

<b>Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia</b>	<b>BULLETIN № 3 (88)</b>	September 2021
---	------------------------------	-------------------

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF TAJIKISTAN, EMOMALI RAKHMON, AND THE PRESIDENT OF UZBEKISTAN, SHAVKAT MIRZIYOYEV .....	3
JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC.....	6
JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF TURKMENISTAN, GURBANGULY BERDIMUHAMEDOV, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, SADYR JAPAROV .....	8
DECISION OF THE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA 1. ON THE WORK PLAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA DURING THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF TAJIKISTAN .....	11
DECISION OF THE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA 2. ADOPTION OF THE ACTION PROGRAM FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE ARAL SEA BASIN (ASBP-4).....	12
DECISION OF THE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA 3. ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPROVEMENT OF IFAS .....	13
DECISION OF THE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA 4. PREPARATIONS TO THE 9th WORLD WATER FORUM.....	14
DECISION OF THE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA 5. ON THE AGENDA OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF IFAS.....	15
JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF TURKMENISTAN, GURBANGULY BERDIMUKHAMEDOV, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN, EMOMALI RAKHMON .....	16
JOINT STATEMENT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATE.....	18

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATES.....	22
STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AT THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATES.....	25
STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF TAJIKISTAN AT THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATE.....	27
STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF TURKMENISTAN TO THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATE.....	29
ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN TO THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATES.....	32
PRESIDENT EMOMALI RAKHMON WAS AWARDED THE «HONORARY BADGE OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATES» .....	33
ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPROVEMENT OF IFAS.....	34
TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR V.A. DUKHOVNIY (1934-2021) .....	36

## **JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF TAJIKISTAN, EMOMALI RAKHMON, AND THE PRESIDENT OF UZBEKISTAN, SHAVKAT MIRZIYOYEV**

**(extraction)<sup>1</sup>**

10 June 2021

Reaffirming their commitments to the principles enshrined in the Treaty of Eternal Friendship between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan of 15 June 2000 and the Treaty on Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan of 17 August 2018, and given their mutual interest in further deepening and strengthening bilateral and multifaceted cooperation, the Heads of State have agreed to develop and enrich the interstate dialogue on the basis of mutual respect, trust, support, mutual understanding and partnership between the two brotherly peoples.



---

<sup>1</sup> Source: «ASIA-Plus» / Access:  
<https://asiaplustj.info/ru/news/tajikistan/politics/20210610/sovместnoe-zayavlenie-emomali-rahmona-i-shavkata-mirziyoeva>

The Heads of State, attaching great importance to the upcoming thirtieth anniversary of independence of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, expressing their readiness to continue making the necessary efforts to develop relations of strategic partnership, have declared the following:

[...]

11. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan advocate the integrated and mutually beneficial use of water and energy resources in Central Asia.

To this end, sustainable long-term collaborative arrangements will be developed.

The Parties noted their readiness to participate in the joint implementation of hydropower projects in the Republic of Tajikistan.

[...]

14. Taking into account processes related to climate change, the Parties noted the need for closer interaction between the relevant agencies of the two countries to mitigate the impact of this global phenomenon, for development and implementation of joint measures to prevent natural and man-made disasters and overcome their consequences.

The President of Uzbekistan expressed sincere gratitude to the President of Tajikistan for the humanitarian assistance provided in 2020 in the form of construction materials to eliminate the consequences of the Sardoba dam collapse in Syr Darya province.

[...]

20. The Heads of State speak for strengthening the status of the United Nations as a universal international structure and the main forum for resolving issues of inter-state communication, as well as its central coordinating role in international affairs.

Uzbekistan commends Tajikistan's global water initiatives, including adoption of a United Nations General Assembly resolution on 21 December 2020 on "UN Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028."

The President of Uzbekistan supports the initiative of the President of Tajikistan to declare 2025 the International Year for the Preservation of Glaciers and to establish a special International Fund for the Preservation of Glaciers.

Cooperation between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan within the International

---

Fund for saving the Aral Sea, which serves as a unique platform for solving the socio-economic, water and environmental problems of the Aral Sea basin, is of great importance.

Uzbekistan stands ready to continue supporting Tajikistan's chairmanship of the Fund.

The President of Tajikistan welcomes the adoption, at Uzbekistan's initiative, of a United Nations General Assembly resolution declaring the region of the Aral Sea an area for environmental innovation and technology.

The Heads of State express the hope that the International Innovation Center of the Aral Sea Region under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region will contribute to environmental, social and economic improvement in the Aral Sea region.

[...]

## JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

(extraction)<sup>2</sup>

At the invitation of President Emomali Rakhmon, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov paid an official visit to Tajikistan on 28 and 29 June 2021.



The Heads of State discussed the status and prospects of Tajik-Kyrgyz relations in the political, commercial, economic, cultural, humanitarian and other spheres and exchanged views on issues in the regional and international agendas.

