

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA  
INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR WATER COORDINATION  
OF CENTRAL ASIA



# **BULLETIN**

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of Central Asia

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## Meetings with participation of the Heads of Central Asia States

### State visit of the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon to the Kyrgyz Republic <sup>1</sup>

On 12 March 2025, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon, arrived in the Kyrgyz Republic for a state visit.

That evening, the Tajik delegation took part in an ethno-cultural program held at Ala-Archa Nature Park.

On 13 March, official ceremonial events as well as bilateral meetings with President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh Nurlanbek Turgunbek uulu, and Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Adylbek Kasymaliev were conducted

Following the bilateral talks, President Sadyr Japarov and President Emomali Rahmon signed a Joint Statement and the Treaty on the State Border between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan.

In addition, a number of documents were signed, including:

- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic on ensuring access to water and energy facilities.

- Agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic on agricultural cooperation.

- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Food Safety Committee under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Safety Inspectorate under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic on cooperation in the field of veterinary and phytosanitary safety.

[...]

As announced by President Sadyr Japarov during a joint press conference, the two countries have agreed to transform the existing intergovernmental commission for comprehensive bilateral cooperation into the Kyrgyz-Tajik

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<sup>1</sup> Sources: <https://mfa.tj/en/main/view/16742/signing-of-new-cooperation-documents-between-the-republic-of-tajikistan-and-the-kyrgyz-republic>; <https://kg.akipress.org/news:2243196> ; <https://kg.akipress.org/news:2243467/>; <https://kg.akipress.org/news:2243480/>

Intergovernmental Council. This body will be co-chaired by the Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.



**Joint Statement on Further Strengthening the Ties of  
Friendship and Good Neighborliness between  
the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic<sup>2</sup>  
(extract)**

President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov,

based on the long-standing traditions of friendship and mutual respect between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic,

referring to the principles and obligations enshrined in the Treaty of July 12, 1996 on the Foundations of Interstate Relations between the Republic of

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<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://president.tj/event/news/49983>

Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic and the Treaty of May 26, 2004 between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic on Good-Neighborly and Partnership Relations,

reaffirming the commitment to the universally recognized principles and norms of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as in the international treaties to which the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic are parties,

attaching importance to the forthcoming 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Treaty on the Foundations of Interstate Relations in 2026,

having convinced that further comprehensive development of mutually beneficial cooperation is in the fundamental interests of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic.

state the following:

[...]

4. The Heads of State have decided to transform the Intergovernmental Commission on comprehensive treatment of bilateral cooperation into the Tajik-Kyrgyz Intergovernmental Council, which will be headed by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic.

[...]

9. The Heads of State, confirming the open and constructive position of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic in water and energy, emphasize the importance of further development of hydropower in their respective countries as a source of clean and renewable energy.

Express their readiness to continue making necessary efforts for early full-fledged launch of the Central Asia-South Asia-1000 Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA-1000).

The Heads of State have decided to establish a Joint Tajik-Kyrgyz Water Commission.

Welcome the signing of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic on access to water and energy facilities.

[...]

13. The Heads of State express readiness for close cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of foreign policy, while promoting mutual interests and initiatives for regional consolidation and interregional interconnectivity to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in

Central Asia.

Consider the Consultative Meetings of the Heads of Central Asian States as a prerogative mechanism for comprehensive discussion and constructive solution of pan-regional issues.

14. The Heads of State note the importance of continuing co-operation under umbrella of the United Nations and its institutions, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Economic Co-operation Organization, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and other international and regional structures and forums.

The President of the Kyrgyz Republic expressed his support to global water-climate initiatives of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan, in turn, expressed his support to the initiatives of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic on promoting mountains in the global agenda.

[...]

## **EU- Central Asia Ministerial Meeting<sup>3</sup>**

On 27 March 2025, the 20<sup>th</sup> EU-Central Asia Ministerial Meeting took place in Ashgabat.

It was attended by the heads of Foreign Ministries of the Central Asian countries, as well as the European delegation headed by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Kaja Kallas.

The participants discussed a wide range of issues related to multilateral cooperation in the political-diplomatic, trade-economic and cultural-humanitarian spheres.

The parties discussed preparations for the first EU-Central Asia Summit scheduled to be held in April this year in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan.

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<sup>3</sup> source: <https://www.newscentralasia.net/2025/03/28/v-ashkhabade-sostoyalas-ministerskaya-vstrecha-tsentralnaya-aziya-yevropeyskiy-soyuz/>



At the same time, foreign ministers exchanged views on key areas of the regional and international agenda and confirmed the importance of combining efforts to resolve pressing issues of present time.

The parties exchanged views on the development of trade, economic and investment cooperation between the countries under this format, and paid special attention to expanding transport and digital connectivity, including within the framework of the European Global Gateway strategy to achieve digital, energy and environmental transformations.

The participants discussed partnerships for the adoption of alternative energy sources and the development of “green” economy, taking into account Turkmenistan’s initiative to establish a Regional Center for Climate Change Technologies in Central Asia, with headquarters in Ashgabat.

In addition, special attention was paid to expanding cultural and humanitarian ties, including cooperation in education and science.

Following the ministerial meeting, a Joint Communiqué of the 20<sup>th</sup> EU-Central Asia Ministerial Meeting was adopted.

In addition, bilateral meetings were held between the participants of the ministerial meeting.

Some key points of the Communiqué:

- The need to further enhance cooperation through the Global Gateway strategy on sustainable connectivity between the EU and Central Asia, including trade, transport, water, energy, climate change, digitalization, critical raw materials and people-to-people contacts, was stressed.

- Serious concern was expressed about the global threat posed by the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The importance of following up on the decisions taken at COP 28 was emphasized.
- The need for continued regional cooperation on water issues when climate change is putting additional strain on water resources was emphasized. The EU support to water cooperation regionally, including to the reforms of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) was noted.
- Support was expressed for efforts to halt biodiversity loss and tackle land degradation, desertification and drought.
- The work of the Team Europe Initiative on Water, Energy and Climate Change was commended. The importance of upcoming events, including the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation (Dushanbe, 2025) and the Regional Climate Summit (Astana, 2026) was noted.

## **Trilateral meeting of presidents of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan<sup>4</sup>**

On 31 March 2025, President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held trilateral talks in Khujand.

The Heads of State discussed key issues related to regional cooperation, emphasizing the importance of strengthening good-neighborly relations, jointly implementing infrastructure and economic projects, and expanding tourism opportunities in the region.

The trilateral meeting concluded with the signing of the Agreement on the Junction Point of State Borders of the three states and the Khujand Declaration of Eternal Friendship.

The signed agreement demarcates the junction point of the state borders of

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<sup>4</sup>Source: <https://en.kabar.kg/news/trilateral-meeting-of-presidents-of-kyrgyzstan-tajikistan-and-uzbekistan-held/>

<https://ru.kabar.kg/news/sostoyalas-trehstoronnyaya-vstrecha-prezidentov-kyrgyzstana-tadzhikistana-i-uzbekistana/>

<https://ru.kabar.kg/news/po-itogam-vstrechi-prezidentov-kr-rt-i-ruz-podpisan-dogovor-o-tochke-styka-gosgranits/>

[https://uza.uz/ru/posts/hudzhand-2025-novaya-arxitektura-druzhby-i-strategicheskogo-partnerstva-v-centralnoy-azii\\_704792](https://uza.uz/ru/posts/hudzhand-2025-novaya-arxitektura-druzhby-i-strategicheskogo-partnerstva-v-centralnoy-azii_704792)



Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan and clearly determines the internationally recognized border crossing site, which, according to the leaders' common belief, will contribute to the elimination of barriers and strengthening of good-neighborliness. Formalizing this point is not just a technical decision, but an important diplomatic step that contributes to peace and regional security.



This agreement finally resolves long-standing border issues that have been the subject of debate and disagreement for many years.

The Khujand Declaration of Eternal Friendship is a diplomatic symbol of the determination of the three brotherly peoples to deepen strategic partnership and good-neighborly relations.

The document highlights the importance of joint efforts to ensure regional security and stability, reinforcing the principles of good-neighborliness, trust, and mutually beneficial cooperation. The leaders of the three states affirmed their commitment to resolutely addressing any security challenges and threats, working together as partners and allies.

The declaration places special emphasis on economic cooperation, particularly the expansion of trade and investment relations. It specifically underscores the countries' intention to actively collaborate in the field of transportation and energy, including major infrastructure projects such as the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway and the enhancement of the region's energy infrastructure.



The cultural and humanitarian aspect also plays a central role in the Khujand Declaration. The leaders agreed to organize regular joint cultural events, youth forums, and sports competitions, all of which will help strengthen friendship and mutual understanding among the people, especially the youth, of the three states.

## First Central Asia – European Union Summit<sup>5</sup>

On 4 April 2025, the First Central Asia – European Union Summit was held in the city of Samarkand under the motto “*Investing in the Future*” and the chairmanship of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev.



<sup>5</sup> Source: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/mt/ip\\_25\\_983](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/mt/ip_25_983)

<https://khovar.tj/rus/2025/04/v-samarkande-sostoitsya-sammit-tsentrlnaya-aziya-evropejskij-soyuz-2/>

<https://www.uzdaily.uz/ru/sammit-tsentrlnaia-aziia-evropeiskii-soiuz-proidet-v-samarkande/>

The high-level event was attended by António Costa, President of the European Council; Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission; Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Sadyr Japarov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic; Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan; Serdar Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkmenistan; as well as the heads of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Investment Bank.

According to the summit agenda, participants reviewed prospects for the development of multifaceted relations and practical cooperation between the Central Asian states and the European Union.

Discussions focused on expanding investment cooperation and increasing trade turnover, while also promoting joint programs and collaborative projects in key sectors such as innovation, green energy, mining, agriculture, transport, logistics, and digitalization. The parties further emphasized the importance of deepening partnerships in culture, tourism, science, education, and other priority areas.

Bilateral meetings were held on the sidelines of the summit.



One of the key outcomes of the summit was the signing of the Samarkand Declaration, which reflects the shared commitment of all parties to establishing a strategic partnership.

## **Address by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the Summit<sup>6</sup>**

**(extract)**

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev addressed the ongoing transformation of relations and regional integration in Central Asia.



[...]

... I would like to outline our vision for medium- and long-term priorities in strengthening cooperation between Central Asia and the European Union.

[...]

Second. A key priority in our partnership should be investment in economic and technological modernization.

[...]

