



Section 4

Bilateral Water Cooperation Between the Countries of Central Asia

4.1. Kazakhstan – Kyrgyzstan

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 Chu and Talas Rivers (21 January 2000). The Chu-Talas Water Commission (CTWC) is a joint body, which is to ensure the joint operation of the water facilities of interstate use and estimate operational costs required for their safe and reliable operation.

Meetings. CTWC held 24 meetings from its establishment in 2006 up till 2018.

In 2018, at its 24th meeting, CTWC summarized the results of the work undertaken on water management facilities of interstate use at the Chu and Talas rivers in 2017; discussed operation modes of the structures for the growing season of 2018; considered amendments and additions to the Agreement, as well as the possibility of the construction of a reservoir along the Aspara River and the second line of the OCHK-2 canal. Additionally, progress of the Working Groups on environmental protection and on adaptation to climate change and long-term action programs and implementation of international projects were reviewed (27 February, Bishkek).

The [international conference](#) dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the first protocol on sharing the Talas River between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Kazakhstan was held on the 27th of June in Taraz.

Working Groups. In 2018, the Working Group on environmental protection established in 2015 at the CTWC Secretariat held two meetings. At the 5th meeting of the Working Group, the parties agreed to conduct monitoring of the transboundary Chu, Kara-Balta and Talas Rivers at preliminary agreed 16 points on 17 hydro-chemical indicators and share information on water quality (23 August 2017). During the 6th meeting of the Working Group, it was decided to consider inclusion of pesticides in the list of indicators to be analyzed for the following comparative analysis of the results in laboratories of Kazakhstan. Applicability of water quality assessment criteria for the agreed sampling 2019 was also discussed (16 November, Bishkek). At the 7th meeting, the Working Group summarized the results of water quality

monitoring. The Group decided to develop a procedure for monitoring and introduce it to the next meeting of the Commission (13 December, Taraz).

The Working Group on adaptation to climate change and long-term action programs gathered for several meetings. At its 3rd meeting, the participants discussed the vision and objectives of the Strategic Action Program, opportunities and needs for co-financing and for critical analysis of implementation (18 January, Bishkek). The 4th meeting was combined with project workshops of the Commission (12 December, Taraz).

Projects. Implementation of the [Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the Chu and Talas River Basins](#) (GEF/UNDP/UNECE) project and the UNECE [“Enhancing climate resilience and adaptive capacity in the transboundary Chu-Talas basin”](#) project funded by the Government of Finland is ongoing. The training sessions “Internet resources for sharing data and information: case-study of the Sava Commission's hydrometeorological and geographic information systems” (16-17 January, Bishkek) and “Transboundary river basin management planning using as an example the Sava River basin - opportunities and solutions for the Chu and Talas river basins” (29-30 March, Taraz) were held. Cooperation with the International Sava River Basin Commission is maintained in the sharing of experience in the field of legal support and implementation of basin management plans and best practices of joint management, as well as in exchange of hydrological data and information on water quality.

Source: Head of the Kazakh Party of the CTWC Secretariat

4.2. Kazakhstan – Turkmenistan

High-Level Meetings

The Presidents of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan met during the Fifth Caspian Summit (12 August, Aktau). The Head of Kazakhstan noted that the two nations are linked by history and the bonds of brotherhood. Mr. Berdymukhamedov, in turn, expressed his thanks for the opportunity to participate in the Summit and noted the excellent organization of the event. "Today's

meeting has brought a new dimension to our relations, which evolved over the centuries. At the present, we have every opportunity to further expand our bilateral cooperation," the President of Turkmenistan said. Finally, the parties discussed the agenda of a meeting on the Aral Sea problems, which was to be held at the end of August in Turkmenistan.

Source: www.akorda.kz

4.3. Kazakhstan – Tajikistan

High-Level Meetings

The President of Tajikistan participated in the Working (Consultative) Meeting of the Heads of Central Asian States (15 March, Astana). The President of Uzbekistan, President of Kyrgyzstan, and the Chairman of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan also attended the meeting.

