the Water Convention (8-9

February 2018); Twentieth meeting of the Bureau of the Protocol on Water and Health (26 April 2018); Joint session of the Working Group on IWRM and Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (28-30 May); Twenty-seventh meeting of the Bureau of the Water Convention (31 May-1 June); UNECE Water Convention Workshop (26 July); Seventeenth meeting of the Compliance Committee (5-6 November); Twenty-first meeting of the Bureau of the Protocol on Water and Health (7-8 November).

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

Reporting under the Water Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 6.5.2

At its seventh session, the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention decided to introduce a regular reporting mechanism under the Convention starting with a pilot reporting exercise in 2017. The introduction of the reporting under the Convention coincided with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets in 2015. UNECE and UNESCO have been designated as “custodian agencies” for indicator 6.5.2 (proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation).

In order to maximize synergies and efficiencies, at the eleventh meeting of the

Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (Geneva, 18–19 October 2016), it was decided to combine the reporting under the Convention and the reporting on indicator 6.5.2 and to send only one template to all Parties to gather this information. Based on responses of the countries, UNECE prepared a synthesis report on the Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation¹⁴ under the Water Convention, which was discussed during the Session, and decision was made to approve a revised reporting template under the Convention, as well as to develop the guidelines to assist countries in this process.

Representatives from ECE and UNESCO then introduced the publication “Progress on transboundary water cooperation: Global baseline for SDG indicator 6.5.2”, and UN-Water with partners – “Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2018”.

Analyzed data reveals that the average proportion of the transboundary basin area covered by an operational arrangement is 59 per cent, while only 17 countries have all their transboundary basins covered by operational arrangements.

Details: www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/water/areas-of-work-of-the-convention/reporting-under-the-water-convention-and-sustainable-development-goal-652.html

UNECE Activities in Central Asia

Cooperation on Dam Safety

The [third phase](#) of the project “Capacity Building for Cooperation on Dam Safety” in Central Asia was continued. Under the project, the regional meeting on cooperation on [dam safety](#) in Central Asia was held (30-31 May, Almaty). The meeting reviewed the main outcomes of the activities on dam safety in Central Asia and discussed proposals on priority areas for further development of cooperation to ensure the safety of hydraulic structures at the national and regional levels. In addition, this event aimed to exchange relevant experiences among participants. In addition, a series of training seminars were held to improve the skills of water management specialists in Central Asian countries in the field of hydraulic structures

safety (2-4 October in [Nurek](#), Tajikistan; 16-18 October in [Taraz](#), Kazakhstan).

Chu-Talas

In 2018, the [project](#) “Enhancing Climate Resilience and Adaptive Capacity in the Transboundary Chu-Talas Basin” (September 2015 – December 2018), funded by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs under the FinWaterWei II Initiative, was concluded. It was aimed to establish a framework for regular and strategic climate change adaptation action in the Chu-Talas River Basin and enable the Chu-Talas Commission and local authorities to facilitate climate change adaptation in the basin. Following the adoption of the strategic decision to cooperate closely with the GEF/UNDP project

¹⁴ Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation under the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/51)

on “Enabling Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Chu and Talas River Basins”, the project has provided extensive inputs to the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Program (SAP) processes, and developed the TDA annex on climate adaptation. Specific project contributions included expert inputs supported by relevant background documents on climate projections and scenarios, organizing discussions and dedicated sessions during Chu-Talas Water Commission meetings, training provided for experts involved in drafting the TDA and SAP. The [SAP document](#) was presented and accepted during the 24th Session of Chu-Talas Water Commission on February 27, 2018.

National Policy Dialogues

The work to support regular meetings of National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) under the EU Water Initiative (EUWI) is ongoing in close cooperation with OECD and [WECCOOP2](#) project financed by EU. In 2018, particularly, Steering Committee Meetings of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM were held in the [Kyrgyz Republic](#) and [Tajikistan](#). At these high-level meetings, representatives of ministries and agencies discussed pressing issues of water governance reform, including development and implementation of sectoral strategies and programs. Members of the Steering Committees also discussed and made decisions on projects implemented by development partners. For example, in Tajikistan, the Steering Committee approved targets and the action plan to achieve them in the context of the Protocol on Water and Health with the assistance of a project funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland under the FinWaterWeil Program.