Committed to the principles and commitments enshrined in the Treaty on the Bases of Inter-State Relations between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic of 12 July 1996 and the Treaty between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic on Good-Neighborly Relations and Partnership of 26 May 2004 and with a view to further developing the inter-state

---

<sup>2</sup> Source: Official website of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan / Access: <http://president.tj/ru/node/26038>

dialogue on the basis of equality, mutual respect and friendship, the Heads of State declare the following:

[...]

10. The Presidents called for the establishment of interregional links between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic. They stressed that the two States had sufficient capacity for joint projects in the agro-industrial, cultural, humanitarian and scientific and technological fields.

11. In order to meet the growing needs of the population and economies of the Central Asian States, and taking into account the negative trends in climate change and the commitments under the Paris Agreement, the Heads of State expressed their readiness to mutually support the international initiatives of the two countries on the development of their great hydropower potential to provide clean renewable energy to the region and beyond.

12. The Heads of State agreed to resume the work of the Inter-ministerial Tajik-Kyrgyz Working Group on bilateral water issues.

13. The Presidents noted the importance of continuing cooperation between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic on projects for the construction of electric transmission lines, including the construction of the Central Asia-South Asia regional transmission line - CASA-1000.

[...]

17. The President of the Kyrgyz Republic welcomed the global water initiatives of the Republic of Tajikistan, particularly the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution on 21 December 2020 - “UN Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028.”

18. The President of the Republic of Tajikistan welcomed the adoption of the resolution “Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation - a key factor in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity”, initiated by the Kyrgyz Republic at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

19. The President of the Kyrgyz Republic welcomed the initiative of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan to declare 2025 the International Year for Preservation of Glaciers.

[...]

## **JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF TURKMENISTAN, GURBANGULY BERDIMUHAMEDOV, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, SADYR JAPAROV (extraction)<sup>3</sup>**

At the invitation of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, an official visit of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov to Turkmenistan took place on 27-28 June 2021.



During the negotiations, which took place in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual trust, the Heads of State discussed the current situation and prospects for further strengthening the strategic partnership, considered the entire complex of Kyrgyz-Turkmen relations and exchanged views on current international and regional issues of mutual interest.

---

<sup>3</sup> Source: Turkmenportal / Access: <https://turkmenportal.com/blog/37738/sovместnoe-zayavlenie-prezidentov-turkmenistana-i-kyrgyzstana>



The President of the Kyrgyz Republic, S. N. Japarov, and the President of Turkmenistan, G. M. Berdymukhamedov, stressing the positive dynamics of bilateral relations in the political, commercial, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres, guided by the Declaration on strategic partnership, strengthening friendship and trust between the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan, signed on 23 August 2018 in Ashgabat and the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan, signed on 11 November 2014 in Ashgabat, attaching great importance to the upcoming thirtieth anniversary of the independence of the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan, and wishing to further expand and deepen bilateral cooperation, stated the following.

[...]

The parties agreed to strengthen cooperation in the fuel and energy spheres and instructed the relevant agencies to elaborate on the question of the supply of natural gas, electricity and liquefied gas from Turkmenistan to the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Heads of State also expressed their readiness to intensify cooperation in training, advanced training and exchange of experience in the field of electricity and gas.

The Presidents stressed the importance of further cooperation on disaster management, environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, natural resources management and climate change mitigation.

The Heads of State considered the possibilities of supplying mineral fertilizers from Turkmenistan to the Kyrgyz Republic and noted the great potential of agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

[...]

The Parties welcomed the efforts of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia to assist the countries of the region in building capacity for peaceful settlement of disputes and conflict prevention through dialogue and international support.

[...]

The Parties expressed the need for further reforms of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), taking into account the interests and needs of all Central Asian countries.

The Presidents emphasized the utmost importance of the format of Consultative Meetings of the Heads of Central Asia States, which have made it possible to revitalize full-fledged regional cooperation and expressed their preference for holding a regular session of the consultative meeting in the near future following previous decisions of the Heads of Central Asia States.

[...]

## **DECISION OF THE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA**

### **1. ON THE WORK PLAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA DURING THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF TAJIKISTAN**

29 June 2021

Dushanbe

1. Approve the work plan of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea for the period of the Tajik Presidency.

2. The Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea shall ensure the implementation of the Work Plan and shall keep the Executive Board of IFAS informed of its progress.

**Republic of Kazakhstan**

**Kyrgyz Republic**

**Republic of Tajikistan**

**Turkmenistan**

**Republic of Uzbekistan**

**R. Sklyar**

**D. Gulmakhmadzoda**

**G. Baijanov**

**Sh. Ganiyev**

## **DECISION OF THE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA**

### **2. ADOPTION OF THE ACTION PROGRAM FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE ARAL SEA BASIN (ASBP-4)**

29 June 2021

Dushanbe

1. Approve the «Action Program for Assistance to the Countries of the Aral Sea Basin» (ASBP-4).

2. The Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea, together with the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination and the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development is to ensure implementation of the ASBP-4.