We count on the support of our European partners for a new initiative: the launch of an Investment Platform to promote major regional projects in the areas

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<sup>6</sup> source: [https://uza.uz/en/posts/address-by-the-president-of-the-republic-of-uzbekistan-shavkat-mirziyoyev-at-the-first-central-asia-european-union-summit\\_705325](https://uza.uz/en/posts/address-by-the-president-of-the-republic-of-uzbekistan-shavkat-mirziyoyev-at-the-first-central-asia-european-union-summit_705325)

of green energy, innovation, transportation, infrastructure, and agriculture.

[...]

Fourth. Investments in green energy and environmental sustainability is of strategic importance.

Uzbekistan fully supports the international project to export electricity from Central Asia to Europe. On the eve of this summit, the corresponding agreement for the project's implementation was ratified.

It is important to note that by 2030, Uzbekistan plans to increase the share of renewable energy in its national energy mix to 54%, adding 24,000 megawatts of green energy capacity.

A vital platform for cooperation could be established through the launch of the Central Asia–EU Partnership on Clean Energy.

To support project financing and develop a carbon credit market, we propose the formation of a Working Group composed of representatives from the relevant agencies.

At the upcoming Climate Forum, we will present the Concept of Green Development for the region.

[...]

## **Address by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Summit<sup>7</sup> (extract)**

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev presented his vision for the future agenda of cooperation between Central Asia and the European Union, emphasizing the importance of deepening trade and economic ties. He noted that Kazakhstan is ready to expand exports to the EU across 175 commodity categories, with a total potential value exceeding \$2 billion.

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<sup>7</sup> source: <https://akorda.kz/ru/kasym-zhomart-tokaev-vystupil-na-sammite-centralnaya-aziya-evropeyskiy-soyuz-v-samarkande-435534>





Energy was highlighted as another key area of cooperation.

– Kazakhstan remains a reliable supplier of hydrocarbons to Europe. Our country accounts for approximately 13% of the EU’s total oil imports, most of which is delivered via the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC). We highly appreciate the European Union’s support in ensuring the stable and long-term operation of this consortium, as well as in developing alternative routes for raw material transport. Kazakhstan implements projects in the area of renewable and clean energy. The country is expanding its wind and solar energy capacities and partnering with leading European companies—such as Total, Eni, and Svevind—to implement projects for the production of green hydrogen. Furthermore, in collaboration with Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan has launched work on a major project to construct a green energy transmission line across the Caspian Sea, with the aim of supplying European markets, - underlined Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

[...]

President Tokayev also stressed Kazakhstan’s active role in global decarbonization efforts, noting that the country supplies about 40% of the world’s nuclear fuel. In 2023, a Regional Project Office on Climate Change and Green Energy was established in Kazakhstan to support these initiatives.

[...]

He concluded by thanking European partners for endorsing the proposal

to establish the UN Regional Center on Sustainable Development Goals for Central Asia and Afghanistan in Almaty. Tokayev expressed confidence that the center will play a vital role in promoting the global 2030 Agenda and addressing key social, economic, and environmental challenges across the region.

## **Address by the President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov at the Summit<sup>8</sup>**

**(extract)**

In his speech, President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov emphasized that deepening mutually beneficial cooperation with neighboring countries remains one of the main priorities of Kyrgyzstan's foreign policy. He noted that close collaboration among Central Asian states plays a crucial role in ensuring regional security and sustainable development.

[...]

He also underlined that Kyrgyzstan's strategic geographical location and its growing potential as a transit hub offer significant opportunities for trade and investment. In this context, he invited European businesses to actively participate in joint projects on a mutually beneficial basis.

"We invite our European partners to take part in large-scale hydropower projects currently being implemented in Kyrgyzstan. The flagship project, Kambarata-1, holds a central place in our development plans. Construction of this major hydropower plant—designed with a capacity of 1,860 megawatts and a projected annual output of 5.6 billion kilowatt-hours—is already underway," the President said.

This project is being implemented in cooperation with neighboring Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan," the President noted.

In his speech, the Head of State also highlighted Kyrgyzstan's strong interest in expanding cooperation with the European Union in the areas of renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies.

"Last year, we commissioned 18 small hydroelectric power plants, and this year we are constructing 15 more. At the same time, we have launched solar energy projects with a combined capacity of over 400 megawatts," said President Sadyr Japarov.

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<sup>8</sup> source: <https://president.kg/ru/news/21/39021>



He emphasized that in the face of global climate change, the transition to a green economy and the development of renewable energy sources represents Kyrgyzstan's unwavering path toward sustainable development.

[...]

## **Address by the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon at the Summit<sup>9</sup>**

**(extract)**

During his speech, President Emomali Rahmon called the progressive development of relations with the European Union, both bilateral and multilateral, one of the priorities of Tajikistan's foreign policy.

He emphasized that the “Roadmap for Deepening Relations between Central Asia and the European Union” has become the key document regulating the expansion of interregional cooperation and interconnectivity.

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<sup>9</sup> source: <https://president.tj/event/news/50504>



[...]

Emomali Rahmon expressed his opinion about the opportunities and natural resources of the country, the potential of industrial, energy and agricultural sectors and said that Tajikistan is interested in attracting investments, adopting new technologies and experience of European companies in this sector.

Contribution of the European Union to energy, agriculture, industry, transport and communications projects was considered important.

He emphasized that the issue of energy development in view of the increasing demand for electricity is becoming urgent, and, in this context, one of the promising directions in our region is cooperation in the field of “green” energy.

“For Tajikistan, the energy sector, namely renewable energy, which includes hydropower, is relevant not only to meet national socio-economic needs, but also to further develop regional cooperation,” said Emomali Rahmon.

Recalling the European Union's contribution to the establishment and modernization of green energy production capacities in our country, the head of state underlined its successful participation in the Nurek, Sebzor and Kairakkum projects.



The European Union is invited to act as an investor in the construction and modernization of hydropower projects that are models of green economy and energy on a bilateral basis or as part of the Global Gateway Initiative.

The EU's assistance in the establishment of infrastructure for the transmission of electricity to South Asia through the CASA-1000 transmission line was also appreciated.

Head of State Emomali Rahmon shared Tajikistan's plans to increase solar and wind power generation capacity to 10% of the country's total electricity production by 2030.

The head of state noted: "We intend to ensure full production of electricity from renewable sources by 2032 on the basis of the Green Economy Development Strategy and turn Tajikistan into a "green country by 2037.

Recalling Tajikistan's global initiatives to address global problems, including glacier protection, the President emphasized that the first high-level international conference on this issue is planned to be held in Dushanbe at the end of May this year.

He expressed confidence that European and regional partners of Tajikistan will take an active part in the forthcoming conference.

## **Address by the President of Turkmenistan at the Summit <sup>10</sup> (extract)**

President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov highly valued the potential of cooperation between Central Asia and the European Union, defining the economy, investment, energy, transport, and trade as priority areas of cooperation in this format. He stated this in his speech at the "Central Asia – European Union" summit, which took place in Samarkand, the State News Agency of Turkmenistan reports.

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<sup>10</sup> source: <https://turkmenportal.com/blog/89638/glava-turkmenistana-vysoko-ocenil-potencial-sotrudnichestva-mezhdu-centralnoi-aziei-i-es>



"Turkmenistan is firmly committed to a serious energy dialogue with the EU at a brand new level and is ready to take practical steps," the Head of Turkmenistan said, inviting European partners to a substantive discussion of partnership opportunities in the field of renewable energy. At the same time, he noted readiness to launch practical joint projects in the field of "green energy" and to consider prospects for cooperation in the use of wind, solar and hydrogen energy.

## **European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced the launch of a strategic EU-Central Asia partnership<sup>11</sup>**

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced the launch of a strategic partnership between the two regions and the Global Gateway strategy

She emphasized that this partnership will ensure stronger ties between the regions and create new opportunities for cooperation in areas such as energy, security, digital development and tourism.

Within the framework of the new partnership, von der Leyen highlighted four key areas of cooperation.

The first is the development of transport corridors. The European Union confirmed the allocation of €10 billion for the development of the Trans-Caspian transport corridor, which will reduce travel time between Europe and Central Asia by almost half — to 15 days. In 2025, Uzbekistan will host an investment forum to support this project.

The second important area is cooperation in critical raw materials. Central Asia possesses significant reserves of manganese, lithium, and graphite. The European Union proposed becoming a partner in developing the region's local processing industry, creating added value locally rather than simply extracting resources. European companies have already invested €1.6 billion in a copper mine in Almalyk, Uzbekistan, where not only extraction but also processing occurs, creating jobs.

The third area is the development of green energy, including wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal energy. The EU is participating in the construction of major hydroelectric power stations, such as the Rogun HPP in Tajikistan and the Kambarata HPP in Kyrgyzstan, which should turn Central Asia into a hub for clean energy.

The fourth priority area is digital connectivity and satellite internet. The European Union is launching a satellite program that will connect remote areas, including 2,000 schools and hundreds of villages in Kazakhstan, and plans to connect 1,700 settlements across the region in the coming years.

As part of this initiative, an investment package under the Global Gateway program was introduced, with a total of €12 billion allocated across four key areas: transport — €3 billion, critical minerals — €2.5 billion, hydro

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<sup>11</sup> Source: <https://www.uzdaily.uz/ru/ursula-fon-der-liaien-anonsirovala-strategicheskoe-partniorstvo-es-i-tsentranoi-azii/>

energy and climate — €6.4 billion, satellite internet — €100 million.

In addition, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) plans to develop projects worth €7-8 billion by 2027, covering critical minerals and renewable energy. The European Investment Bank (EIB) also plans to sign several memorandums with Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, allocating €365 million for sustainable transport, water resources, and climate change resilience.

## **Central Asia and the European Union adopt a declaration on strategic partnership<sup>12</sup>**

The leaders of Central Asian countries and the European Union have adopted a joint declaration that raises relations between the parties to the level of strategic partnership. The document is aimed at developing trade, transportation, energy, digital communications and water management.

According to the declaration, the relations between the parties are raised to the level of strategic partnership.

[...]

Leaders agreed to step up the fight against climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The EU welcomed the decision of all Central Asian partners to join the Global Methane Pledge.

The parties also agreed to continue implementing innovative approaches in water-energy cooperation to protect and efficiently use water resources. They agreed to strengthen cooperation to improve the situation in the Aral Sea Region and the entire Aral Sea basin.

