





## Section 4

# Bilateral water cooperation between the states in Central Asia

## 4.1. Kazakhstan – Kyrgyzstan

### High-level meetings

Matters related to water and energy cooperation were addressed in negotiations between the President of Kazakhstan and the President of Kyrgyzstan on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December 2017. The Parties re-affirmed the common nature of water resources from the CA transboundary rivers for all states of the region.

Source: [www.akorda.kz](http://www.akorda.kz)

### Cooperation within the Chu-Talas Water Commission (CTWC)

Bilateral water relations between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are regulated by the Agreement on the Use of Water Management Facilities of Intergovernmental Status on the Rivers Chu and Talas (21 January 2000, Astana). Under Article 2 of the Agreement, water management facilities of the intergovernmental status include: Orto-Tokoyskoye water reservoir on the Chu River; By-Pass Ferroconcrete Chu Canals on the Chu River from Bystrovskaya HPP to Tokmok; Western and Eastern Bolshoi Chu Canals with structures; Chumysh Hydrosystem on the Chu River; Kirovskoye Water Reservoir on the Talas River. Water is allocated according to Regulation "On flow allocation in the Chu River" and Regulation "On flow allocation in the Talas River" approved by Deputy Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of USSR on 23 February 1983. Water resources are allocated between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in the following ratio: 50/50 – the Talas River; 42/58 – the Chu River.

The Commission held 23 meetings from 2006 till 2017. The 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Commission was held in Taraz (Kazakhstan) on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2017. Issues discussed at the meeting include: maintenance of facilities of intergovernmental status on the Chu and Talas, agreement and approval of water withdrawal limits, results of activities of working groups on environmental protection, adaptation to climate change and long-term action programs, and implementation of international projects with the support of the Commission.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2017, the International Conference dedicated to 10th Anniversary of CTWC was held in Bishkek and

the Day of River in the basins of the Chu and Talas rivers was celebrated.

### In 2017, as part of CTWC activities:

- the GEF/UNDP/UNECE project on Enabling Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Chu and Talas River Basins was continued. The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) was developed that identified key transboundary problems in the basins. Now the work on the Strategic Action Programme is underway for solution of problems identified in the analysis;
- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> meetings of the joint Working group on environmental protection at the Commission's Secretariat were held. The group decided to develop legal framework and technical and methodological base for surface water quality management and harmonization of surface water quality monitoring systems. Given scenarios are shown in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), section 4.4 "Impact of trends and future scenarios";
- the Working group on adaptation to climate change and long-term action programs had three joint meetings. The Group was formed under decision of 22<sup>nd</sup> CTWC (30 November 2016, Bishkek);
- The Program of cooperation with the International Commission on the Sava River Basin was underway for organization of exchanges.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture of RK, CTWC

## 4.2. Kazakhstan – Turkmenistan

### High-level meetings

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2017, summarizing the results of negotiations between the Presidents of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, the President of Kazakhstan in his statement to the press noted that water and energy issues as well as enhanced activity of ICWC had been particular topics of discussion. The Heads of State recognized that transboundary water resources in CA were common good and that the lives of tens of millions in the region depended on wise use of these resources.

Following the state visit of the President of Turkmenistan to Kazakhstan, in particular, the following documents were adopted:

- Joint statement of the President of Kazakhstan and the President of Turkmenistan;
- Treaty on strategic partnership between the Republic of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan;
- Agreement between the Government of Kazakhstan and the Government of Turkmenistan on the Kazakh-Turkmen Intergovernmental Commission.

Source: [www.akorda.kz](http://www.akorda.kz)

## 4.3. Kazakhstan – Uzbekistan

### High-level meetings

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2017, following the meeting of the Presidents of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, an agreement was signed between the Government of Kazakhstan and Government of Uzbekistan on inter-regional cooperation.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2017, during a meeting of the Presidents in South Kazakhstan province, the President of Uzbekistan noted that intensity of bilateral meetings had a direct impact on effectiveness of interstate relations and underlined that after his visit in May same year the Heads of State adopted a Roadmap on all areas of cooperation.

In September 2017, the President of Kazakhstan visited Uzbekistan. During media briefing he informed on discussion related to water issues with the President of Uzbekistan. The Head of State underlined that the issue was exceptionally important for further development in the whole Central Asian region and that transboundary water resources in CA were the common good for all nations in the region.

The President of Kazakhstan also focused on the results of discussion with the President of Uzbekistan on the situation around the Aral Sea. It was emphasized that IFAS, which would celebrate its 25 anniversary in 2018, was the only interstate mechanism of cooperation on the Aral Sea problem. In this context, the unity of

opinions on a need to activate the Fund operations was affirmed. Additionally, it is planned to hold a high-level meeting in 2018 and discuss mutually acceptable ways for solution of the common problem.

As part of the state visit, in particular, the following documents were signed:

- Roadmap on water cooperation;
- Joint statement of the President of Kazakhstan and the President of Uzbekistan.

Source: [www.akorda.kz](http://www.akorda.kz)

### Meetings of the working group on water management issues

In November 2016, a Kazakh-Uzbek working group was formed to develop proposals on strengthening bilateral water cooperation. The Uzbek side is headed by Deputy Minister of Water Resources Mr. Sh.Khamraev, while the Kazakh side is chaired by the Vice-Minister of Agriculture Mr. E.Nysanbayev. The working group addresses issues related to water use in the middle and lower reaches of the Syr Darya River, in other transboundary water basins located in the territories of the both states and paves the ways for further improvement of bilateral cooperation.