Panj

The Technical meeting of specialists and experts from the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on “Cooperation between Tajikistan and Afghanistan on Hydrology and Environment for Sustainable Development of the Panj/Amudarya River Basin” was held on 10 May 2018 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, which was followed by the Training on hydrology and environmental monitoring of catchment area of the Panj/Amu Darya River basin on 11-12 May 2018. The Technical meeting’s agenda, the Training program and lists of participants are presented in a report available in [English](#), [Russian](#) and [Tajik](#). Finally, the project supported the development and

publication of a report entitled [Strengthening Cooperation in the Field of Hydrology and Environment Between Tajikistan and Afghanistan in the Basin of Amu Darya/Panj](#).

Water Quality

In 2018, a study-tour on hydrobiological analysis was held for specialists of national hydrometeorological departments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on 6-7 September in Tashkent under the project “Strengthening Cooperation on Water Quality Management in Central Asia”.

EECCA NWO

In November 2018, SIC ICWC in cooperation with UNECE and financial support of the Russian Federation organized the International Conference of the Network on [“Water for Land Reclamation, Economic Sectors and Natural Environment in the context of Climate Change”](#) (See Section [“INBO”](#)).

In addition, together with UNESCAP, UNECE leads the UN’s SPECA Program promoting economic cooperation among the seven participating countries of the Program (See Section [“Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific”](#)).

International Water Assessment Center

The International Water Assessment Center (IWAC) is the center for international cooperation on integrated water resource management, which has been established as a subsidiary body of the Water Convention in Astana in 2017. The main purpose of IWAC is to support the implementation of the Water Convention and its relevant work programs. IWAC pays special attention to the protection and rational use of transboundary water resources in the neighboring countries of Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries, as well as in countries within and outside the UNECE region.

IWAC Activities in 2018

- Assistance to the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan in organization of the panel session on “Water and Peace. How to promote transboundary water cooperation” under the IX Astana Economic Forum (17 May, Astana). The main objective of the panel session was to

discuss best practices in transboundary water management and prospects for sustainable water resources management against the backdrop of a number of uncertainties and global challenges, including new financing mechanisms for transboundary water management, as well as new forms of cooperation.

- Organization of the Regional Meeting on Strengthening Intersectoral Cooperation on Water Management and Fostering the Role of Water to promote sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the support of EU, OSCE, UNECE and Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan (12-13 July, Almaty). The meeting was aimed at exchanging experience and lessons learned in intersectoral cooperation on water at the regional level and fostering the role of water to achieve SDGs, as well as developing regional proposals, including those that could be supported under the future Work Program of IWAC. More than 70 experts participated from Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
- Support to the organization of the [Eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties](#) to the Water Convention (10-12 October, Astana). The session approved the Work Program of IWAC for 2019-2021, which aims to contribute to the implementation

of the Convention and its principles by giving practical effect to the vision of the Convention based on the priority areas of the Program of work of the Water Convention for 2019-2021.

Source: IWAC



Astana, 17 May 2018



Almaty, 12-13 July 2018

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.

ESCAP in cooperation with UNECE manages SPECA, which was launched under the Tashkent Declaration on 26 March 1998.

The SPECA Economic Forum “Twenty years of SPECA: A new stage in regional cooperation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was held on 20-21 September in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The Forum considered how developments in transport, trade, environment, water and energy, statistics, knowledge-based development and gender and economy contributed towards regional economic cooperation and sustainable development of the SPECA’s landlocked countries.

On 21 September, Almaty hosted the 13th session of the Governing Council of SPECA, where each SPECA Working Group (WG) was invited to present its activities. In this context, the WG on Water, Energy and Environment organized the following events in 2018:

- Bilateral meeting on Strengthening cooperation on hydrology and environment between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the upper Amu Darya River basin and the training on capacity building (May, Dushanbe);
- Regional meeting on strengthening dam safety cooperation in Central Asia (May, Almaty).
- [22nd Session of the SPECA WG on Water, Energy and Environment](#) (9 October, Astana). Delegations of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated in the event. The objective of this Session was to identify the areas for the Group to better address water, energy and environment challenges in the SPECA region, and to develop a vision for its draft ToR. Based on the discussions, particular areas were recommended for consideration by the participating countries to be included in the ToR of the Working Group; the need was underlined to develop a new SPECA Strategy on water, energy and environment mainstreaming SDGs and reflecting new development challenges in the SPECA region, e.g. the “Belt and Road Initiative”.
- Regional meeting on water quality and training on capacity building (December, Almaty).

The SPECA Governing Council elected Turkmenistan to chair the Program in 2019.