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<sup>12</sup> source: <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2025/04/04/declaration/>

## **Samarkand Climate Forum “Central Asia in the Face of Global Climate Challenges: Consolidation for Common Prosperity”<sup>13</sup>**

On 4 April 2025, the international First Climate Forum “Central Asia in the Face of Global Climate Challenges: Consolidation for Common Prosperity” was held in Samarkand. President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired the forum.

The forum was attended by President of the European Council Antonio Costa, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov, Head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Odile Renaud-Basso, Executive Secretary of the European Economic Commission Tatiana Molchan, Executive Director of UN-Habitat Anaukladiya Rossbach, Ibrahim Tiau, Executive Secretary of the Convention to Combat Desertification, Ivana Živković, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Vice President of the European Investment Bank Kyriakos Kakouris and others.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres addressed the participants of the forum with a video message. “Cooperation throughout Central Asia is essential. And regional action must be complemented by global action. New national climate plans – or NDCs – due this year must align with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as promised. And cover all emissions and the whole economy. The G20 must lead. This is an opportunity to bring together energy transition strategies and sustainable development priorities with climate action – to attract investment and build prosperity and security. I urge all countries to take it”, Guterres stressed.

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<sup>13</sup> source: <https://www.newscentralasia.net/2025/04/05/samarkand-climate-summit-central-asia-seeks-ways-to-sustainable-development/>



The Samarkand Climate Summit brought together over 2,000 delegates, including heads of national and global environmental organizations, international institutions, experts, scientists and journalists, and business representatives.

In accordance with the agenda, the current climate challenges facing Central Asia were discussed, issues of environmental sustainability, green economic development and regional cooperation in combating climate change were considered.

On the second day, 5 April, thematic sessions were held within the framework of the forum:

- Green economy as a path to sustainable development
- Conservation of biological diversity and natural ecosystems of Central Asia in response to climate challenges
- Clean energy: the basis for sustainable and environmentally friendly development
- Integrated water resources management in the context of climate change in Central Asia
- Youth: looking to the future with optimism
- Sustainable cities and climate challenges: integrated planning and management
- Scientific approaches and innovative solutions to climate change: global challenges and local strategies.

### **Address by the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the Samarkand Climate Forum <sup>14</sup>** (extract)

[...]

Last year was the first one ever when the average global temperature rose by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. The past decade was the hottest period in the entire history of meteorological observations.

As the result, today all of us feel the negative effect of climate crises –

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<sup>14</sup> source: <https://president.uz/en/lists/view/8025>



growing scales of wildfires and desertification, melting of glaciers, increasing shortage of water resources, and the deterioration of air quality.

I would like to underline, that all of us bear responsibility for the preservation of the environment. This is the key item of our agenda.

The countries of the region have developed and unanimously approved the Strategy for climate change adaptation in Central Asia.

Uzbekistan is committed to continuing close engagement with all regional partners for practical implementation of common tasks and objectives.



We have also been cooperating successfully with European partners within programs for mitigation of the consequences of drying up of the Aral Sea, sustainable water use, expanding “clean” energy sources. Such partnership makes an important contribution to sustainable “green” development in Central Asia.

There is no doubt that today the European Union is a global leader in facilitating and promoting the issues of combating climate change. We are committed to further deepening practical engagement in this area.

Ladies and gentlemen!

Climate change is inextricably linked to food and energy security.



Fertile lands are rapidly decreasing while the region's population is growing and in 25 years from now it can surpass 100 million people. Today, over 20 percent of land in the region is exposed to degradation. A quarter century later, crop yields may decrease by a third.

In this regard, I believe it is vital for us to combine our scientific potential to increase the adaptation capacity of our forestry and agrarian sectors, as well as strengthen food security as part of HORIZON EUROPE Program.

In order to reduce the area of degraded lands and mitigate the consequences of climate changes, Uzbekistan has been carrying out large-scale greening in the framework of the "Yashil Makon" project. Additionally, over 2 million hectares of the desert Aral Sea region is now covered with drought-resistant plants.

In this context, I propose to hold a Regional tree-planting campaign "Green Belt of Central Asia" annually on the eve the Navruz holiday.

I am confident that this campaign will turn into a good tradition, a symbol of unity in enduring natural cataclysms.

Dear participants of the forum!

Uzbekistan has begun transition to resource-efficient and ecologically clean model of economic development.

"Green" energy is one of the key directions in this regard. We intend to increase the share of renewables to 54% in the next five years. This will allow us decrease the greenhouse gas emissions by almost 16 million tons.

I would like to underline that we will do our best to fast-track the fulfillment of Uzbekistan's obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35% in accordance with Paris agreement.

At the same time, we are not going to stop there.

We propose to establish the Secretariat of the EU's "Water-Energy-Climate Change" Initiative in Tashkent to mobilize financing, technologies and competencies.

In addition, as part of the implementation of common strategic objectives, this Forum is going to see the presentation of the Concept of the region's "green" development.

I am confident, its adoption and the following implementation will create a strong basis for Central Asia's environmentally-oriented development.

Distinguished members of delegations!

It is estimated that by 2040, against the reduction of the flows of Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers, the countries of Central Asia will face an

“extremely high” level of water stress.

We are already experiencing the consequences of one of the major tragedies – the drying up of the Aral Sea.

In order to ensure sustainable use of water resources, we are paving irrigation networks with concrete, we have established an industrial base for manufacturing water-saving technologies, which have already been implemented on almost half of our irrigated land (it is almost 2 million hectares). These measures enabled us to save over 8 billion cubic meters of water last year.

In this context, we urge our partners to join the efforts and launch a Regional Program for Implementation of Water Saving Technologies in Central Asia. We intend to host an International Water Saving Technologies Forum in the Aral Sea region to facilitate an expert level discussion of these issues.

We also build on close cooperation with the EU as part of the “Copernicus” Program for continuous observation of glaciers and early risk assessment on mountain ecosystems in the region.

The Climate Residence established at the Green University in Tashkent can serve as a common scientific and expert platform to study and monitor the climate processes in Central Asia.

In addition, the Aral Cultural Summit will begin in Nukus tomorrow, to draw attention to environmental problems in our region through the prism of cultural projects.

[...]

## **Address by the President of Uzbekistan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Samarkand Climate Forum<sup>15</sup>** (extract)

In his address, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev emphasized that Central Asia is particularly vulnerable to climate change, with temperatures in the region rising twice as fast as the global average. He noted that the region is already experiencing severe consequences, including glacier melt, desertification, and

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<sup>15</sup> source: <https://akorda.kz/ru/glava-gosudarstva-prinyal-uchastie-v-mezhdunarodnoy-konferencii-centralnaya-aziya-pered-licom-globalnyh-klimaticheskikh-ugroz-434831>

water scarcity.

–This situation underscores the urgent need for coordinated action by all states in the region. The climate decisions we make must be closely aligned with our national strategies and create meaningful synergies to support the sustainable development of the entire region. We must strike the right balance between economic growth and our climate commitments. In this context, I have tasked the government with launching a large-scale tree-planting initiative across Kazakhstan. In addition, we are implementing a comprehensive program for forest protection and preservation, as well as conducting the 'Taza Kazakhstan' (Clean Kazakhstan) campaign, aimed at fostering environmental awareness, particularly among the younger generation. Together with Uzbekistan, we also work on greening the dried seabed of the Aral Sea," the Head of State said.



As President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev noted, Kazakhstan's climate agenda is shaped by regional cooperation priorities, pragmatic ambitions, and active international engagement. According to him, the country contributes to global efforts in supporting vulnerable nations and views the “green” transition as a strategic priority.

– Renewable energy holds a key position in our national strategy. We are implementing one of the world’s largest green hydrogen projects . In addition, we have launched solar and wind energy initiatives in partnership with leading

global corporations. Kazakhstan produces about 40% of the world's uranium—an important contribution, considering that nearly 10% of global electricity is generated by nuclear power plants. To further reduce emissions and enhance energy security, we now plan to construct Kazakhstan's first nuclear power plant," said the Head of State.

The President emphasized that Kazakhstan's vast steppes offer enormous potential for carbon farming and ecosystem restoration. He highlighted the country's reserves of rare earth elements, which form the basis for clean technology development. Kazakhstan also possesses many critical raw materials and maintains a complete processing cycle.

- Water is becoming an increasingly critical issue for our region, primarily for two reasons. Over the past two decades, per capita water availability has decreased by 30%. Moreover, 70% of the region's water resources are transboundary. This is why we need the international community's support in developing water-saving technologies, smart irrigation systems, and robust hydrological monitoring. In this context, we continue to promote the long-standing idea of a Central Asian Water and Energy Partnership, President Tokayev stated.

The President also addressed biodiversity and the conservation of rare and endangered species native to Central Asia. The Head of State announced his decision to establish an International Biodiversity Fund under the President of Kazakhstan.

– I am convinced that the global green transition offers us all a unique opportunity to build a better, cleaner, safer, and more prosperous world. But to implement this, we must ensure that both public and private climate finance is available at scale. This is essential not only to reduce mitigation risks, but also to invest in green energy and create a profitable, sustainable economy. Without such commitment, the path to carbon neutrality will be at risk. To avoid this, we must redouble our efforts, expand our partnerships, and act collectively. No country can travel this long and challenging road alone, the President concluded.

## **Address by the President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov at the Samarkand Climate Forum<sup>16</sup>**

**(extract)**

President Sadyr Japarov of Kyrgyzstan highlighted that in recent years, the issue of climate change has been increasingly raised — both from the high rostrum of the United Nations and at the annual summits of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

He noted that while many participants voice concerns and sound the alarm, the overall situation has yet to see significant improvement. Developed countries, including members of the European Union, remain key contributors to climate finance. However, the financial support provided still falls short of the expectations of developing nations.



In this context, President Sadyr Japarov emphasized the stark contrast between billions and even trillions of dollars that states allocate to wars and conflicts, while funding for climate change mitigation and environmental

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<sup>16</sup> source: <https://ru.kabar.kg/news/sadyr-zhaparov-prinyal-uchastie-v-klimaticheskoy-forume-v-samarkande/>

protection remains disproportionately low.

He also pointed out that the process and mechanisms for accessing climate finance remain overly complex. Financial resources are fragmented and distributed through numerous funds and banking institutions, making them difficult to obtain and manage effectively.

To ensure a more efficient and equitable allocation of climate finance, President Sadyr Japarov proposed the following measures:

Prioritize the allocation of climate finance to the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable developing countries — particularly those lacking the resources, technologies, and financial capacity to mitigate the impacts of climate change, adapt to its consequences, and implement a green transition.