3. The IFAS Executive Board shall monitor the implementation of the ASBP-4 and keep the members of the IFAS Executive Board informed of progress in its implementation

**Republic of Kazakhstan**

**Kyrgyz Republic**

**Republic of Tajikistan**

**Turkmenistan**

**Republic of Uzbekistan**

**R. Sklyar**

**D. Gulmakhmadzoda**

**G. Baijanov**

**Sh. Ganiyev**

---

## **DECISION OF THE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA**

### **3. ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPROVEMENT OF IFAS**

29 June 2021

Dushanbe

1. Take notice of the information provided by the Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea on the activities of the Working Group.

2. The IFAS Executive Committee and the relevant agencies of the countries should continue their efforts to revitalize activities of the Working Group in order to improve the organizational structure and legal and regulatory framework of IFAS and mobilize financial support and international consultants to facilitate its work.

**Republic of Kazakhstan**

**Kyrgyz Republic**

**Republic of Tajikistan**

**Turkmenistan**

**Republic of Uzbekistan**

**R. Sklyar**

**D. Gulmakhmadzoda**

**G. Baijanov**

**Sh. Ganiyev**

## **DECISION OF THE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA**

### **4. PREPARATIONS TO THE 9th WORLD WATER FORUM**

29 June 2021

Dushanbe

1. Take notice of the information provided by the Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea on the preparatory process for the 9th World Water Forum.

2. Approve the proposal of the IFAS Executive Committee to hold the Central Asian Sub-regional Preparatory Conference for the 9th World Water Forum «Water Security for Peace and Development» in Dushanbe.

3. The Executive Committee of IFAS, together with the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination and the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development, with the participation of interested ministries and departments of the founding States of IFAS, should ensure the success of the Conference.

**Republic of Kazakhstan**

**Kyrgyz Republic**

**Republic of Tajikistan**

**Turkmenistan**

**Republic of Uzbekistan**

**R. Sklyar**

**D. Gulmakhmadzoda**

**G. Baijanov**

**Sh. Ganiyev**

## **DECISION OF THE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA**

### **5. ON THE AGENDA OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF IFAS**

29 June 2021

Dushanbe

Consider the following agenda at the next meeting of the Board of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea:

- Activities of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea for the reporting period;
- Progress on implementation of ASBP-4;
  - Activities of the Working Group on Institutional and Legal Improvement of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea;
- Preparation to the 9th World Water Forum;
  - Implementation of the project for modernization of the hydrometeorological services in Central Asia (CAHMP);
  - Agenda of the next regular meeting of the Board of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea.

**Republic of Kazakhstan**

**Kyrgyz Republic**

**Republic of Tajikistan**

**Turkmenistan**

**Republic of Uzbekistan**

**R. Sklyar**

**D. Gulmakhmadzoda**

**G. Baijanov**

**Sh. Ganiyev**

## JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF TURKMENISTAN, GURBANGULY BERDIMUKHAMEDOV, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN, EMOMALI RAKHMON (extraction)<sup>4</sup>

At the invitation of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmon paid a state visit to Turkmenistan from 4 to 5 August 2021.



<sup>4</sup> Source: Turkmenportal / Access: <https://turkmenportal.com/blog/38680/sovместное-заявление-президента-туркменистана-гурбангулы-бердимухамедова-и-президента-республики-таджикистан-емомали-рахмона>



During the negotiations, which took place in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, the President of Turkmenistan and the President of the Republic of Tajikistan held a constructive exchange of views on the whole range of issues related to bilateral cooperation, as well as on topical regional and international issues of mutual interest.

[...]

The Heads of State, bearing in mind the mutual interest of the Parties in integrated and rational use of water and energy resources in Central Asia, noted the importance of existing and ongoing hydropower projects on transboundary watercourses, taking into account the interests of all countries in the region in promoting social and economic development of Central Asia.

The Heads of State noted the progress made within the framework of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea during the chairmanship of Turkmenistan and the efforts of the current chairmanship of the Republic of Tajikistan to further intensify the activities of the Fund, including its institutional and legal improvement, prioritize the climate change issues and deepen regional cooperation. The Parties stressed that the recently adopted Aral Sea Basin Program (ASBP-4) would serve as an important tool for development and implementation of national and regional projects for the improvement of water, environmental and socio-economic situation in the region.

[...]

The President of Turkmenistan and the President of the Republic of Tajikistan welcomed the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution “UN Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028.”

The President of Turkmenistan expressed support for the initiative of the President of Tajikistan to declare 2025 the International Year for the Preservation of Glaciers and establish a special International Fund for the Preservation of Glaciers.

[...]

