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WATER ACTION DECADE

2018 - 2028



CONCEPT NOTE

CENTRAL ASIA FORUM ON “WATER & CLIMATE CHANGE”

Third High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018-2028.

Organizers: The Forum is co-organized by the UNDP and European Union, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Date and format: 10 June 2024, hybrid event.

Venue: Hilton Hotel, Hall “Somon”, Dushanbe.

Working languages: Russian and English (simultaneous translation will be provided).

Online connection: <https://undp.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlduyuqjIqHd1JxRdGZLiSQIRwpZaQWhWB>

Concept Note

The upcoming Third High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development,” 2018-2028 will be held from 10 to 13 June 2024 in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan. This event is anticipated to function as a crucial platform for fostering action and dialogue that promote regional cooperation and exchange.

Given the transboundary nature of climate risks and shared natural resources, climate action can help to foster and strengthen regional cooperation. The benefits of a regional approach include complementarity, economies of scale, experience sharing, strategic planning and financing.

In the 2017 Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative report, jointly developed by the OSCE, UNDP, UN Environment (UNEP), UNECE, and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, the Ferghana Valley was identified as the highest climate change risk area among eleven regional and transboundary climate change hotspots in Central Asia (CA). The Ferghana Valley, home to 30% of the population in Central Asia, faces significant climate vulnerabilities and ongoing challenges related to climate change impacts, particularly in water resource management and sustainable agricultural development. Enhancing climate resilience for transboundary river basin management of water and other natural resources remains the highest priority for all three countries in the region.

Furthermore, the level of awareness and knowledge about climate-related risks remains low among key government agencies, local authorities, academia, NGOs, and other relevant stakeholders. This undermines local and national capacities to prepare effective responses to the growing risks posed by the changing climate. There is a high need for more participatory forums for all stakeholders to voice their needs and priorities relevant to building resilience to the increasing impacts of climate change.

In response to the challenges highlighted earlier and with the objective to foster regional cooperation and dialogue among the Central Asian countries, the UNDP, in partnership with the EU, took proactive steps by organizing two regional policy dialogues specifically focused on climate-related risks.

The [first High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change and Resilience](#) was held on 2 December 2022 in Tashkent under the theme “From global knowledge to local solutions: climate resilient institutions in Central Asia.” This regional event was organized in cooperation with national counterparts (Committees on environmental protection and Hydrometeorological agencies) and GIZ’s Green Central Asia initiative, which brought together **161 delegates** (64 women and 97 men) from all Central Asian countries. The regional dialogue outcomes highlighted the importance of enhancing early warning and climate change adaptation activities at the community level in Central Asian transborder areas.

The [second High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change and Resilience](#) was organized on 21-22 September 2023 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. This second regional dialogue was co-organized with support from the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic. The event focused on early warning



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systems as a key element of building climate resilience. The event brought together over **191 participants** (124 women and 67 man) from over **18 countries** in the Europe and Central Asia including government representatives, academia, international organizations, and UNDP experts. The global initiative "Early Warning for All" by the UN Secretary-General was also highlighted, calling for efforts to ensure that every person on Earth has access to early warnings by 2027.

Within the framework of the "[Climate Change and Resilience in Central Asia](#)" project, UNDP and the EU, in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, are planning to organize a dedicated regional Forum. This forum will focus on enhancing water and climate dialogue among the Central Asian states, addressing the implementation of the **Water Action Decade, the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference, and the Paris Agreement commitments**. The goal is to foster synergies and partnerships on climate resilience at the regional level.

The event calls Central Asian states to join efforts in achieving water and climate resilience for regional stability and strengthened cooperation in the region through the following objectives:

- Improve regional dialogue among stakeholders and decision makers on climate-resilient water management and disaster risk reduction in Central Asia.
- Facilitate the implementation of risk-informed policies, national adaptation plans and disaster risk reduction measures.
- Enhance regional cooperation and data exchange on water resources, environment, and disaster risk reduction.

This third regional event will be attended by key government representatives and other stakeholders from five Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. It is expected to build on the results and achievements of the previous two dialogues held in the region in 2022 and 2023.



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Agenda – Central Asia Forum on “Water & Climate Change”

10 June 2024

09:00 – 10:00	Registration and welcome coffee
10:00 – 11:20 <i>(5 minutes for each speaker)</i>	<p>INTRODUCTRY REMARKS <i>Moderator: Mr. Stanislav Kim</i>, Team Leader for the Climate Change and Disaster Resilience Team, UNDP IRH</p> <p>The high-level opening session is designed to address water policies of Central Asian states toward tackling climate change risks. The speakers will disclose national targets for sustainable and climate-resilient water management, and opportunities to strengthen regional cooperation and joint actions on disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>Mr. Daler Juma, Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan</p> <p>Mr. Nurlan Aldamzharov, Vice Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Mr. Almazbek Sokeev, Deputy Minister of the Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry - Director of Water Resources Service of the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>Mr. Berdi Berdiyev, Head of the Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan</p> <p>Mr. Ilhom Djuraev, Director of Information-Analytical and Resource Center, Minister of Water Resources of Uzbekistan</p> <p>Ms. Terhi Hakala, EU Special Representative for Central Asia</p> <p>Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE</p> <p>Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, UNESCAP</p> <p>Ms. Natalia Patricia Alonso Cano, Chief of the Regional Office for Europe, and Central Asia, UNDRR</p> <p>Mr. Lenni Montiel, UNDP Resident Representative in Tajikistan</p>
11:20 – 11:40	Coffee-Break and Photo
11:40 – 12:40	<p>SESSION I: BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT <i>Moderator: Ms. Mary Matthews</i>, Water Lead, Ocean Advisor/ Innovation Challenge Manager, UNDP (tbc)</p> <p>The session dives into best practices and measures for building climate resilience and achieving rational water resource management. It will explore how to reshape our long-term vision for resilience by taking holistic climate actions, fostering collaboration among all stakeholders, and effectively addressing both climate change and disaster risks.</p> <p>Keynote speakers: <i>Climate adaptative water management within the wider context of regional cooperation</i></p>