When evaluating global climate initiatives, consider not only the needs of small island states and least developed countries, but also those of mountainous developing nations, which are equally vulnerable to climate change.

Enhance the engagement of European partners in supporting Central Asian countries, both through climate financing and the transfer of advanced technologies.

Support Kyrgyzstan's initiative to swap its external debt for climate and sustainable development projects — an initiative already backed by the European Union.

The President also noted that last year, the Kyrgyz Republic experienced a sharp rise in landslides, which caused significant damage to infrastructure, loss of life, and displacement of communities.

“In addition, we are witnessing the accelerated melting of glaciers, a reduction in glaciated areas, declining water levels, and increasing drought and desertification. Both the frequency and scale of these phenomena are growing each year. Over the past 70 years, the glacier area in Kyrgyzstan has decreased by 16%, and by 2100, we risk losing more than half of their total volume” President Sadyr Japarov stated. . Given the seriousness of these challenges, he emphasized that the Kyrgyz Republic is firmly committed to implementing an active program to combat climate change.

“According to our nationally determined contributions, we aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 16% by 2030 under the business-as-usual scenario, and by up to 44% with sufficient international support.

We plan to reach carbon neutrality by expanding the use of renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, reducing coal consumption through gasification, minimizing losses in electricity transmission and distribution, and modernizing urban heating systems,” the President said.

In this context, President Sadyr Japarov highlighted ongoing renewable energy and environmental initiatives in Kyrgyzstan.

"Over the past four years, 18 small hydropower plants have been commissioned in Kyrgyzstan. In cooperation with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, we have also launched the Kambarata-1 project," he noted.

He further emphasized the importance of reforestation efforts, stating: "We are implementing the national program *Zhashyl Muras* to expand forest areas and strengthen our capacity to absorb greenhouse gas emissions. Under this program, up to 8 million trees are planted annually."

The President expressed his gratitude to international partners for their support of Kyrgyzstan's environmental initiatives. In particular, he welcomed the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the resolution on *Sustainable Mountain Development*, initiated by Kyrgyzstan. This resolution declares the years 2023–2027 as the *Five-Year Action Plan for the Development of Mountain Regions*.

[...]

## **Address by the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmon at the Samarkand Climate Forum<sup>17</sup>**

**(extract)**

President Emomali Rahmon emphasized that climate change is a global challenge, and our region is no exception.

He noted that the consequences of climate change cause serious damage to the economies and ecosystems of our countries and pose a threat to human life.

The President highlighted that Tajikistan faces a significant annual shortfall in financing for climate-related programs, amounting to over 400 million USD. In the event of large-scale climate impacts, this figure can rise to as much as 1.5 billion USD.

In this context, President Rahmon underlined that only the joint efforts of

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<sup>17</sup> source: <https://khovar.tj/rus/2025/04/prezident-respubliki-tadzhikistan-emomali-rahmon-prinyal-uchastie-v-forume-vysokogo-urovnya-tsentralnaya-aziya-pered-litsom-globalnyh-klimaticheskikh-problem-konsolidatsiya-radi-obshhego-protsvetaniya/>

all countries in the region, supported by the international community, can enable us to effectively address these challenges.



According to the Head of State, over the past twenty years, Tajikistan has actively promoted water and climate-related initiatives on the international stage. These efforts have brought increased attention to the issues of climate change and environmental sustainability.

“The adoption of 14 relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions at the initiative of Tajikistan has laid a solid foundation for achieving coordinated global water goals,” President Emomali Rahmon stated. He further emphasized that these global initiatives have also contributed to the achievement of broader objectives, including those outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

He emphasized that there was an undeniable link between energy and climate change, and the development of green energy represents a crucial step toward climate preservation.

Tajikistan currently generates 98% of its electricity from hydropower, placing it sixth in the world for the share of “green” energy produced from renewable sources. The country aims to full transition to renewable energy by 2032.



He also highlighted that glaciers in Tajikistan serve as a vital source of water for the region, with approximately 60% of Central Asia's water resources originating from the territory of Tajikistan.

Speaking about the importance of issues related to climate change, the Head of State expressed concern about glacier melting, including the complete melting of about 1,300 of the 14,000 glaciers in the territory of Tajikistan over the past fifty years.

According to the President, this is a very alarming trend, as our glaciers are not only the source of the region's water, but also play a critical role in preserving the regional climate.

“On Tajikistan's initiative, the UN General Assembly has declared 2025 the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation and March 21 as the World Day for Glaciers,” the head of state noted and reminded that on the basis of the above resolution, Dushanbe is hosting the first ever high-level International Conference on Glaciers/ Preservation in May this year.

Calling on the forum participants to actively participate in the work of the Dushanbe conference and generally make their contribution to glacier preservation, the President expressed confidence that the outcome of the Dushanbe conference and the joint efforts of the countries participating in its work will undoubtedly make a significant contribution to the joint efforts of the countries participating in the Dushanbe conference to successfully hold COP-30 in Brazil later this year.

Willingness was expressed to continue directing efforts to ensure climate resilience and strengthen cooperation in the field of water protection and rational use. In this context he emphasized that water conservation is a key issue not only in Central Asia, but also worldwide, calling for concrete sustainable actions.

The use of modern energy-saving technologies and respect for water as a vital source of life have become the main conditions for reducing water losses. The international community was called upon to take measures to increase funding for measures related to climate protection and relief from natural disasters for vulnerable countries, especially developing countries.

## **Address by the President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov at the Samarkand Climate Forum <sup>18</sup>**

**(extract)**

Speaking at the Forum, President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov emphasized that climate change issues have traditionally had a special place in the Central Asia-European Union format.

The Head of State expressed the need to identify priority benchmarks for cooperation and create a solid basis for their implementation, considering the European Union as a promising partner on climate issues, based on the joint commitment to international conventions, treaties and agreements primarily the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.



The most important issue is decarbonization and reduction of methane emissions. The President noted the major practical steps recently taken by Turkmenistan along this path. A Commission to reduce methane emissions was established in 2023. In December same year, Turkmenistan's accession to the

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<sup>18</sup> Source: <https://www.newscentralasia.net/2025/04/05/samarkand-climate-summit-central-asia-seeks-ways-to-sustainable-development/>

Global Methane Pledge was officially announced. The Government has adopted a Roadmap for international cooperation with foreign countries and international organizations to reduce methane emissions into the atmosphere. As a result, by the end of 2024 alone, methane emissions in Turkmenistan have been reduced by 11%, which is higher than planned.

The Head of State also focused attention on Turkmenistan's environmental initiatives that are both regional and global in nature, such as the establishment of the Regional Center for Climate Technologies and preparation of the Program of Transition to Circular Economy, expressing hope for the support of the European Union in their implementation. The priorities of the partnership with EU were “green transition” in energy, industry, transport and other key sectors of economy. The President proposed to intensify the dialogue on ‘green’ issues, making it a separate area of cooperation and beginning to develop specific plans for the near future.

Particular attention was given to water, which holds fundamental importance for the region. The President emphasized that EU’s technical assistance and guidance could play a positive role in addressing existing challenges. He outlined Turkmenistan’s position, which is grounded in adherence to international law, mutual respect for interests, and active involvement of international organizations, particularly the United Nations.

To promote good-neighborly relations and enhance regional cooperation in Central Asia—especially in the use of transboundary rivers—Turkmenistan proposed that the UN General Assembly consider an initiative to establish a UN Regional Council on Water Use in Central Asian countries.

Saving the Aral Sea was identified as another key issue for environmental and socio-economic well-being in the region. Turkmenistan expressed its hope for a more concrete and focused international discussion of this problem and development of measures to support the activities of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea on the basis of the relevant UNGA resolutions, proposing to jointly seek full implementation of these documents.

## Session “Integrated Water Resources Management in the Context of Climate Change in Central Asia” at the Samarkand Climate Forum

A session on "Integrated water resources management in the context of climate change in Central Asia" was held as part of the Samarkand Climate Forum.



The session featured key speakers who took part in the discussion, including: the Minister of Water Management of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Khamrayev; the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nurzhan Nurzhigitov; the Chairman of the State Committee for Water Management of Turkmenistan, Durdy Genjiev; representatives of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture, and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic; the Secretary General of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), Gupta Rakesh Kumar; the Secretary General of the Asia Water Council (AWC), Yongdeok Cho; the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Asia and Head



of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, Kaha Innadze; the Regional Programme Director of the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Caroline Milow; the Regional Representative of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Barbara Janusz-Pawletta; and other international experts.



The discussions focused on such topical issues as strengthening regional cooperation, expanding water-saving technologies, modernizing irrigation infrastructure, and adapting to climate change.

Participants exchanged views on strategies for integrated water resources management that combine climate change adaptation with regional cooperation, aiming to ensure water security for future generations.



## First Aral Culture Summit<sup>19</sup>

The First Aral Culture Summit was held from 4 to 6 April in Samarkand and Nukus, coinciding with the Samarkand Climate Forum.

Uzbekistan initially proposed the idea of organizing the Aral Culture Summit during the UN Water Conference held in New York on 22-24 March 2023. The initiative was further supported by Presidential Resolution “On Holding a High-Level Aral Culture Summit,” which stipulated that the event was to be held every 18 months, alternating between spring and autumn.

The main goals and focus areas of the Summit include:

- establishing a global platform for discussing environmental issues affecting the Aral Sea region and other parts of the world, as well as presenting viable solutions;
- promoting interdisciplinary approaches to addressing challenges in the Aral Sea region;
- creating the Aral School based on an educational program focused on developing sustainable solutions and strategies;
- conducting water and soil research in the Aral Sea region in collaboration with leading domestic and international experts and organizations;
- establishing a laboratory platform specializing in the study of agricultural crops suited to the soil and climate conditions of Aral region, transforming it into a research and training hub;
- preserving, protecting and promoting the unique culture and traditions that developed over centuries in Aral region;
  - organizing international dialogues, workshops, seminars, and research programs on a regular basis;
  - restoring and efficiently managing the Istiklal culture and recreation park in Nukus, along with its children’s library. The exposition of the Aral Culture Summit in Samarkand demonstrated unique initiatives aimed at restoration of the Aral Sea ecosystem, preservation of the region's cultural heritage and support of its sustainable development. An opportunity was created to get acquainted with the natural and cultural wealth of the Aral Sea region through visual, sensory and interactive

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<sup>19</sup> source: <https://aralculturesummit.uz/>

<https://centrasia.org/news.php?st=1743354180>

[https://uza.uz/ru/posts/aralskiy-kulturnyy-sammit-obogatil-predstavlenie-o-regione\\_706730](https://uza.uz/ru/posts/aralskiy-kulturnyy-sammit-obogatil-predstavlenie-o-regione_706730)

[https://uza.uz/ru/posts/napravlyaya-usiliya-na-ustoychivoe-razvitie-karakalpakstana\\_706772](https://uza.uz/ru/posts/napravlyaya-usiliya-na-ustoychivoe-razvitie-karakalpakstana_706772)



tools.