The Head of Tajikistan noted that the region has enormous untapped potential for increased and deeper trade and economic relations. Integrated and efficient water and energy use was mentioned as one of the main elements of cooperation between the Central Asian states. It is a key factor of prosperity and sustainable development in the region. In this context, the President Emomali Rahmon noted: "In my

address to the United Nations and in my annual messages to the national parliament I have repeatedly stated that Tajikistan has never caused and will never cause the water-related problems to its neighbors. Today, I want to stress once again that we will never leave our neighbors without water. I believe that open dialogue, mutual understanding and constructive cooperation would contribute to the achievement of our objectives in this regard." The head of state has expressed his interest in developing regional partnerships for efficient and equitable use of water resources. According to him, the existing hydropower facilities would provide a solution to the region's energy and water problems.

Source: www.president.tj/ru/node/17287

4.4. Kazakhstan – Uzbekistan

High-Level Meetings

The President of Kazakhstan met with the President of Uzbekistan. During the meeting, the parties underlined that their interstate relations were actively developing, and the agreements reached by the states were implemented consistently thanks to the dialogue maintained at the highest level (March 15, Almaty).

Source: <https://president.uz/ru/lists/view/1570>

Meetings of the Working Group on Water Management

In November 2016, a joint Kazakh-Uzbek Working Group was set up to develop proposals for enhanced bilateral water cooperation. The Uzbek side of the Working Group is headed by Sh.Khamraev, Minister of Water Management

of Uzbekistan, while Mr.Ye.Nyissanbayev, Vice-Minister of Agriculture leads the Kazakh side.

The Working Group gathers to discuss challenging issues related to water use in middle and lower reaches of the Syr Darya River and in other transboundary basins in the territories of the both countries and suggest ways for further improvement of bilateral cooperation.

As of 1 January 2019, 5 meetings of the Working Group were held. At the 5th meeting, the parties discussed fulfillment of the decisions made at the previous meeting, the draft bilateral water agreement, and coordination of actions during the growing season (3-4 May, Kyzylorda).

Source: Ministry of Water Management of the Republic of Uzbekistan

4.5. Kyrgyzstan – Tajikistan

High-Level Meetings

On the sidelines of the Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon had a meeting with the President of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbay Jeenbekov to discuss the current state and future prospects of bilateral good-neighborly relations (9 June, Qingdao, China). It was noted that Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have a common position in solving global and regional issues and pay special attention to the development of bilateral cooperation in the field of international and regional security.

The Heads of State exchanged their views on importance of further expansion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, including boosting of trade turnover between their countries, unfolding of great potential of cooperation in water and energy, timely implementation of the ambitious regional project – CASA 1000, and setting up of Tajik - Kyrgyz Intergovernmental Commission on bilateral matters.

Source: www.president.tj/en/node/17755

4.6. Kyrgyzstan – Turkmenistan

High-Level Meetings

The President of Kyrgyzstan Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov paid a state visit to Turkmenistan (23-24 August). In the course of negotiations, a particular focus was put on strengthening of regional cooperation, including the solution of water and energy issues in Central Asia. An agreement has been reached to promote regional consensus on the basis of equality, mutual respect and consideration of the interests of the partners.

As a result of negotiations, the Presidents signed a number of bilateral documents, including:

- Action Plan for development of bilateral agricultural cooperation within the framework of the “Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Land Reclamation of the Kyrgyz Republic on cooperation in the field of agriculture” signed on August 5, 2015;

- Agreement on cooperation in prevention and elimination of emergencies;
- Declaration on strategic partnership, deeper friendship and trust between Turkmenistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, according to which in water and energy sector:

The Parties recognize the importance of strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation on the rational and integrated use of water and energy resources in Central Asia, taking into account the interests of all states in the region. To this end, the Parties will hold regular consultations with the purpose of developing mutually beneficial long-term sustainable mechanisms in this area.