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	<p>Ms. Niloofar Sadeghi, ADB Water Resources Specialist <i>Implementing adaptation and risk reduction measures to enhance climate resilience and river basin management in Ferghana Valley.</i></p> <p>Mr. Isomiddin Akramov, Regional Project Manager, UNDP Uzbekistan</p> <p>Panel Session:</p> <p>Mr. Rustam Abdulloev, Head of Water and Energy Policy Department, Ministry of Energy and Water resources of the Republic of Tajikistan</p> <p>Mr. Daniyar Sharip, Deputy Director of the Department, Ministry of Water Resources, and Irrigation of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Ms. Gulmira Satymkulova, Head of the Department of the Water Resources Service under the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>Mr. Baygeldi Bayjanov, Head of the Land Reclamation Department of the State Committee for Water Management of Turkmenistan</p> <p>Mr. Otabek Hazratov, Head of Department, Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan(tbc)</p>
12:40 – 13:00	Q&A discussion (20 minutes)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:10	<p>SESSION II: NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANS (NAP) - SECTORAL INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE AND WATER, ENERGY, HEALTH, AND FOOD. <i>Moderator: Mr. Sattor Saidov</i>, Agency of Hydrometeorology of Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan</p> <p>Strengthening sectoral linkages across water, energy, health, and food sectors to enhance climate resilience in Central Asia. The speakers will explore challenges and potential opportunities for sectoral collaboration as part of the climate change adaptation planning. By fostering synergies, we aim to promote integrated approaches to prevent overlaps and increase efficiencies in adaptation planning processes at national and regional levels.</p> <p><i>National Adaptation Plan of Tajikistan.</i> Mr. Sattor Saidov, Head of Climate Change Center of the Agency of Hydrometeorology, Committee of Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.</p> <p><i>Climate Resilience in Central Asia’s Water & Energy Management: efforts to support regional cooperation.</i> Mr. Aleix Serrat-Capdevila, Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, World Bank</p> <p><i>National Adaptation Plan of Kazakhstan.</i> Mr. Aidar Yessembayev, Director of the Department of International Cooperation of the International Green Technologies and Investment Projects Center, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan</p> <p><i>National Adaptation Plan of Kyrgyzstan.</i></p>



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	<p>Ms. Zhyldyz Uzakbaeva, Climate Change Adviser-NAP Project Manager Kyrgyzstan (online) <i>Developing a National Adaptation Planning Process in Turkmenistan.</i></p> <p>Ms. Maya Ashirova, NAP Project Manager Turkmenistan</p> <p><i>National Adaptation Plan of Uzbekistan.</i></p> <p>Ms. Nadejda Gavrilenko, NAP Project Manager Uzbekistan</p>
15:10 – 15:30	Q&A discussion (20 minutes)
15:30 – 15:50	Coffee break
15:50 – 17:00	<p>SESSION III: REGIONAL WATER PARTNERSHIP AND DATA EXCHANGE BY ENGAGING NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS <i>Moderator: Mr. Khusrav Sharifov</i>, Regional Programme Specialist Climate and Disaster Resilience, UNDP IRH</p> <p>This session aims to transform regional cooperation on water into a strategic partnership. It will investigate how to engage all stakeholders, including national governments, international development partners, and intergovernmental institutions. Emphasizing the importance of information and knowledge sharing on climate and water issues, this collaborative approach will be crucial for tackling water challenges and building regional resilience.</p> <p><i>Current state of bilateral and regional water cooperation in Central Asia.</i> Ms. Dinara Ziganshina, Director of Scientific-Information Center of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia</p> <p><i>Impacts of Climate Change on transboundary water management in Central Asia.</i> Mr. Bunyod Holmatov, Research Group Leader – Water, Food, Energy Nexus, International Water Management Institute</p> <p><i>EU’s regional Team Europe Initiative on water, energy, and climate in Central Asia.</i> Ms. Isabel Uriz Hernandez, Head of Sector for Central Asia, Directorate General for International Partnerships, European Commission</p> <p><i>Existing climate forecasting and early warning systems.</i> Joint presentation of UNDP/UNDRR (tbc)</p> <p><i>Results of the SDG 6.5.2 reporting and their use for advancing transboundary cooperation.</i> Ms. Sonja Koeppel, Secretary of the Convention, UNECE (or Ms. Tamara Kutonova)</p> <p><i>Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration for Integrated Water Resources Management in Central Asia.</i> Ms. Rano Mansurova, ACTED</p> <p>Representative of UN ESCAP (tbc)</p>
17:00 – 17:30	Q&A discussion (20 minutes)
17:30 – 18:00	<p>SESSION IV: SUMMARY OF THE FORUM <i>Facilitator: Mr. Stanislav Kim</i>, Team Leader for the Climate Change and Disaster Resilience Team, UNDP IRH</p>



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	Presentation the joint summary the Forum Outcomes
	Closing remarks Heads of Delegation of Central Asian countries, EU, UNDP
18:30 – 20:00	Dinner