The evaluation of the SPECA Program was conducted from September to December 2017, as stipulated by the decision of the [11th session](#) of the Governing Council, to analyze programmatic achievements and results; identify strengths and challenges in the current institutional and organizational setup; mobilize resources and formulate recommendations for strengthening SPECA in fulfilling its mandate. In April 2018, the [final report](#) on the evaluation was published.

As far as relevance is concerned, there is much potential value in cooperation through SPECA, especially as the only platform that includes only the countries of Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Afghanistan, allowing them to coordinate their policies among themselves. Yet, the potential of SPECA as a platform for policy dialogue and coordination should be highlighted and political will demonstrated even stronger by the countries.

It transpires from the evaluation that SPECA has a lot of untapped potential to become an effective and relevant platform for cooperation. The identity and added value of SPECA should become much clearer for the countries themselves. They need to take strategic decisions on how they would want to use this platform, for what priority areas and issues, by when and how. As far as relevance is concerned, there is much potential value in cooperation through SPECA, especially as the only platform that includes only the countries of Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Afghanistan, allowing them to coordinate their policies among themselves. Yet, the potential of SPECA as a platform for policy dialogue and coordination should be highlighted and political will demonstrated even stronger by the countries.

The report includes the roadmap to turn the SPECA program into a policy coordination platform on key regional SDGs.

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

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



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



In 2010, UNRCCA launched its water project to support five CA countries in their search for mutually acceptable water agreements. Particularly, UNRCCA promotes dialogues

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

UNRCCA Activities in 2018

On **18 April**, a [capacity-building workshop](#) “Ensuring equitable utilization and effective management of transboundary watercourses and Public Private Partnerships for infrastructure development” took place in Bishkek. The workshop was arranged by UNRCCA within the series of special events devoted to management of transboundary watercourses in Central Asia through international water diplomacy, law and institutions. Participants familiarized themselves with the basic principles, norms and instruments for joint and sustainable exploitation of transboundary watercourses, as well as with the best practices and international experience in this field. The event also included a separate interactive session focused on development of negotiation and mediation skills. It enabled the workshop attendees to brainstorm the possible models of equitable sharing of benefits through applying public-private partnerships.

On **19 April**, back-to-back with the Workshop a meeting of experts of five Central Asian states took place to discuss ways of enhancing regional cooperation on the use and management of transboundary water-energy resources. The expert meeting arrived at specific recommendations, which further will be discussed and coordinated at the national level in the Central Asian states. The participants supported the continuation of such form of regular expert meetings under the UNRCCA auspices.

On **14 June**, UNRCCA hosted a [partnership meeting](#) to present the Centre's water-related activities and in particular the project titled “Strengthening Cooperation on Transboundary Water Sharing in the Aral Sea Basin.” Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Asia, Natalia Gherman, briefed participants on the results achieved in building

partnerships in water management in Central Asia. In her remarks, SRS Gherman highlighted the new positive dynamics in the region that are providing a window of opportunity to make concrete progress on transboundary water management. She invited those in attendance to partner with UNRCCA to support, including by co-sponsoring the Centre's ongoing and future activities in this field.

On **19 June**, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, UNRCCA and the UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office, in cooperation with the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), University of Central Asia, Mountain Partnership and the Finance Centre for South-South Cooperation (China) organized a [preconference forum](#) on Climate and Water Dialogue. The event is conducted in the framework of the High Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 (20-23 June, Dushanbe). The main objective of the Forum is to consider issues related to the melting of glaciers in the Pamir and Tien Shan mountains as the main sources of water for the countries of Central Asia and as a fact, which have become the most vulnerable against the background of climate change and weather conditions. In this context, expert discussions were held to identify the scale of the problem, to establish cooperation in organization of relevant research, including possible expeditions, in this important area. It brought together more than 100 participants, including researchers, practitioners, policy and decision makers, and partners from Central Asia and worldwide, working in the water sector. The participants engaged in crucial discussions on water security in contribution to the SDGs. The event also focused on recommendations on how to better achieve stronger partnerships and actions to address water-related issues, by enhanced cooperation.