The Parties shall develop cooperation in the field of energy, including for implementation of joint hydropower projects.

Sources: <http://tdh.gov.tm/news/tm/articles.aspx&article14174&cat26>, uzbekistan.tmembassy.gov.tm/en/news/16198

4.7. Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan

High-Level Meetings

In 2018, the meetings of the Council of Heads of the Border Regions in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, chaired by the Prime Ministers of the two countries, were held (March, Fergana;

December, Osh). The first meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Commission was held in May.

Источник: <https://president.uz/en/lists/view/2226>

Meetings of the Working Group on Water Management Issues

The Group worked within the framework of the Interagency Agreement on the establishment of a joint bilateral water commission to find constructive solutions for water and energy issues.

Other water-related arrangements

Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan have concluded an agreement on the export of electricity in the amount of 550 million kWh from December 2017 to March 2018. According to kabar.kg, in January-September 2018, the export of electricity to Uzbekistan amounted to 754 million kWh at a price of 2-2.4 cents for a total sum of US \$16.2 million.

4.8. Tajikistan – Turkmenistan

High-level meetings

The President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon met with the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov on the sidelines of the Summit of the Heads of IFAS Founder-States, where they discussed the ways of improving cooperation under umbrella of IFAS and its institutional and legal frameworks (24 August, Turkmenbashi). The Presidents considered it important to strengthen cooperation with financial institutions and donors for addressing

regional problems. Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the process of constant high-level dialogue and the state of actively developing relations between the two countries. The Tajik–Turkmen cooperation in the fields of transport, energy, light industry, processing, agriculture, industry, trade, air communication, science, culture, as well as healthcare and tourism was commended as priority of bilateral relations.

Source: <http://www.president.tj/en/node/18241>

4.9. Tajikistan – Uzbekistan

High-level meetings

State Visit of the President of Uzbekistan to Tajikistan

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan paid a state visit to Tajikistan, where the parties discussed the development of bilateral political, trade and economic, investment, financial, transport and communication, water and energy, touristic, cultural, humanitarian and inter-regional cooperation, as well as facilitation of travels between the countries (9-10 March). The issues of cooperation through regional and international institutions, regional security and stability, and efficient counteraction to modern challenges and threats were also addressed.

The Presidents have stressed that one of key factors of prosperity in Central Asia is the integrated use of water and energy resources, taking into account the interests of all states in the region. The importance of open dialogue, mutual understanding and constructive cooperation for searching mutually acceptable, fair and rational solutions was particularly underlined.

The parties have expressed their mutual interest in developing regional partnership in the sphere of efficient and equitable water use and stressed the importance of existing hydropower facilities for Central Asia, and those under construction, in order to solve water and energy problems.

In this context, the Uzbek side has expressed its readiness to consider the possibility of participating in the construction of hydropower facilities in the Republic of Tajikistan, including the Rogun Hydroproject, based on the universally recognized international norms and standards for the construction of such facilities.

The Heads of State stressed the need to improve the legal framework of transboundary water use in Central Asia, taking into account the interests of all states in the region.

Additionally, 27 documents were signed to further develop cooperation in the spheres of trade, economy, investment, finance, transport and transit, agriculture, water and energy, etc. Those documents include among others:

- [Joint Statement](#) of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmon on strengthening friendship and good-neighborliness;
- Agreement on particular segments of the Uzbek-Tajik State border;
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on inter-regional cooperation;
- Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on operation of the Farkhad dam, according to which the land surrounding the Farkhad HPP shall be recognized as the Tajik territory, but that the facility itself shall remain in property of Uzbekistan. Security for the site shall be provided by Tajikistan, while maintenance shall be the responsibility of Uzbekistan;
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on cooperation in the field of prevention and elimination of emergencies;
- Agricultural cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

State Visit of the President of Tajikistan to Uzbekistan

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan paid a state visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan on 17-18 August. The Presidents have reiterated that integrated water and energy use, which takes into account the interests of all the countries in the region, is vital for sustainable development, well-being, and prosperity of Central Asia. Open dialogue, enhanced mutual understanding and constructive cooperation, as well as the search for mutually acceptable, equitable, and reasonable solutions are important.

