

Dushanbe Declaration

The Central Asian States and the International Organizations pay their earnest attention and make all the efforts to overcome the ecological and socio-economic crisis in the Aral Sea Basin and improve the ecological situation in the region.

The Presidents of the Central Asian states - Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan,

expressing the concern for aggravation of the ecological crisis in the Aral Sea Basin;

aiming to fulfill the decisions made by implementing the Action Plan on the Aral Sea problems and development the concept of sustainable development for the countries around the Aral Sea Basin;

affirming earlier approved decisions on effective use and protection of water resources of the Aral Sea Basin by taking into account the interests of all countries of the region and by observing the principles of good-neighborhood and mutual respect;

noting that the regional institutional agencies have potential capacities to initiate the projects related with the interstate problems such as protection and rational use of natural resources as well as mitigation of the Aral Sea crisis;

taking into account the Resolution of the UN General Assembly #55/196 on announcing the 2003 year as the International Year of Fresh Water and stating that this year coincides with the 10-th anniversary of the International Fund for the Saving the Aral Sea;

expressing steady aspiration for joint and combined efforts to overcome the consequences of the crisis and provide ecological stability in the region;

considering that natural disasters are occurring more frequently in the last years;

assuming the responsibility before the future generations, considering that for the radical change of the situation, related with this planetary crisis there would be needed additional measures directed for the improvement of the ecological situation in the Aral Sea Basin and solving the problems related with the crisis;

Declare to :

define the main directions for solving the problems related with the Aral Sea crisis, enhancement of socio-ecological conditions in the

region and improve the life conditions of the population of the Aral Sea Basin;

consider the provision of drinking water supply for the Aral Sea Basin as priority measures in improving socio-ecological conditions;

conduct International Forum on Pure Water and Rational Water Use in Dushanbe in September, 2003 with direct participation of the countries of the region;

strengthen the role of the Executive Committee of the IFAS for coordinating donors activities and attracting funds for the implementation of projects and programs and the role of Interstate Water Commission for Water Coordination in management and regulation of transboundary water use;

consider the criticism of the UNDP in regard to the EC IFAS activities true and deserving careful consideration in its future activities;

consider the question of locating the EC IFAS in one of the cities of the countries-founders on permanent basis and present the draft decision during regular meeting of the Heads of IFAS countries-founders ;

make arrangements on the event dedicated to the 10-th anniversary of IFAS with participation of all countries of the region and international organizations, with the demonstration of plans, programs and scientific and technical achievements in rational nature resources use and improvement of social life of the population of the countries of the region;

speed up the development of practical measures on increasing the volumes of drainage water use;

provide possible assistance to the countries being exposed to natural disasters;

speed up the actions on combating desertification and transboundary water pollution;

create necessary conditions for international organizations and institutions in their activities on attracting funds for implementing projects and programs in the Aral Sea Basin;

state the need for establishing a special UN commission being responsible for coordination of international organizations and countries-donors activities in resolving the Aral Sea Basin problems;

improve monitoring and exchange of information systems between the countries on water and other natural resources situation with the purpose of making timely and correct decisions on their rational use;

utilize the outcomes of the projects on water and energy resources management for effective and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Dushanbe, October, 6 2002