The exhibition featured the work of the famous photographer Iwan Baan , who focused on architectural and landscape photography, along with a bulrush-based floral composition—a plant symbolic of Karakalpakstan—alongside saksaul seeds, shells, natural salt, dried isiriq (*Peganum harmala*), ornamented felt, and many other elements.

The exhibition was visited by participants of the Samarkand Climate Forum, including leaders of Central Asian countries and the European Union. Over two days, international and national experts, environmental scientists, and experts gained valuable insights into each exhibition's item, the Aral Sea, and the history and present challenges of the region.

As part of the Aral Culture Summit held in Nukus, the Foundation for the Development of Culture and Art of Uzbekistan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation on sustainable development in Karakalpakstan.

The partnership aims to enhance community engagement in addressing the challenges of the Aral Sea region through innovative solutions and the support of sustainable development initiatives.

The Memorandum also lays the basis for continued collaboration, with a focus on building human capital, adapting to climate change, and protecting the environment.

## Regional events

### Regional Workshop on SDG 6.5.2

A regional workshop on the outcomes of the third reporting exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and sharing experience in using reporting as a tool for developing transboundary cooperation in Central Asia was held in Tashkent on 12-13 February. The workshop was organized by the International Water Assessment Centre in cooperation with the UNECE, UNESCO and SIC ICWC with financial support from German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

The workshop brought together representatives of interested state authorities in the field of surface and groundwater resources, environment, regional and international organizations, as well as experts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The session "Progress in achieving SDG indicator 6.5.2 in Central Asia" presented the results of the third reporting exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2 at both global and regional levels, identified key gaps and obstacles in achieving the indicator in Central Asia, including the lack of coordination between countries and insufficient information on transboundary water resources, and discussed the linkages between indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2.

As part of discussions on regional experiences in transboundary water cooperation, the countries in the region shared reports on key achievements and challenges in reporting. The importance of strengthening institutions for transboundary water cooperation was emphasized, along with the need to improve data sharing. The role of regional organizations in achieving SDG indicator 6.5.2 was considered and the necessity of developing partnerships between countries and engaging international organizations for funding and technical assistance was highlighted.



International experiences and best practices from Europe, Africa and the South Caucasus were shared as well. Those included cooperation between Armenia and Georgia on water monitoring in the Khrami-Debed basin, water regulation in Senegal and Mauritania based on reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2, and the experiences of France and Poland in transboundary water cooperation.



A key topic of the workshop was transboundary groundwater management, its inclusion in SDG indicator 6.5.2 and integration into the cooperation processes. This included global experiences in groundwater monitoring (UNESCO, IGRAC), regional examples such as the Pritashkent transboundary aquifer, and the issues related to joint surface and groundwater management.

SIC ICWC actively participated in the workshop as both a co-organizer and a knowledge hub on water cooperation in Central Asia. In the third session, SIC ICWC Director Dinara Ziganshina made a presentation on the role of SIC ICWC in facilitating transboundary water cooperation and reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2. At the session on tools helping develop agreements and arrangements, she reported on financing transboundary water cooperation and strategies for attracting additional sources.



Based on the discussions, practical recommendations and proposals for strengthening transboundary water cooperation will be drafted.

## Brussels Climate Security Dialogue

The Brussels Climate Security Dialogue was held on February 19-20, 2025, bringing together policymakers, experts, and practitioners to discuss the growing interlinkages between climate change, security, and peacekeeping. The event was organized by the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) in cooperation with the think tank Adelphi Global and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

The event also featured the release of the new report, *Navigating Peace in a Changing Climate: Climate and Security Trend Analysis*, commissioned by the European Union. The analysis identifies five key pathways related to climate risks and security that warrant particular attention:

1. Water governance, food pricing and natural resource management
2. Migration, displacement and livelihoods
3. Energy transition, decarbonization risks and critical minerals
4. Environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and environmental crime
5. Global governance, financial reform and climate justice





Separate discussions and scenario exercises focused on Central Asia and Africa due to their heightened vulnerability to climate change. The importance of strengthening regional dialogues and multilateral cooperation to enhance climate resilience was emphasized. In addition, the need to raise awareness at all levels to increase the resilience of populations to the impacts of climate change was underscored. In this context, the role of the partnership on environment, climate change, and security - launched by the EU and UNEP in 2017 - was highlighted. This partnership plans to expand its activities in Central Asia in collaboration with SIC ICWC.



## **Drops of the Future Concluding Event: Youth Initiatives for Sustainable Future in Central Asia**

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), together with Switzerland and the Austrian Host Government, has organized a concluding event of the "Drops of the Future" Youth Workshop Series. The event was held in Vienna, Austria on 25-27 February 2025.

The OSCE, in collaboration with Switzerland, has initiated the "Drops of the Future" Youth Workshop Series to engage young professionals, especially women, in the water-food-energy nexus. In the process of the series of workshops that took place in each of the five Central Asian countries young people developed innovative approaches and networked to search for sustainable solutions.

The concluding event brought together OSCE delegations, stakeholders, experts and youth from the region and beyond to discuss outcomes of the workshop series and present practices and innovative solutions, as well as identify the ways forward.



In the course of the event, the Youth Declaration and the toolkit of innovative solutions for the WEF Nexus were showcased and panel discussions were organized with youth, academia, private sector and international organizations. At the panel discussion "Negotiations and science - opposite sides of the same coin?", Oygun Usmanova, SIC ICWC presented the case of relations between the Central Asian countries and the scientific community under umbrella of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) of Central Asia.

In parallel to the event, a regular meeting of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan was held on 25 February. Ms. Usmanova took part in the meeting as a member of the Network. Members of the Network discussed activities within the network for 2025, as well as possibilities of collaboration as part of activity on the designing the regional Centre of Excellence on nexus approach on the basis of the Expert Platform on Water Security, Sustainable Development and Future Studies supported by SIC ICWC.





## Launch of the Central Asian Nature Partnership

On 11 March, a "High-Level Policy Dialogue: Expanding Financing and Investment to Achieve Environmental Goals in Central Asia" took place in Tashkent. The Policy Dialogue was organized by Uzbekistan's Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change (MEEPCC), in collaboration with Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection (BMUV), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The event was opened by H.E. Aziz Abdukhakimov, Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Manfred Huterer, Ambassador of Germany to Uzbekistan, Mrs. Mathilde Mesnard, Deputy Director of the OECD Environment, and Mrs. Rachael Barza, Climate Adaptation and Nature Finance Lead at the EBRD. Representatives

from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan presented their national priorities for biodiversity protection and environmental finance.



One of the key outcomes of the event was the launch of a new "Central Asian Nature Partnership" initiated by EBRD to overcome regional challenges related to environment and climate change. The Partnership will cover Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, and, probably, Mongolia. It will be aimed at addressing water stress, biodiversity losses and climate adaptation. Germany has provided grant funding to support this initiative, building on existing programs including the IKI Nexus project.

The Partnership intends to:

- create a coordinated approach to financing environmental projects in Central Asia;
- strengthen regional co-operation on sustainable water use, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation;
- mobilize public and private investments in nature-based solutions (NbS) and environmental infrastructure.

Five possible focus areas include: sustainable water supply, improved water efficiency, pollution reduction, nature-based flood management, nature-positive business strategies and nature-based solutions.



The session on biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions (NbS) was addressed by James Dalton, IUCN - on NbS opportunities for biodiversity conservation, Takayoshi Kato, OECD, with presentation of the report on main factors of biodiversity loss, Tulkin Rajabov, UNDP - on planning for biodiversity financing in Uzbekistan (BIOFIN), and Sergey Makarov, GIZ - on climate risk management in the region.

The next session was focused on financing mechanisms for the water, energy, food and ecosystems Nexus (WEFE Nexus). Mrs. Barza and Mr. Konstantin Kostikov, EBRD, presented the EBRD's approach to environmental financing and examples of such financing and investments in agribusiness. Takayoshi Kato, OECD, spoke about examples of nature-related financing in Central Asia and possible areas for additional mobilization under the IKI project. Dinara Ziganshina, SIC ICWC, emphasized the importance of investing in local human resources and research in the region, as well as of working in close linkage between science, decision-making processes and financing institutions. Anna Piwowarska, UNECE, spoke about the results of modeling the integration of renewable energy sources into the energy systems of the countries in region. Greater energy interconnectivity in the region will not only reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions, but also save US\$ 1.4 billion annually in power production.

Jurgen Keinhorst (BMUV), Waqas Batley (EBRD), Mathilde Mesnard (OECD) and Zhusipbek Kazbekov (MEEPCC) summarized the results of the meeting and outlined future areas of cooperation.



At the end of the meeting, the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan awarded Mr. Jurgen Keinhorst (BMUV) a badge For Nature Conservation.

## **Roundtable “Building Knowledge Networks in Central Asia”**

A round table on "Building Knowledge Networks in Central Asia" was held at Turin Polytechnic University in Tashkent on March 17, 2025. Organized by the Italian Embassy in Uzbekistan under the 5+1 cooperation initiative, the event brought together government and academic representatives, alongside energy, water, and sustainable development experts.

Welcoming speeches were delivered by: Piergabriele Papadia de Bottini, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Italy to Uzbekistan; Envoy Extraordinary Federico Failla, coordinator of 5+1 initiative from Italy; Olimjon Tuychiev, Rector of Turin Polytechnic University in Tashkent; Zhavlon Vakhobov, Director of International Institute of Central Asia; and, Nilufar Doniyorkhodjaeva, Deputy Director of the Center for Strategic Development.



In the course of the round table, the Italian side proposed the following key initiatives for the enhancement of educational and scientific bonds between Italy and Central Asia:

- Summer School in Tashkent on renewable energy (organizer - University of Milano-Bicocca, June 23-28, 2025), aimed at training civil servants and students.
- Summer School at the University of Tuscia, offering additional educational opportunities in the field of sustainable development.
- Conference in Venice on water resources, where key attention will be paid to water-health nexus, with the participation of experts from the Istituto Superiore di Sanita (ISS)/Italian National Institute of Health.
- Online Mentorship Program, aimed at engaging students and faculty of Uzbek universities in international educational projects.
- "Ecological Restoration of the Aral Sea Basin" Project, being prepared with the participation of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and the Sogesid company.