## JOINT STATEMENT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATE

(extraction)<sup>5</sup>

On 6 August 2021, the Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asia State was held in Turkmenbashi and was attended by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, the President of Turkmenistan and the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



*Source: Official website of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan*

*[https://president.uz/uploads/259a8cc2-cea2-d95b-334c-c42f776bd611\\_lists\\_slider\\_.jpg](https://president.uz/uploads/259a8cc2-cea2-d95b-334c-c42f776bd611_lists_slider_.jpg)*

---

<sup>5</sup> Source: INA «Kazinform» / Access: [https://www.inform.kz/ru/prinyato-sovmestnoe-zayavlenie-po-itogam-konsul-tativnoy-vstrechi-glav-gosudarstv-central-noy-azii\\_a3820982](https://www.inform.kz/ru/prinyato-sovmestnoe-zayavlenie-po-itogam-konsul-tativnoy-vstrechi-glav-gosudarstv-central-noy-azii_a3820982)

The Heads of State, on the basis of negotiations held in an atmosphere of friendship, mutual respect and trust, constructiveness and mutual understanding,  
[...]

Declare the following:

9. The Parties consider it a priority task to ensure the sustainable development of the Central Asian region by further strengthening links in trade and economy, investment, industry, finance, energy, agriculture, communications and social life, environment and other areas of common interest.

In order to jointly develop the financial system and mobilize investments to the region, the parties agreed to use the international financing center «Astana» as an economic platform linking the countries of the Central Asian region and the latter with foreign investors.

[...]

16. All Central Asian States note the need to strengthen regional cooperation in the areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation, desertification control and the rational use of water and energy resources, environmental and ecological protection, glacier conservation and remediation of uranium tailings, in projects and programs aimed at the adoption of resource-efficient and green technologies, including the development of renewable energy sources.

The Parties are ready to make joint efforts in these areas to improve mechanisms for long-term and mutually beneficial cooperation in order to achieve the goals of sustainable development in the region. The Parties noted the importance of existing and ongoing hydropower facilities for solution of water and energy issues in Central Asia, taking into account the interests of all countries in the region.

The Parties stress the importance of reaching a common understanding and promoting international and regional initiatives on the United Nations platform, including the adoption of resolutions at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly, such as “Nature knows no boundaries: transboundary cooperation - a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use”, “UN Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028”, “Declaring the Aral Sea Region the Area of Environmental Innovations and Technology”, “Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea”, “International cooperation and

coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region in Kazakhstan”.

Considering the negative impact of global climate change on world’s glaciers, particularly in Central Asia, the Heads of State supported the Tajik President’s proposal to declare 2025 the International Year for the Preservation of Glaciers and to establish an international fund for the preservation of glaciers.

The Heads of State expressed their support for the initiative of the President of Turkmenistan to develop a United Nations strategy for implementation of measures for the development of low-carbon energy, as well as the development under the auspices of the United Nations of an international Road Map on the development of hydrogen as a priority area in the energy sector.

17. The Heads of State recognized the importance of consolidating efforts to address the issues related to socio-economic and environmental improvement in the region, including the Aral Sea basin, especially in the environmental crisis zones, and the negative impact of climate change.

18. The Parties stressed the need for concerted action to reduce water and air pollution, preserve glaciers, avert land degradation, extend forest plantations and reduce the risk of natural disasters, including floods, mudflows, droughts, ensure drinking water supply, etc.

The Heads of State stressed the importance of the ongoing work on institutional and legal improvement of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, taking into account the interests and participation of all Central Asian States.

[...]

20. In the context of the need to improve sustainability of food systems, the Parties agreed to support supply chains and widely implement "green corridors" for food and essential goods.

[...]

24. The Heads of State instructed their respective foreign policy agencies to finalize the draft road map for the development of regional cooperation for the period of 2022-2024 (following the outcomes of the Consultative Meetings of the Heads of Central Asia State).

[...]



Source: Official website of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan  
[https://president.uz/uploads/7e855ded-dca5-8b06-91f2-c6e17fbdea3d\\_lists\\_slider\\_.jpg](https://president.uz/uploads/7e855ded-dca5-8b06-91f2-c6e17fbdea3d_lists_slider_.jpg)

## ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATES (extraction)<sup>6</sup>



*Source: Official website of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
[https://akorda.kz/assets/media/3\\_8\\_mediumThumb.jpg](https://akorda.kz/assets/media/3_8_mediumThumb.jpg)*

[...]

All the countries in the region will have to adapt to new, more stringent international standards.

This requires profound systemic changes in the economy and the development of new forms of energy.

Kazakhstan is on the course for decarbonization of the economy.

In this context, we are developing the Low Carbon Vision 2050.

---

<sup>6</sup> Source: Official website of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan / Access: <https://akorda.kz/ru/vystuplenie-prezidenta-kazahstanana-konsultativnoy-vstreche-glav-gosudarstv-centralnoy-azii-672341>

Implementation of this Vision will enable Kazakhstan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15% within ten years.

In parallel, we are actively working on renewable and alternative energy sources.

Kazakhstan has increased the share of renewable energy to 3% in the energy mix. By 2030, we are aiming to reach 15%.

Sustainable energy development requires systematic innovation and training of personnel capable of working with the latest technologies.

To this end, we are establishing a Competence Centre for New Energy, which will develop expertise in the use of high-technology innovations in this field.