By January 1, 2018, four meetings of the working group were held. First meeting was held on 9 December 2016, the second one – on 15 February 2017 in Chimkent, the third one – on 12 April 2017 in Tashkent, and the fourth one – on 7-8 November 2017 in Astana. During those meetings, the group dealt with issues related to

management, sharing and protection of water resources in transboundary sources between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Source: <http://mfa.uz>, <http://podrobno.uz/>  
MAWR Ruz

## 4.4. Kyrgyzstan - Tajikistan

### High-level meetings

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2017, the meeting between the President of Tajikistan and the Prime-Minister of Kyrgyzstan took place. During the meeting the parties addressed matters

related to cooperation in the field of efficient use of transboundary rivers crossing the territory of the countries.

Source: [www.president.tj/ru/node/15731](http://www.president.tj/ru/node/15731)

## 4.5. Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan

### High-level meetings

On 5-6 October 2017, the President of Kyrgyzstan made the state visit to Uzbekistan. During the state visit the following documents were signed among others:

- Memorandum of understanding between the publicly owned joint-stock company “National energy holding company” of KR and the joint-stock company “Uzbekgidroenergo” of Ruz on cooperation in the Kambarata HPP-1 construction project;
- Agreement between KR and Ruz on confidence-building measures at the state border;
- Agreement between the Government of Kyrgyzstan and the Government of Uzbekistan on the interstate use of the Orto-Tokoyskoye (Kasansai) reservoir in Ala-Buka district, Jalal-Abad province in Kyrgyzstan;
- Contract between the publicly owned joint-stock company “National energy holding company” of KR and the joint-stock company “Uzbekgidroenergo” of Ruz on electricity supplies from Kyrgyzstan to Uzbekistan.

### Statement to the press

The Heads of State made a statement to the press during the state visit of the President Almazbek Atambayev to Uzbekistan. The President of Kyrgyzstan considered taking the boundary issue off the table and intention to build jointly Kambarata-1 as a merit on Uzbek President's part.

On 13 December 2017, in particular, the following documents were signed during the official visit of the President of Kyrgyzstan to Uzbekistan:

- Joint statement of the President of Kyrgyzstan and the President of Uzbekistan;
- Plan of measures as part of cooperation between national ministries of emergencies in the area of emergency prevention and recovery for 2018.

Source: [www.president.kg](http://www.president.kg)

## 4.6. Tajikistan – Turkmenistan

### High-level meetings

On 2 November 2017, during the official visit of the President of Turkmenistan to Tajikistan a package of documents was signed to strengthen the legal framework of bilateral relations. The documents included, in particular:

the Treaty on strategic partnership and the Joint statement of the Presidents. In their Joint statement, the Presidents emphasized the importance of further development of cooperation in the field of efficient water and energy use.

Source: [www.president.tj/ru/node/16500](http://www.president.tj/ru/node/16500)

## 4.7. Tajikistan – Uzbekistan

### Bilateral working group on water issues between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan

A working group on matters related to efficient water and energy use was formed between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in 2016. First meeting of

the working group was held on 17-20 October 2016 in Tajikistan, the second one – on 15-16 November 2016 in Tashkent. The Parties discussed the aspects of water sharing in the basins of the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya.

Source: MAWR RUz

## 4.8. Turkmenistan – Uzbekistan

### High-level meetings

In March 2017, the President of Uzbekistan made a state visit to Turkmenistan. Following the negotiations, a number of documents was signed, including Treaty on strategic cooperation, Treaty on economic cooperation over 2018–2020, Agreement on cooperation on water related issues between the Ministries of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, Agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Turkmenistan and AO “Uzagrotehsanoatholding”, Memorandum of understanding on further facilitation of cooperation in the agricultural sector between the Ministries of Agriculture and Water Resources of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

In line with the Agreement on cooperation on water-related issues, the Parties, in particular, agreed to develop cooperation in order to take joint actions for sustainable transboundary water management and improvement of water availability in the Amu Darya River Basin and take measures for efficient implementation of international treaties (Article 1).

On 19-20 May 2017 the President of Uzbekistan made a working visit to Turkmenistan. The parties underlined priorities of cooperation in such areas as agriculture, chemical and metallurgical industry, water facilities operation, and tourism. Heads of relevant ministries and departments of the two countries were entrusted to fulfill consistently reached agreements.

Source: <http://tdh.gov.tm>, <http://president.uz>, <http://narodnoeslovo.uz/>

Under the Treaty on economic cooperation over 2018–2020, the parties will allow for, in particular:

### Trilateral working group on water-related issues

*building consensus on cooperation in the field of environmental protection and efficient nature use, including in water and energy management and use in transboundary river basins in Central Asia, as well as in overcoming the ecological crisis and improving socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea basin;*

Cooperation on water-related issues between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan is maintained through the trilateral working group, which includes BWO Amu Darya as well. The parties address matters related to joint use of watercourse in a constructive way and in the spirit of mutual trust and recognition of interests of each other. As of January 1, 2018, the group held 181 meetings, including 11 meetings in 2017.

*facilitating, in line with established procedures, entrance, exit and stay of operational staff, motor transport and mechanisms used on water and energy facilities in the territory of the Parties.*  
(Article 6).