The event became an important platform for dialogue on joint educational and scientific initiatives on sustainable development. Italian and Uzbek partners discussed opportunities for cooperation and identified priority areas of cooperation in renewable energy, water resource management, and food security.

Dinara Ziganshina, Director of SIC ICWC, put an emphasis on the regional dimension of cooperation and the development of dialogue on wider range of issues, including topics such as heritage and culture.

## **Side event “A Vanishing Mountain Cryosphere and its Importance to the Water Cycle under Climate Change”**

On 20 March 2025, UNESCO Headquarters in Paris hosted a side event "A vanishing mountain cryosphere and its importance to the water cycle under climate change" as part of celebration of the first World Day for Glacier and World Water Day. This side-event brought together researchers, policymakers

and activists to discuss the impacts of climate change on glaciers and snowpack and the implications of these changes on water resources.

Reporters from the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences and leading research institutes presented the up-to-date data on the rates of glacier shrinkage, the impacts of cryosphere degradation on sustainability of water supply in mountain and lowland regions, as well as the challenges and opportunities for international cooperation. Particular attention was paid to integration of scientific evidence into decision making and the need for investments in sustainable cryosphere monitoring.



Director of SIC ICWC spoke as a panelist and shared the experience of using the MODSNOW cryosphere monitoring system in Central Asia. The system uses remote sensing technology and modeling to trace snowpack and glaciers with high spatial and temporal resolution. This helps to improve flow forecasting and water management in the region.

The questions raised were of key importance for the development of new approaches to management of the water cycle. Changes in cryosphere impact water availability, especially in dry regions such as the Andes and Central Asia. The understanding of these processes and adoption of innovative monitoring systems, such as MODSNOW, are important for adaptation to changing conditions and sustainable management of water resources in the future.

The event underlined the need for interdisciplinary approach and cooperation between different stakeholders for the development of effective strategies for adaptation to changes in the cryosphere and sustainable water management in the context of global climate change.

## Roundtable Discussion: 2025-2030 IWMI Roadmap

A roundtable discussion on the IWMI roadmap for 2025-2030 took place in Tashkent on 27 March 2025. The roundtable was organized by the IWMI Regional Office for Central Asia as part of the BPCA 2.0 funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The roundtable brought together key representatives from government agencies, academia, international organizations, and water and sustainable development experts from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Barbara Janusz-Pawletta, IWMI's Country Representative for Uzbekistan and Regional Representative for Central Asia, delivered the welcome address.



During the discussions, IWMI representatives presented their proposed research priorities at both the national and regional levels for 2025-2030.

The event served as an important platform for dialogue on joint research initiatives in the field of water management and sustainable development. IWMI, along with local and international partners, explored opportunities for further collaboration and identified key research priorities in water management and sustainable development.

Sherzod Muminov, Deputy Director of SIC ICWC, underscored the



importance of joint research on pumped irrigation, groundwater use, impact of small hydropower on irrigation, water conservation at all levels of water hierarchy, basin planning, and water management market mechanisms across Central Asian countries.

## **Blue Peace Central Asia Regional Validation Workshop**

On 28 March 2025, a regional workshop for presentation of a new second phase of the Blue Peace Central Asia initiative was held in Tashkent. The workshop was organized by the consortium of partners who will implement the second phase, including the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC). The workshop brought together over 100 representatives of national delegations from 5 Central Asian countries, regional and international organizations, experts and governmental partners.

The Blue Peace Initiative put forward by Switzerland in 2010 and launched in Central Asia 2017 aims to strengthen water cooperation between the Central Asia countries. The workshop's objective was to trigger joint planning of actions by national and regional stakeholders for the new five-year Program, which is to be started in May 2025.

The participants discussed focus areas in water diplomacy and dialogue, including water quality, climate adaptation, data management, basin planning, capacity building, youth engagement, and empowerment of women.

SIC ICWC was represented by Director Dinara Ziganshina and Head of International Communications Division Oygul Usmanova.



## **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Water and Peace Seminar**

The 7th annual water and peace seminar on "Diplomacy, dialogue, discourses: exploring potentials and challenges for inclusive water cooperation" was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on March 26-27. The seminar was organized by the South Asian University (SAU) and the Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE), with the support of the Institute of Water Education (IHE Delft) under the Cross-Regional Learning for Transformative Water Diplomacy (CROWD) project.

The main theme was different perspectives and inclusivity and participation. This seminar discussed what inclusivity and participation in water cooperation can look like from perspectives of different disciplines, practical fields, and regions. The speakers shared their experiences from civil society, government, academia, and regional organizations.



The seminar included the following seven thematic sessions:

Session 1: The role of civil society and indigenous communities in water diplomacy

In this session, participants discussed how indigenous communities and civil society groups have leveraged their power and the different ways in which they contribute to transboundary water cooperation.

Session 2: Panel debate: navigating inclusivity despite challenges-engaging a diverse range of actors in transboundary contexts.

The panel debate explored the practical realities of fostering inclusivity in challenging environments, drawing on experiences from diverse fragile regions. Speakers shared their experiences in managing stakeholder engagement and discussed key lessons learned from their on-the-ground experiences.

Session 3: Tools for participation in water cooperation

This session explored practical approaches and tools for local and public participation. The speakers shared experiences in enhancing stakeholder participation in transboundary water management from Africa, South America, Europe and Asia.

Session 4: South Asian perspectives on international water law and the UN global water conventions

The session presented global and local experiences with the mainstreaming of UN Water Convention principles in river basin agreements and discussed the practical benefits for countries of stronger engagement with

the UN Water Convention and, in-turn, the value added of becoming a Party to the Convention.

Session 5: Panel debate: youth involvement in tokenism or recipe for change?

This session discussed what meaningful youth inclusion was and why youth inclusion in water cooperation was needed, drawing on their first-hand experience of being "young" water professionals from Africa, Asia and North America.

Session 6: Power dynamics across multiple governmental actors and scales

This session explored contexts of unequal power among actors and its impact on inclusivity. With a regional focus on Asia, the speakers brought diverse examples of power dynamics involving gender, neo-colonial relations, and social class.

Session 7: Potentials and challenges of inclusivity

The final session explored how inclusivity can go beyond diverse stakeholder groups to encompass tangible and intangible values through inclusion of the river and its species itself, emotional experiences and people's stories.

The event was attended by scientists and representatives of higher education institutions, academies, government and non-government, regional and interregional, as well as private organizations and centers focused on transboundary water management and water diplomacy from Nepal, the Netherlands, Sudan, India, Jordan, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Switzerland, the USA, Hungary, and Finland. SIC ICWC was represented by Aleksandr Dolidudko and Matlyuba Rakhimova.

The two-day seminar focused on exploring the reasons for and methods of creating more inclusive water cooperation processes.

Following the seminar, from March 31 to April 1, the Research School on "Research Methods for Transformative Water Diplomacy" was held as part of Cross-regional learning for transformative water diplomacy project (CROWD).





The main objectives of the Research School were as follows:

- Understand and apply interdisciplinary approaches in comparative research
- Apply different quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis
- Communicate and collaborate effectively in an interdisciplinary team.

The training included such topics as:

- Social science methods for data collection
- Qualitative interviews and focus group discussions
- Discourse analysis and discursive techniques
- Critical discourse analysis
- Narrative analysis
- Qualitative data analysis.



Matlyuba Rakhimova gave a presentation in which she shared her experience in conducting scientific research and discussed research methods in technical disciplines.

## **Project activities**

### **Workshops on the "Water-Energy Nexus Systems Modelling" Project**

The project 'Modelling of Water-Energy Interconnection Systems' is implemented by SIC ICWC with the support of the World Bank.

Project activities:

1. Development and improvement of integrated regional models of water-energy systems in the Aral Sea basin.
2. Facilitate stakeholder participation in model development, scenario analysis and policy evaluation;
3. Stakeholder engagement to inform coherent management of water-energy systems and promote regional cooperation in Central Asia.