For Central Asia, one of the key issues are water security and preservation of bio- and ecosystems.

We are already experiencing the effects of global warming in the form of low-water and increased aridity. This is particularly felt in the Syr Darya basin.

In the last two years alone, during the growing season, inflow of water decreased by 40% to the Shardara reservoir and by more than 60% to the Small Aral Sea.

For joint and efficient management of transboundary water resources and adoption of advanced technological solutions, it is important to develop a consolidated water policy.

Our cooperation must be based on such principles as equitable utilization, consideration of the interests of all the parties and complete fulfillment of mutual obligations.

Water must unite rather than divide Central Asia.

A crucial aspect of the new regional water policy should be the measures on digitization of water distribution, accounting and monitoring.

Over the next five years, Kazakhstan plans to complete digitization of 119 canals about 3,000 km long. These will save up to two billion cubic meters of water.

Water conservation will promote a more open and trustful dialogue between our countries and will help to safeguard the interests of all States in the fields of irrigation, hydropower and environment.

In our view, cooperation should also be resumed within the framework of the 1998 Agreement on the Use of Water and Energy Resources of the Syr

Darya River Basin.

To this end, we propose establishing a task force at the vice-ministerial level, which, taking into account the needs of all economic sectors, could work out mutually acceptable solutions.

Establishment of the Interstate Water and Energy Consortium of Central Asia could also be revisited.

The Consortium is to harmonize the interests of all countries in the region in the areas of hydropower, irrigation and natural environment.

It is important to revitalize activities of the Regional Working Group on the institutional and legal improvement of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, which is scheduled to discuss this issue.

[...]



## STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AT THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATES (extraction)<sup>7</sup>



*Source: Official website of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic  
[http://president.kg/cache/files/109819.jpg\\_w780\\_h500\\_resize.jpg?t=1628234799](http://president.kg/cache/files/109819.jpg_w780_h500_resize.jpg?t=1628234799)*

[...]

The Head of State expressed his readiness to engage in constructive dialogue with partners in the region in order to find mutually beneficial solutions for the sake of stability and prosperity in Central Asia.

---

<sup>7</sup> Source: President Sadyr Japarov: Central Asia is the most important strategic region where the development of integrated partnership and cooperation is in the long-term interests of all the States in the region. Official website of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic / Access: [http://president.kg/ru/sobytiya/20228\\_prezident\\_sadir\\_ghaparov\\_centralnaya\\_aziya\\_eto\\_vaghneyshiy\\_strategicheskiy\\_region\\_gde\\_razvitie\\_vsestoronnego\\_partnyorstva\\_ivzaimodeystviya\\_otvechaet\\_dolg\\_osrochnim\\_interesam\\_vseh\\_gosudarstv\\_regiona](http://president.kg/ru/sobytiya/20228_prezident_sadir_ghaparov_centralnaya_aziya_eto_vaghneyshiy_strategicheskiy_region_gde_razvitie_vsestoronnego_partnyorstva_ivzaimodeystviya_otvechaet_dolg_osrochnim_interesam_vseh_gosudarstv_regiona)

He noted that all the Central Asian countries possessed a great volume of energy resources. At the same time, despite the availability of conventional energy sources, today Central Asia has a considerable potential for transition to clean energy.

“We believe that the integrated and efficient use of water and energy resources is a key factor for sustainable development of the Central Asian States. In this context, Kyrgyzstan intends to gradually implement a number of hydropower projects as the sources of clean energy. We should develop and implement such economic tools of water use so that the upstream countries would have the capacity and incentives to accumulate water for growing-season irrigation, irrespective of water availability, including the period of low-water for several years to come. Kyrgyzstan also intends to actively develop renewable energy sources”, noted President Sadyr Japarov.

## STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF TAJIKISTAN AT THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATE

(extraction)<sup>8</sup>



*Source: NIAT «Khovar»*

*<https://khovar.tj/rus/2021/08/prezident-respubliki-tadzhikistan-emomali-rahmon-prinyal-uchastie-v-konsultativnoj-vstreche-glav-gosudarstv-tsentralnoj-azii/>*

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon proposed a number of effective measures and stressed the need for further extending trade and economic cooperation, including in the fields of industry, energy, transport and communications, for strengthening cultural and humanitarian ties, including in tourism, for enhancing cooperation in the field of health, especially in the area

---

<sup>8</sup> Source: President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmon took part in the Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asia State. NIAT «Khovar» / Access: <https://khovar.tj/rus/2021/08/prezident-respubliki-tadzhikistan-emomali-rahmon-prinyal-uchastie-v-konsultativnoj-vstreche-glav-gosudarstv-tsentralnoj-azii/>

of epidemiological well-being of the population, and for closer cooperation between the national security forces in the joint fight against threats and challenges.

[...]

The President identified trade, economy, investments, agriculture, industry, transport and communication infrastructure, rational and efficient use of water resources in the region as important areas of cooperation.