On **20-23 June**, SRS Natalia Gherman participated in the [High-Level International Conference](#) on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018-2028, jointly organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the United Nations. Speaking at the action panel "Transboundary Cooperation and Water Diplomacy," SRS Gherman informed participants of the achievements, activities and plans of the Centre in helping the Governments of Central Asia to build capacity in water diplomacy, as

well as in serving as a platform for cooperation and exchange on transboundary water management, the water-energy nexus and environmental degradation and climate change. The Centre contributed to the Final Declaration of the Conference, which inter alia prioritized water diplomacy and transboundary cooperation, as well as opening an inclusive multi-level and inter-sectoral dialogue to foster institutional arrangements and concrete solutions.

On **June 28-29**, expert consultations on IFAS reform were organized in Bishkek on the initiative of the Kyrgyz side with the assistance of UNRCCA. The participants had an opportunity to exchange constructively their views on a range of issues related to the improvement of IFAS activities.

On **23-30 October**, the first meeting of the [Central Asian Expert Forum](#) was held in Tashkent and Bukhara, Uzbekistan. The event was co-organized by UNRCCA and the Institute for Strategic Studies at the President of Uzbekistan. The goal of the forum was to create a platform for leading Central Asian experts to discuss critical issues of regional development and security, to align the five countries' positions on the intergovernmental agenda and to elaborate practical proposals and recommendations for the Heads of State of the region as a contribution to the upcoming High-Level Consultative Forum, which will be held in March 2019 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The most important outcome of the first Central Asian Expert Forum was the agreement among participants to institutionalize the event to foster greater ties among the five countries' institutes of strategic studies, including joint research and other joint initiatives. Participants endorsed a concept for the standing platform and rules of procedure to guide their work going forward. The second meeting is to be held on 19-20 February, 2019 in Tashkent.

On **18-19 December**, UNRCCA organized a meeting of experts in Almaty, Kazakhstan, focused on [enhancing water cooperation](#) in Central Asia. The participants were able to take stock of the UNRCCA water-related activities over the past ten years and have assessed the Centre's contribution to the regional dialogue on transboundary water management in Central Asia. UNRCCA submitted for discussion a draft of the new Work Program for Water and Environment for 2019-2021. The participating countries positively acknowledged the role of

the Centre, and underlined the importance of UNRCCA as a viable platform for regional dialogue. They stressed a good timing for enhancing regional cooperation through dialogue and preventive diplomacy initiatives, with UNRCCA's support. The participants also discussed the recent developments in the region, including a growing number of bilateral arrangements between the states of the Central Asia, and promising outcomes of the high-level events, such as, for example, the Summit of IFAS, and the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028.

In cooperation with SIC ICWC, four early warning bulletins were published with information on current and forecast situation in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya river basins in 2018, as well as the first edition of the Water Yearbook: Central Asia and around the Globe, which features key water-related events and developments in Central Asia and beyond in 2017.

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



Dushanbe, 20-23 June 2018



Tashkent, 29 October 2018

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.

It facilitates international cooperation to create the networks for meteorological, climate, hydrological, and geophysical observations, as well as exchange, processing, and standardization of relevant data, and helps in technology transfer, staff training, and research. The organization organizes global events aimed at joining efforts to combat climate change, disasters and exchange information for their prevention.



WMO revamped its [strategy on water](#) in order to face up to the unprecedented challenges posed by water stress, floods and droughts and lack of access to clean supplies.

In June, WMO Executive Council held a **special one-day dialogue** on water as part of a concerted drive to strengthen hydrological services and to improve forecasting, monitoring and use of water supplies and to tackle the problem of too much, too little or too polluted water.

WMO formally assumed the direction of the **World Water Data Initiative**, given that better data is a key to better management of water. It also [launched a new innovation call from the WMO HydroHub](#) facility to support operational hydrology.

The [Hydro Conference](#), from 7 to 9 May, brought together **215 providers and users of hydrological services** from 85 countries to strengthen knowledge-sharing and coordination. Delegates agreed that sustainability of water resources and reduction of disaster risk can only be achieved by addressing the full value chain, from data collection to the production of efficient hydrological services that allow informed decision and policy-making.

WMO and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) have signed a [formal agreement](#) to work together to leverage WMO expertise on weather, climate and water to increase effectiveness of GCF funded activities and support low carbon and climate resilient development. Under a new Memorandum of Understanding, WMO will support GCF accredited entities to maximize the benefits of their investments in hydrological and meteorological systems and associated climate information services. It seeks to provide pragmatic ways to bring the best available science into climate finance at a time when climate finance opportunities and climate risks are both increasing.

Source: www.wmo.org

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 on-going projects in Central Asia.