Project implementation period: 17.01.2025-30.09.2025

### **1<sup>st</sup> Practical Workshop**

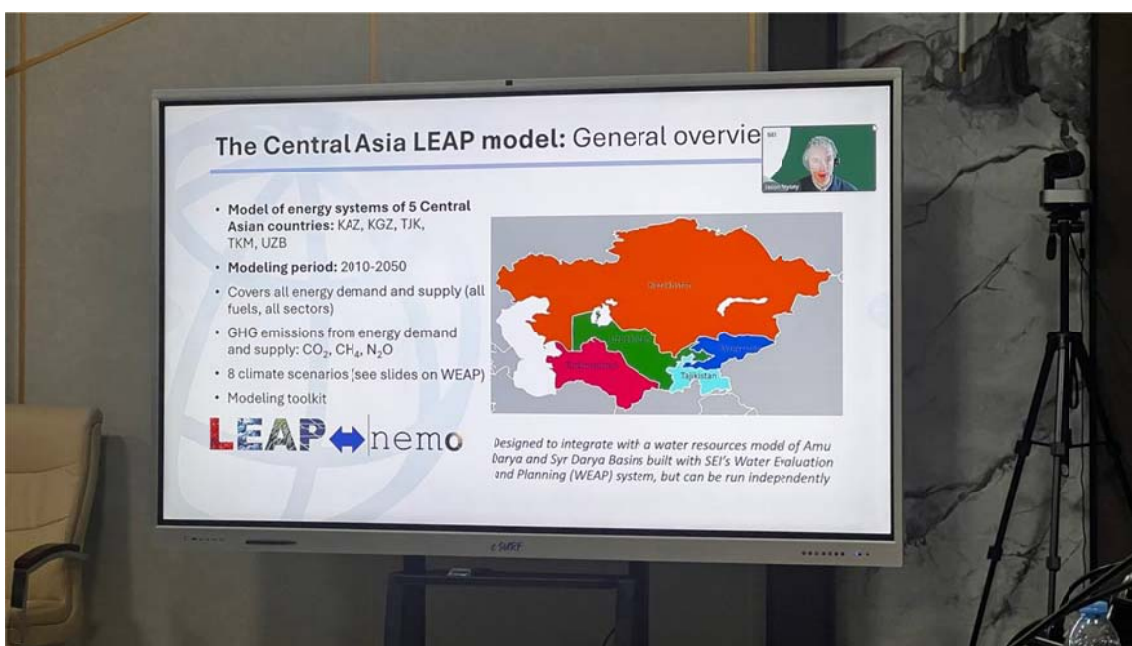
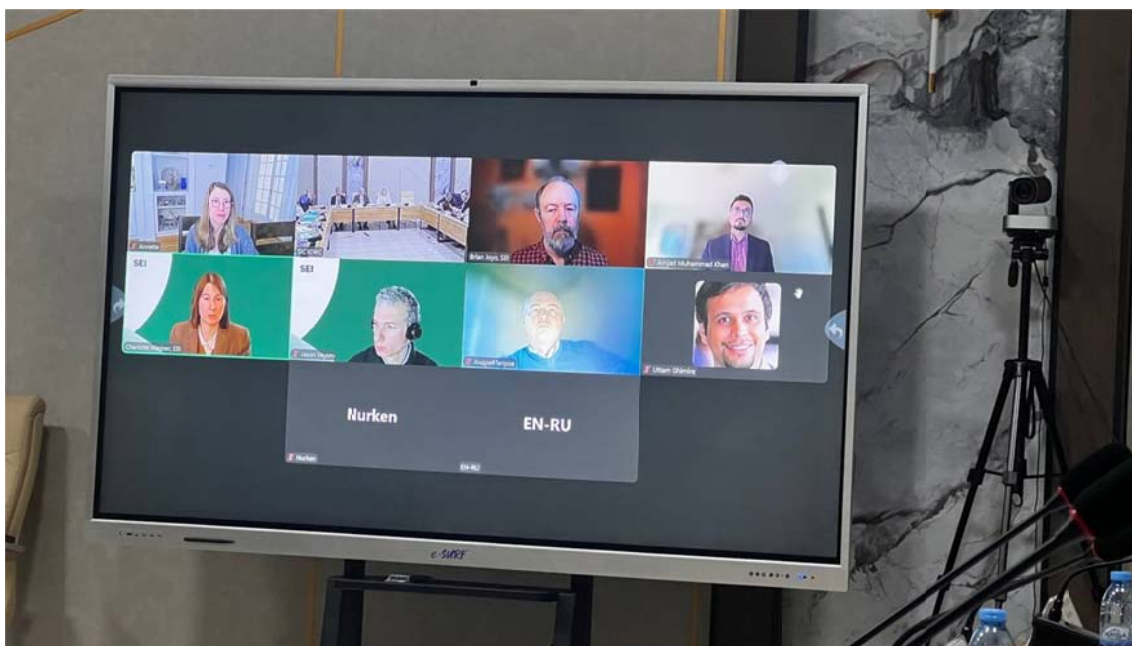
On February 10, 2025, the Training Center of SIC ICWC welcomed the participants of the first one-day practical workshop organized in collaboration with the World Bank Group as part of the project "Water-Energy Nexus Systems Modelling".

The workshop featured thematic sessions focused on the Water Evaluation and Planning (WEAP) and Long-range Energy Alternatives Planning (LEAP) models. These tools are designed to analyze and forecast water and energy resources and assess the implications of various management scenarios within the water-energy system.





Model developers from the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) presented existing forecasting models for the Amu Darya and Syr Darya River basins. They provided detailed insights into the capabilities of these models, their structure, calculation methodology, and key parameters influencing modelling outcomes.



The workshop was attended by participants from the SIC ICWC team and Technical Group 1, which included representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, the Research Institute of Irrigation and Water Problems, CDC "Energy", BWO Amu Darya, and BWO Syr Darya.

In the course of discussions, the participants agreed on a schedule of follow-up activities for further development and customization of the WEAP and LEAP models. Key dates for upcoming workshops were also specified to follow a step-by-step approach to refining all aspects of modeling and data



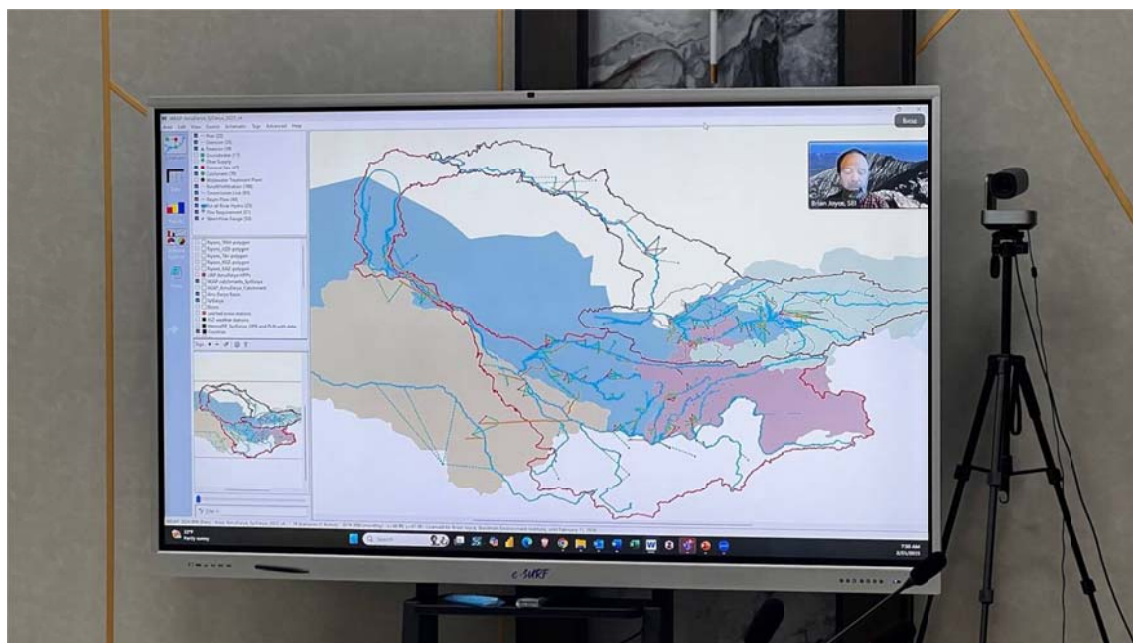
integration.

## **Virtual Session 1 “Water Allocation and Demands” – Part of the “Water-Energy Nexus Systems Modelling” Project**

On February 21, 2025, the first virtual session, titled "Water Allocation and Demands", was held at the Training Center of SIC ICWC. This session was organized by SIC ICWC in collaboration with the World Bank Group and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) as part of the "Water-Energy Nexus Systems Modelling" project.



This session marked the beginning of a series of three training sessions designed to provide participants of Technical Group 1 with a comprehensive introduction to the Water Evaluation and Planning (WEAP) system, with a specific focus on its application in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya River basins. The training will cover the diverse water use sectors in the region, including domestic supply, agriculture, hydropower and in-stream ecological flows.



The session focused on key concepts of water allocation, including the distinction between consumptive and non-consumptive water demands in the river basins. Participants explored how the WEAP models allocate limited water resources across multiple sectors, taking into account the priorities of each, such as domestic supply, agriculture, hydropower, and in-stream flows.

As a result of the session, participants gained hands-on experience in setting-up and analyzing water demand by sectors. They also learned about sectoral priorities and how to evaluate trade-offs in allocation strategies.

## **Virtual Session 2 “Modelling Scenarios” as part of the Water-Energy Nexus Systems Modelling Project**

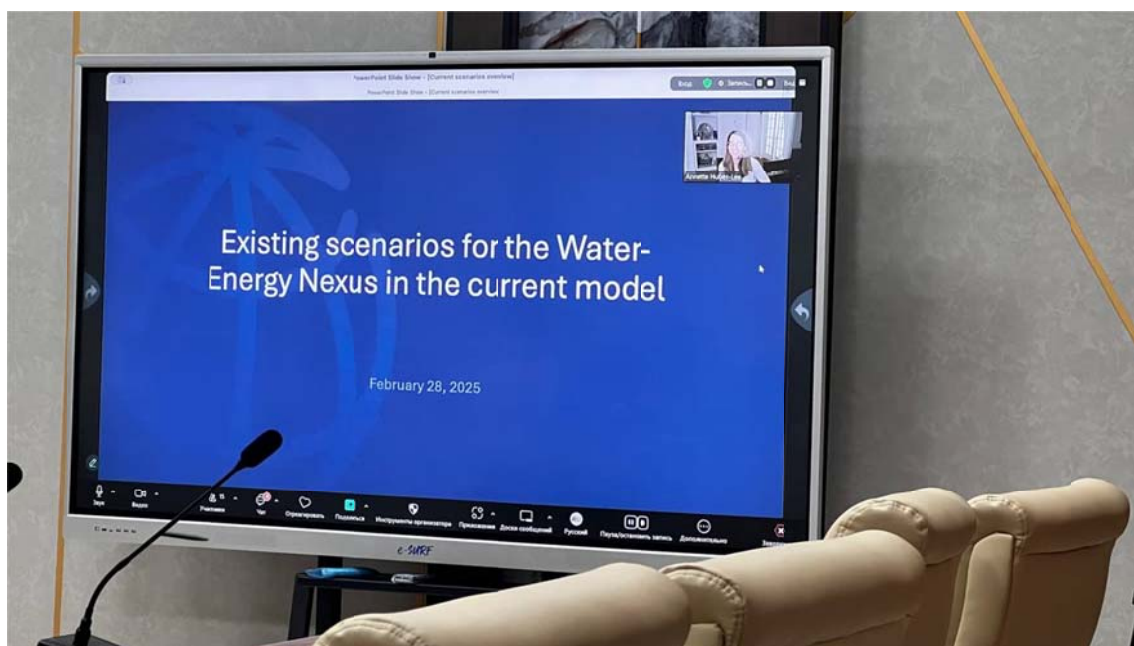
On February 28, 2025, the second virtual session titled "Modelling Scenarios" was held at the Training Center of SIC ICWC. This session was organized by SIC ICWC in collaboration with the World Bank Group and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) as part of the "Water-Energy Nexus Systems Modelling" project.



This session is a part of a series of virtual workshops designed to provide participants from Technical Group 1 with a comprehensive introduction to the Water Evaluation and Planning (WEAP) system, with a specific focus on its application in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya River basins. The training addressed various water use sectors in the region, including domestic supply, agriculture, hydropower and in-stream environmental flows.