Emomali Rahmon drew the attention of the Heads of State to the global issues of climate change, glacier melt, natural disaster and coronavirus pandemic.

Tajikistan holds the chairmanship of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea for a period of three years, beginning in 2020, and the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, the respected Emomali Rahmon is the President of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea.

## STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF TURKMENISTAN TO THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATE

(extraction)<sup>9</sup>



*Source: Turkmenportal*

*<https://turkmenportal.com/images/uploads/blogs/9942e102a52f0bdb030b75b49dc1b775.jpg>*

[...]

<sup>9</sup> Source: Statement by the President of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov, at the Consultative Meeting of Heads of Central Asia State. «Turkmenistan: golden age» / Access: <https://turkmenistan.gov.tm/ru/post/56201/vystuplenie-prezidenta-turkmenistana-gurbanguly-berdymuhamedova-na-konsultativnoj-vstreche-glav-gosudarstv-centralnoj-azii>

Today we are holding a regular session of the Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asia State. This demonstrates that such format of meetings is needed and relevant and enjoys the support of the Heads of all five States, allowing us to discuss in a confidential and business atmosphere the pressing development issues of the Central Asian region.

As is well known, a few years ago, while discussing the idea of holding Consultative Meetings of the Heads of Central Asia State, we assumed that this new form of political communication at the highest level would become a permanent platform for creative processes in Central Asia.

We are talking about joint and mutually acceptable decision making on the most pressing issues in our region.

This applies to political, economic, social and other areas of five-sided cooperation between our countries with a view to ensuring sustainable and progressive development of the Central Asian region and the well-being and prosperity of the peoples living there.

In this context, I would like to point out that the results of the Consultative Meetings held in March 2018 in Nur Sultan and in November 2019 in Tashkent showed the positive examples of the coherent and constructive activities of our States.

The results of these forums are now reflected in revitalized political and diplomatic contacts between the Central Asian States, joint economic projects and enhanced humanitarian ties between our peoples.

I propose to instruct the Governments of our countries to make an in-depth analysis of the content of the documents adopted following the above-mentioned meetings and develop a medium-term Road Map on the implementation of the agreements reached earlier and submit it for consideration of the Heads of Central Asia States.

Preliminary work on the draft document has already started. We need to finalize it in the shortest possible period and adopt the Road Map to define priorities of our joint activity.

Energy is a key component of the Central Asian economies.

We are all conceptually united on the configuration and prospects of partnership in this area. This was confirmed by the repeated and unanimous support of the region's States to the UNGA resolutions initiated by Turkmenistan on reliability and stability of energy supplies as an essential factor of economic growth.

Based on the United Nations documents, we are on the way of creating favorable political, legal and economic conditions for safe, sustainable energy

partnership aimed at both meeting intra-regional energy demand and accessing world markets through international transit corridors.

Given the vast natural and raw material resources in our region and the advantages of geographical location, it is certain that today we have full potential to effectively realize the above-mentioned objective.

It is clear that the energy partnership needs to be pursued through active and full participation of all Central Asian States, without exception, and it should be aimed at building the strong energy infrastructure in the region and its outer perimeter.

In this context, I would like to state that Turkmenistan is ready to substantially increase the volume of its natural gas supplies to Central Asian countries or, through their territories, to foreign markets on mutually advantageous terms.

The supply of Turkmen natural gas to neighboring Uzbekistan and the construction and operation of the Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan-China international gas pipeline are examples of effective cooperation in the gas sector.

It is now planned to revitalize negotiations on the design of a new Turkmenistan-China gas pipeline, which could also be built through Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Similar examples can be found in the electricity sector. The capacities in the Lebap and Mary regions of Turkmenistan make it possible to significantly increase supplies of electricity to the Central Asian States.

[...]

Coordination of efforts to improve the environmental situation in Central Asia is one of the main issues of regional cooperation. First and foremost, we are talking about saving the Aral Sea, combating land degradation and desertification, preserving glaciers and efficiently managing water resources. We have best practices in these areas, and important decisions have been taken at the regional and international levels.

It is necessary to continue moving forward and involve more actively specialized international structures, United Nations agencies and financing institutions. The format of cooperation between the Central Asian states and other countries and regions of the world has proved well on the regional environmental agenda. There is a need to expand cooperation with partners interested in establishing systemic cooperation with our countries in the above areas.

[...]

## ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN TO THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATES

(extraction)<sup>10</sup>



*Source: Official website of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan  
[https://president.uz/uploads/375b51a7-0dc6-25c3-a4ff-b5d41e291b8c\\_lists\\_slider\\_.jpg](https://president.uz/uploads/375b51a7-0dc6-25c3-a4ff-b5d41e291b8c_lists_slider_.jpg)*

[...]

Energy security issues in the region are even more pressing given the growth of national economies and populations. In this context, it is necessary to continue efforts on formation of a common energy space, paying special attention to early transition to green energy and energy efficient technologies.