Uzbekistan

IFAD has been investing in Uzbekistan since 2012, providing financing worth US\$81.7 million to three loan-financed projects/programs that are intended to directly benefit 98,800 households. 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.

In 2018, the following **projects** continued to be implemented:

[Dairy Value Chains Development Program](#);

[Horticultural Support Project](#).

Tajikistan

In Tajikistan, IFAD loans work to improve the livelihoods of poor rural people by strengthening their organizations and enabling them to access productive technologies and resources.



Key activities include: natural resource management; implementing land reforms; and strengthening local institutions and grass-roots organizations.

In 2018, under the [Community-Based Agricultural Support Project](#), IFAD and the Republic of Tajikistan signed a [financing agreement](#) worth \$39 million to reduce poverty and stimulate inclusive economic growth in poor rural communities.

The [Livestock and Pasture Development Project II](#) continued to be developed. It is focused on developing institutions; enhancing productivity and improving animal health; developing pasture management.

The Kyrgyz Republic

IFAD has invested in rural development in Kyrgyzstan since 1996. Up to present, IFAD has provided US\$97.8 million in financing projects to improve livestock productivity; enhance climate resilience of pastoral communities; and

improve integration of smallholder livestock farmers into remunerative markets.

Projects:

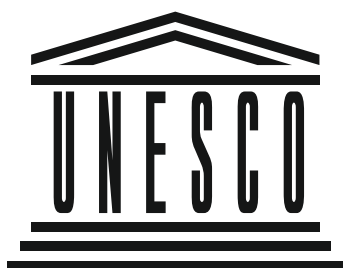
[Livestock and Market Development Programme;](#)

[Livestock and Market Development Programme II;](#)

[Access to Markets Project](#)

Source: www.ifad.org

6.11. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



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



In 2018, UNESCO continued implementing the following projects, including in the area of nature and water resources:

[“Enhancing Water Security in Central Asia” project.](#) The activity focuses on addressing water security challenges in Central Asia through advanced research, education, capacity building and cooperation aiming at water experts, policy makers, civil servants and young scientists;

[“Capacity Building for Sustainable Water Management in Uzbekistan”](#) project. Under the pro-

ject, the baseline assessment of activities related to training on irrigation, land reclamation and agriculture was conducted. The output of this activity will be an integrated Capacity Building Program;

[“Building the Resilience of Communities Affected by the Aral Sea Disaster through a Multi-Partner Human Security Fund for the Aral Sea”](#) project (Uzbekistan);

[“Increased Capacity for Water Security through Scientific Cooperation of Young Water Professionals in Uzbekistan”](#) project. The Tashkent Office promotes and supports the strengthening of the water education targeting the youth as the most receptive to the education for sustainable development and sustainable water use practices. There are two main youth organizations that cover environmental issues including water. However, it is necessary to strengthen their focus on water.

Capacity building activities carried out by UNESCO in Central Asia are presented in Section [“Professional development and training courses”](#).

Sources: UNESCO

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.

More than 14 million adults and some 4.7 million children in Europe and Central Asia suffer from severe [food insecurity](#), FAO said in a report "[Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition: Europe and Central Asia 2018](#)" released in 2018. In the last decades, the region as a whole

has achieved significant progress in fighting food insecurity, however, since 2014 the decreasing trend on the prevalence of under-nourishment has been stagnating at 6 percent, and in 2016 and 2017 the number of under-nourished people in Central Asia has been slowly growing in absolute terms.

In May, an FAO Regional Initiative "[Sustainable Natural Resource Management under a Changing Climate](#)" was launched for Europe and Central Asia. It provides a mechanism for support to FAO member countries in building resilience to climate change and natural disasters for sustainable food systems. The Initiative also creates the regional mechanisms to assist countries in accessing climate finance, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF7). The Initiative works through three main components: i. Policy alignment, coordination and cooperation; ii. Provision and collection of data; iii. Capacity development, strengthening national capacities for sustainable approaches to natural resource management.

In April 2018, FAO [started the project](#) that helps public and private extension service providers in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan improve technical skills and enhance knowledge on modern crop management. The project's main activities are trainings for national extension staff and assistance in formulating national strategies for



more effective agricultural extensions. On 19 November, a one-week training workshop on organic production, certification and marketing started in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, for selected extension specialists. A similar workshop has already taken place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The 31st session of the [FAO Regional Conference for Europe](#) (ERC) was held for all FAO Members in the Europe and Central Asia region on 16-18 May in Voronezh, Russian Federation. Participants discussed sustainable agriculture and food systems in Europe and Central Asia in a changing climate, as well as E-agriculture.