The session focused on developing modelling scenarios for the Amu Darya and Syr Darya River basins. Participants explored in detail the process of creating and implementing current scenarios in WEAP and learned the fundamental principles of working with the model. Additionally, participants gained an understanding of how to apply these scenarios in the Aral Sea WEAP model, which helped them better understand the potential consequences of various water use scenarios in the region.





As a result of the session, participants gained hands-on experience in creating scenarios in the WEAP model and applying them in Aral Sea WEAP. They also received methodological materials and recommendations on how to use the model for water resources analysis and scenario assessment. The session not only deepened participants' knowledge but also provided them with practical skills needed for future work in water resources modelling.



## Training as part of the Water-Energy Nexus Systems Modelling Project

On March 10-14, 2025, SIC ICWC at its Training Center hosted a workshop organized in collaboration with the World Bank Group as part of the project Water-Energy Nexus Systems Modeling. Participants in the workshop included the SIC ICWC team, Technical Group 1, and international experts Amjad Muhammad Khan (World Bank), Brian Joyce (Stockholm Environment Institute), and Uttam Ghimire (Stockholm Environment Institute).



This in-person training continued the series of workshops focused on the comprehensive study of the WEAP (Water Evaluation and Planning) model for the participants of Technical Group 1. A key area of focus was the application of WEAP in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya River basins. The training included both theoretical and practical sessions on critical topics, such as climate change projections, hydrological models, water resource distribution, flow regulation by reservoirs, MABIA, data handling, and new scenario building.

The training focused on developing modeling scenarios for the Amu Darya and Syr Darya River basins. Participants gained an in-depth understanding of building and implementing current scenarios in the WEAP model, and acquired key principles of its operation.

Participants concluded the session with practical experience in WEAP data handling and scenario development. They received methodological materials and recommendations for water resources analysis and scenario assessment. The session reinforced theoretical knowledge through practical application, equipping them with valuable skills for future modeling work.



A field trip to several facilities of BWO Syr Darya in the Chirchik River basin was organized as part of the event. Participants toured the Upper Chirchik Hydroscheme and the headworks of the Zakh and Khanim canals, gaining firsthand insight into Uzbekistan's water infrastructure operations.







During the discussions, the participants agreed upon the next stages of work within the Water-Energy Nexus Systems Modelling project. The training effectively improved technical knowledge and fostered valuable collaboration among experts from diverse organizations, facilitating future project progress.

## **Training series on water conservation and safety of hydraulic structures in Kazakhstan as part of” the project “Regional mechanisms for the low-carbon, climate resilient transformation of the energy-water-land Nexus in Central Asia”**

The training was conducted with the support of SIC ICWC as part of the project “Regional Mechanisms for the Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Transformation of the Energy-Water-Land Nexus in Central Asia.” The project is implemented by a consortium comprising the OECD, UNECE, SIC ICWC, EBRD, and FAO, with funding from the Federal Government of Germany under the International Climate Initiative 2020 (IKI). As part of this effort, SIC ICWC supports the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the professional development of staff from its subordinate organizations.

SIC ICWC together with KazNII VH organised training sessions for specialists and managers of branches of RSE ‘Kazvodkhoz’ in Almaty, Jetisu, Jambyl, Turkestan, and Kyzylorda provinces:

- 31 March - 1 April, 2-3 April: trainings for specialists of RSE ‘Kazvodkhoz’ on "Water saving and addressing unproductive water losses in water management organizations and among water users"
- 4 April: for heads of branches of RSE ‘Kazvodkhoz’ on the topic “Law and statutory instruments, and the rules for the operation and maintenance of hydraulic structures: control, supervision and monitoring for safe operations"

The trainings are aimed at improving the skills of specialists and managers in optimizing water use and ensuring the safety of hydraulic facilities.

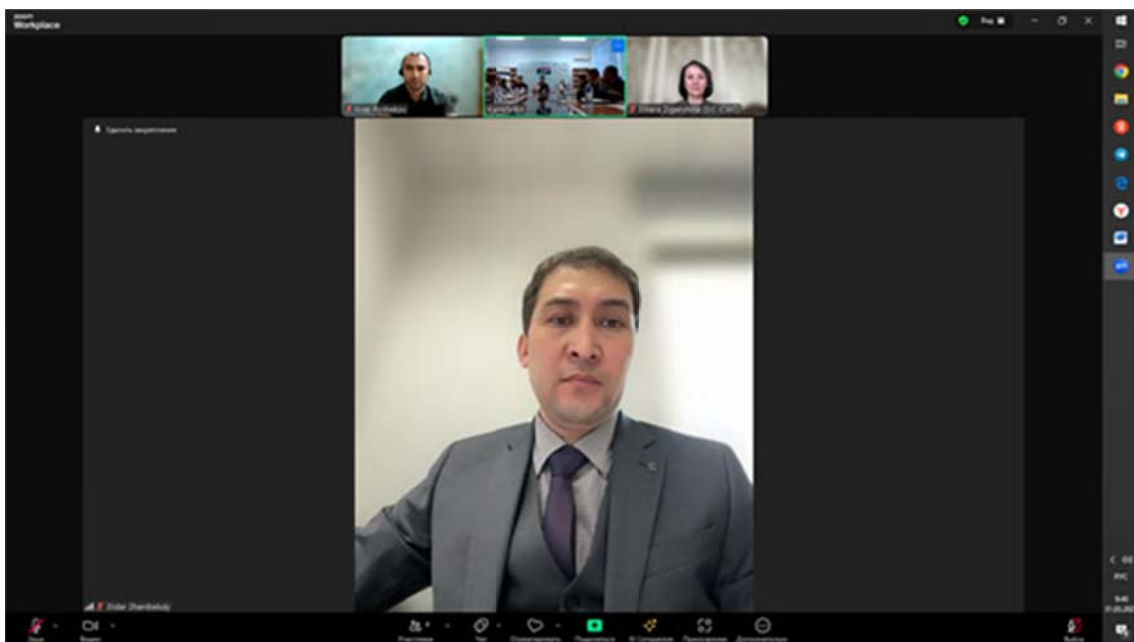
### **1<sup>st</sup> Training Session “Water-saving and addressing unproductive water losses in water management organizations and among water users”**

From March 31 to April 1, 2025, the first training session on Module 1: "Water-saving and addressing unproductive water losses in water management organizations and among water users" was held in Taraz city at the Kazakh Scientific Research Institute of Water Economy (KazNII VH).

The training gathered specialists from the branches of RSE "Kazvodkhoz" in Almaty, Jetisu, Jambyl, Turkestan, and Kyzylorda regions.

The event commenced with welcoming remarks from:

- D. Ziganshina, Director of SIC ICWC Central Asia
- D. Janibekuly, Head of the Department of Science and Innovation, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
- M. Mirdadaev, Deputy Director of KazNIIVH





During the training the following topics were covered: The fundamentals of water-saving and water management. Unproductive water losses: causes and methods of reduction. Modern technologies for water accounting and water use monitoring. Effective water use in agriculture. Economic incentives and regulations for water conservation. Reconstruction and modernization of water infrastructure. Involvement of water users in water management processes.

As part of the training, participants visited the Talas Hydroscheme, where they engaged in practical training on water accounting. They also had opportunity to familiarize themselves with KazNIIVH hydraulic engineering laboratories and visited demonstration polygons of irrigation technique and technology.



At the conclusion, participants were awarded certificates for successfully completing the training.



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Training on Water Saving and Reduction of Water Losses Supported By SIC ICWC**

On April 2-3, 2025, the second training on Module 1: "Water saving and addressing unproductive water losses in water management organizations and among water users" was held at the Kazakh Scientific Research Institute of Water Economy (KazNIIVH) in Taraz city. The training was attended by specialists from the branches of RSE Kazvodkhoz in Almaty, Jetisu, Jambyl, Turkestan and Kyzylorda regions.

Welcome speeches at the opening of the second training were delivered by:

- D. Ziganshina, Director of SIC ICWC Central Asia, who emphasized the strategic importance of professional development for water sector specialists - a matter that is closely monitored by ICWC. In her speech, she announced a series of national and regional trainings and also highlighted the significance of water legislation, citing the new Water Codes of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan as examples.
- D. Janibekuly, Head of the Department of Science and Innovations at the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, elaborated on the comprehensive plans for water sector



development through 2030. He particularly stressed the importance of continuous professional development.

- M. Mirdadayev, Deputy Director General of KazNII VH, presented the training agenda and highlighted promising areas of research. He also expressed his gratitude to all participants for their interest.



During the training, the following topics were covered: The fundamentals of water-saving and water management. Unproductive water losses: causes and methods of reduction. Modern technologies for water accounting and water use monitoring. Efficient water use in agriculture. Economic incentives and regulations for water saving. Reconstruction and modernization of water infrastructure. Involvement of water users in water management process.

As part of the training, participants visited the Talas Hydroscheme, where they engaged in practical training on water accounting. They also had opportunity to familiarize themselves with KazNII VH hydraulic engineering laboratories and visited demonstration polygons of irrigation technique and technology.



At the conclusion of the training, participants were awarded certificates for successfully completing the training.





## **Training on Safety of Hydraulic Structures for the Heads of Branches of RSE “Kazvodhoz”**

On April 4, 2025, the third training session on "Law and statutory instruments, and the rules for the operation and maintenance of hydraulic structures: control, supervision and monitoring for safe operations" was held in Taraz city at the Kazakh Scientific Research Institute of Water Economy (KazNIIVH). This session was attended by the heads of branches of RSE "Kazvodkhoz" from Almaty, Jetisu, Jambyl, Turkestan, and Kyzylorda provinces.

The event began with welcoming remarks from:

- Sh. Muminov, Deputy Director of SIC ICWC, who wished success to all participants and organizers.
- D. Janibekuly, Head of the Department of Science and Innovation, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation.
- A. Rysbekov, Representative of SIC ICWC
- N. Balgabaev, General Director of LLP "KazNIIVH" who presented the



training agenda and outlined plans for future activities.

The following topics were covered during the training: Legislative and regulatory acts on the safety of hydraulic structures (HS). Rules for the operation and maintenance of HS. Control and supervision of safe operations for HS. Monitoring the technical condition of HS. Emergency situations and appropriate responses. Duties and responsibilities of owners and operating organizations. Modern technologies in ensuring safety of HS.





The field trip was organized to the Talas hydroscheme. Participants visited KazNII VH's hydraulic engineering laboratories and demonstration polygons of irrigation technique and technology.







At the end of the training, participants provided feedback through evaluation form and were awarded certificates for successfully completing the training.



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