The President of Uzbekistan proposed to revitalize the Central Asian

---

<sup>10</sup> Source: The President of Uzbekistan addressed the Consultative Meeting of Heads of Central Asia State. Official website of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan / Access: <https://president.uz/ru/lists/view/4530>



Coordinating Electricity Council by expanding its mandate and powers, as well as the level of representation of the countries.

[...]

The country's leader stressed that environmental concerns of the region should always be at the center of attention. Cooperation must be broadened and all possible measures be taken to mitigate the consequences of the Aral Sea disaster.

In this context, the President of Uzbekistan proposed developing a regional program «Green Agenda for Central Asia», which would facilitate the adaptation of our countries to climate change, as well as the wider adoption of resource-saving technologies.

[...]

## **PRESIDENT EMOMALI RAKHMON WAS AWARDED THE «HONORARY BADGE OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL ASIA STATES» <sup>11</sup>**

The third consultative meeting of the heads of Central Asia States took place in the «Avaza» touristic zone on 6 August.

The President of Tajikistan was awarded the «Honorary Badge of the Heads of Central Asia State» for his outstanding service in developing relations of friendship, good-neighborliness, mutual understanding and cooperation between the Central Asian states and for strengthening peace and security in the region, promotion of common interests and initiatives of the countries region in the international arena.

Emomali Rakhmon has become the first president to win such an award.

---

<sup>11</sup> Source: «ASIA-Plus» / Access: <https://asiaplustj.info/ru/news/tajikistan/power/20210806/rahmonu-vruchili-pochetnii-znak-glav-gosudarstv-tsentranoi-azii>



## ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPROVEMENT OF IFAS

4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional working group (RWG) was held on 27 May 2021. Members of the Working group from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, IFAS bodies, IFAS Executive Committee and the World Bank took part in the meeting. Representatives of the Kyrgyz Republic participated as observers. The information on work progress, examples of structure, objectives and tasks of some river basin commissions in different regions all over the world, further steps on RWG activity was presented and discussed. According to earlier reached agreements, EC IFAS has sent to RWG members the questionnaire "IFAS aims in view of existing agreements, new realities and requirements of founder-states". Members of RWG submitted the completed questionnaire to EC IFAS, as well as their visions and proposals for

the first phase of IFAS improvement.

On August 16, 2021 an extraordinary meeting of RWG was held to discuss the current progress and plan further steps in light of the decisions of the IFAS Board (June 29, Dushanbe) and the Third Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asian States (August 6, Turkmenbashi). RWG members agreed upon the operating procedures and schedule of work for 2021.

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of RWG is to be held face-to-face on 18 October 2021 in Dushanbe.

**Reference:** The Working group on institutional and legal improvement of IFAS was established by the decision of the IFAS Board on 30 January 2018.

In 2018-2019, the Group met several times, including in Ashkhabad on 31 July and on 27 November 2019.

The following stages of work were adopted at the second meeting on 31 July 2019: 1) Tasks of IFAS, with account for existing agreements, new realities and requirements of founder-states; 2) Identification of challenges in performance of IFAS structural divisions; 3) Preparation of recommendations on institutional improvement of IFAS; 4) Preparation of recommendations on of financial improvement of IFAS management activities; 5) Preparation of proposals on legal improvement in order to create effective and sustainable institutional mechanism of cooperation.

## TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR V.A. DUKHOVNIY (1934-2021)

SIC ICWC deeply regrets to inform on a great loss to its team and the water community as a whole - Viktor A. Dukhovniy passed away on 14 August 2021.



We lost an outstanding leader, mentor, scholar, and, most importantly, a person who was not indifferent! He left a tremendous legacy and guidance to all of us to work for the well-being of the people in Central Asia.

May his blessed memory live forever in the hearts of all who knew him as a talented and intelligent leader, a great scientist and a bright man.

We express our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Victor Dukhovniy.

### **Life path of Professor Viktor Dukhovniy**

Having graduated with honors from Kiev Hydromeliorative Institute as an engineer-hyrotechnician in 1956, he chose by advice of one of developers of the Golodnaya Steppe Prof. Pyshkin the "Kazgolodnostepstroy" trust to start his activity.

By a quirk of fate, he started his work on the day when the Government announced the beginning of large-scale development of the Golodnaya Steppe.

Among the hundreds of young specialists who joined the army of builders and developers of the Steppe, he became one of the most active assistants to such talented organizers and fathers of this development as A.A. Sarkisov, I.Y. Kaminsky, E.I. Ozersky and the scientists V.V. Poslavsky, V.A. Kovda and N.M. Reshetkin.

The whole long-term field activity of V.A. Dukhovniy is connected with the development and implementation together with those "water giants" of the 1960 ... 1970s of the so-called integrated method of irrigation and land development in such large-scale areas as Golodnaya steppe, then Karakum canal zone, Djizak and Karshi steppes, Asht and Kizili schemes in Tajikistan, Lyailyak in Kyrgyzstan, rice-growing zones in Karakalpakstan.