Source: www.fao.org

6.13. International Law Commission

The International Law Committee (ILC) is a subsidiary body of UNGA, consisting of thirty-four members of recognized competence in international law, who sit in their individual capacity and not as representatives of their Governments. The task of ILC is encouraging the progressive development of international law

and its codification. It was established in 1947. The Commission has no representatives of the Central Asian states in its composition.

At the seventieth Session of the Commission, reports were presented on the following items: subsequent agreements and subsequent prac-

tice in relation to the interpretation of treaties; identification of customary international law; protection of the atmosphere; 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; and immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction. The Commission also decided to include in its long-term program of work the topics (i) Universal criminal jurisdiction and (ii) Sea-level rise in relation to international law.

With respect to the topic "Protection of the atmosphere", the Commission had before it the fifth report of the Special Rapporteur ([A/CN.4/711](#)), which was devoted to questions concerning implementation, compliance and

dispute settlement. The protection of the atmosphere from pollution and degradation, such as global warming, sea-level rise, ocean acidification and other effects of climate change, has been adequately legally regulated. As a result of its consideration of the topic at the present session, the Commission adopted, on first reading, a draft preamble and 12 draft guidelines, together with commentaries thereto, on the protection of the atmosphere.

Concerning the seventieth anniversary of the Commission, it held commemorative events, in New York on 21 May 2018, and in Geneva on 5 and 6 July 2018, under the theme "70 years of the International Law Commission – Drawing a balance for the future".

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 2018, two cases directly related to water were examined by the Court.

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

On 6 June 2016, the Republic of Chile filed an Application instituting proceedings against the Plurinational State of Bolivia with regard to a dispute concerning the status and use of the waters of the Silala. Chile contends that "due to Bolivia's insistence on denying that the Silala River is an international watercourse and Bolivia's contention that it has rights to the 100% use of its waters" and requests the Court to adjudge and declare that:

- "(i) the Silala River system, together with the subterranean portions of its system, is an international watercourse, the use of which is governed by customary international law;

- (ii) Chile is entitled to the equitable and reasonable use of the waters of the Silala River system in accordance with customary international law;
- (iii) Under the standard of equitable and reasonable utilization, Chile is entitled to its current use of the waters of the Silala River;
- (iv) Bolivia has an obligation to take all appropriate measures to prevent and control pollution and other forms of harm to Chile resulting from its activities in the vicinity of the Silala River;
- (v) Bolivia has an obligation to cooperate and to provide Chile with timely notification of planned measures which may have an adverse effect on shared water resources, to exchange data and information and to conduct where appropriate an environmental impact assessment, in order to enable Chile to evaluate the possible effects of such planned measures, obligations that Bolivia has breached."

By an Order of 1 July 2016, the Court fixed 3 July 2017 and 3 July 2018 as the respective time limits for the filing of a Memorial by Chile and a Counter-Memorial by Bolivia. The Memorial of Chile was filed within the time limit thus fixed.

By a letter dated 14 May 2018, the Agent of the Plurinational State of Bolivia requested the Court, for the reasons set out in that letter, to

extend by two months the time-limit for the filing of the Counter-Memorial. In the absence of any objection by Chile to that request, the Court, by an Order dated 23 May 2018, extended to 3 September 2018 the time-limit for the filing of the Plurinational State of Bolivia's Counter-Memorial.

In its Counter-Memorial, Bolivia submits three Counter-Claims and respectfully requests the Court to adjudge and declare that:

- (i) Bolivia has sovereignty over the artificial channels and drainage mechanisms in the Silala that are located in its territory and has the right to decide whether and how to maintain them;
- (ii) Bolivia has sovereignty over the artificial flow of Silala waters engineered,

enhanced, or produced in its territory and Chile has no right to that artificial flow;

- (iii) Any delivery from Bolivia to Chile of artificially-flowing waters of the Silala, and the conditions and modalities thereof, including the compensation to be paid for said delivery, are subject to the conclusion of an agreement with Bolivia".

By its Order of 15 November 2018, the Court fixes the following time-limits for the filing of these written pleadings: 15 February 2019 for the reply of the Republic of Chile and 15 May 2019 for the Rejoinder of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Source: ICJ report at the 73rd Session of UNGA, 2018 ([A/73/4](#))