As a chief engineer of Golodnostepstroy and later Glavsredazirsovkhozstroy, he combined work of a great organizer, leading many thousands of construction and development teams, uniting them on the basis of industrial and advanced technical methods, and a scientist, while elaborating scientific foundations of integrated irrigation and land development that were presented in his three monographs. Golodnaya steppe and later the zone of Karakum and Karshi canals were the testing grounds where advanced techniques of vertical, closed horizontal and combined drainage, subsurface pipelines, flume channels, liners, including "combined liners" created under his guidance, as well as technologies of operation of these complex engineering systems were developed with involvement and under guidance of V. Dukhovniy. Organization of machine harvesting of raw cotton developed in the Golodnaya Steppe, with which up to 95% of all cotton was harvested there by machines in 1970-1973, represents a unique experience.

All this led him to defense of his PhD thesis in 1972 and taking position of the director of the largest irrigation research institute in USSR – SANIIRI - in 1973.

Having headed SANIIRI he redirected the institute's activity to ensure

that research meets production needs and is used in the development of new land and reconstruction of water infrastructure, reclamation of land and for adoption of new irrigation techniques.

On his proposal SANIIRI was transformed into a large multi-profile scientific-production association, which organized the following work cycle: research - design, production, and implementation. This allowed for adoption of new technologies, new equipment, devices, new building materials, structural elements, etc. and formation of a network of pilot farms in a short period of time.

SANIIRI and its Director participated actively in the work of many government commissions on the Aral Sea problem, the program "Land Reclamation in the USSR", the development of a project for transfer of Siberian rivers' flow to Central Asia.

Viktor Dukhovniy developed a number of principal provisions on the Aral Sea region program and on improvement of water use in the region. On his initiative, the Ministry of Water Management of USSR Minvodkhov charged SANIIRI to create the base for the Automatic control systems for the Syr Darya and the Amu Darya, which formed the foundation for future basin water organizations of these rivers.

Since 1969, V. Dukhovniy actively participated in the work of international organizations. He was a member of the Soviet Committee on Irrigation and Drainage since 1966, participated as a rapporteur at the 8th ICID Congress in Mexico in 1969, where he presented a report on integrated development of the Golodnaya Steppe, in Moscow - 1975, in Athens - 1978, etc. He chaired the scientific committee of the 1st Afro-Asian Conference of ICID in Tashkent in 1976. His articles were published in the 1st and 2nd volumes of ICID Scientific Proceedings in 1978 and 1982. He earned the great respect of the entire ICID family for the involvement of 5 Central Asian countries in this organization. His participation in the Advisory Committee led to the development of the IPTRID network (SIC ICWC is one of IPTRID centers). V. Dukhovniy was the Vice-Chairman of the ICID working group on the Aral Sea Basin and a member of the working group on drainage. At the ICID Congress in Canada he was awarded the "Prize of Excellence".

In 1990, V. Dukhovniy successfully defended his doctoral thesis. The same year he was awarded the title of professor.

Since independence of the five countries of the Central Asian region, SANIIRI, headed by Prof. Dukhovniy, has been actively involved in the development of interstate water cooperation, which contributed to the establishment of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central

Asia in 1992.

The Scientific-Information Center (SIC) was established as an executive body of ICWC initially at SANIIRI and in 1996, by the ICWC decision, was transformed into an independent organization and V. Dukhovniy was appointed its Director.

Under the leadership of Prof. Dukhovniy SIC ICWC unfolds its activity and becomes an analytical and information body of ICWC for elaboration of principles and ways of prospective water sector development in CAR, improvement of management and environmental situation - the origin of transboundary water cooperation in the region.

Activities related to elimination of consequences of the Aral Sea disaster, sustainable water supply in the Central Asian region and reduction of environmental tension have been organized under the guidance of V. Dukhovniy. He led a number of joint international projects in the field of transboundary water management, development of advanced water and land information system, water conservation, etc.

Prof. Dukhovniy is an author of more than 400 pieces of research, 10 monographs, 37 invention certificates, and over 150 reports for international conferences and symposiums. He trained 11 candidates of science.

In 2003, he was granted the title of Academician of Russian Academy of Water Science.

Labor merits of V. Dukhovniy were marked by two Orders of the Labor Red Banner, the Order of Peoples' Friendship and a number of medals. He was a laureate of Beruniy State Prize (1973), USSR Council of Ministers Prize (1978); he was awarded Honorary Diplomas of USSR Ministry of Water Management, Supreme Soviet of Uzbekistan. Viktor Dukhovniy received the Award of Excellency from the ICID (2002, 2009), the Award of III WW Forum as "Water Voice Messenger" (2003), etc.

Team of SIC ICWC Central Asia

Editorial Board:

D.R.Ziganshina

I.F.Beglov

Editorial Office:

Karasu-4, B-11 A, Tashkent,  
100187, Republic of Uzbekistan,  
SIC ICWC

Our web-site:

[sic.icwc-aral.uz](http://sic.icwc-aral.uz)