The Parties have agreed to consider joint construction of two hydropower stations, with the total capacity of 320 megawatt in the Tajik area of the Zarafshan River. The Heads of State charged the Intergovernmental Commission for Trade and Economic Cooperation with studying the potential use of freshwater in Lake Sarez for drinking purposes in the both countries.

The Parties have positively assessed the results of the International High-Level Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028” and expressed their willingness to actively participate in implementation of the Final Resolution and other documents of the Conference.

The Presidents have noted with satisfaction the unanimous support and adoption of the UN General Assembly Resolution on “Strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in the Central Asian Region”, which has been developed jointly and presented by the Central Asian states in June 22, 2018. The parties have expressed their intention to continue promoting joint regional initiatives on the international arena.

A number of documents have been signed concerning cooperation in the field of industry, standardization and certification, border crossing, recognition of graduation documents, geodesy and geology, agriculture, culture and other spheres. Those include among others:

- Joint Statement of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan and the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Strategic Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Other meetings

The President of Tajikistan met with the President of Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the events dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Astana as a capital of Kazakhstan (July 6, Astana). During the meeting, the Parties have discussed issues related to the development and strengthening of bilateral cooperation in all spheres of mutual interest. The President of Tajikistan highly evaluated the results of the state visit of the President of Uzbekistan to Tajikistan in March 2018. The Parties have expressed willingness to expand fruitful ties in all spheres and unfold untapped opportunities for the benefit of the both nations.

Sources: www.president.tj, <https://president.uz>

Meetings of the Working Group on integrated transboundary water use in Central Asia

As part of the state visit of the President of Uzbekistan Mr. Sh. Mirziyoyev to the Republic of Tajikistan, an Uzbek-Tajik Working Group on

integrated use of water from transboundary rivers in Central Asia was established (9-10 March 2018).

During the first meeting of the Working Group, the Parties expressed their readiness to actively cooperate in the field of transboundary water management, jointly operate irrigation systems and hydraulic structures, exchange relevant information and continue constructive dialogue, taking into account the interests of the both parties (6 June, Tashkent).

During the second meeting of the Working Group, the Parties exchanged views regarding enhanced bilateral water cooperation between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (28 November, Dushanbe). The importance of the Working Group's activities in addressing existing bilateral issues on the rational use of water resources in

the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya basins and the joint operation of the Farkhad Dam under the Agreement between the Governments of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on operation of the Farkhad Dam was underlined as well.

Source: Ministry of Water Management of Uzbekistan

Other water-related arrangements

In 2018, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan resumed energy supplies between the countries. From April to September 2018, 1,480 billion kWh of electricity was exported from Tajikistan to Uzbekistan (Surkhandarya province) at a price of 2 cents/kWh. Uzbekistan, in turn, supplied electricity to the Sogd province. 2 billion kWh is planned to be exported for the South of Uzbekistan from April to October 2019.

4.10. Turkmenistan – Uzbekistan

High-Level Meetings

State visit of the President of Turkmenistan to Uzbekistan

In the course of the state visit of the President of Turkmenistan to Uzbekistan, special attention was paid to water and energy issues in Central Asia (23-24 April). The Parties have agreed to intensify joint efforts to further improve IFAS activities. Turkmenistan considers it necessary to strengthen bilateral relations with the Republic of Uzbekistan in the water field. The Heads of State have underlined that transboundary water is the common good for the Central Asian nations and reasonable and equitable use of these resources is essential for the well-being of millions of people, stability, and prosperity in the region. For continuous development of cooperation in this direction, Turkmenistan proposed to establish a joint Intergovernmental Commission on Water-Related Issues. The draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of Turkmenistan on the joint Uzbek-Turkmen Intergovernmental Commission on Water-Related Issues is under development. It is also necessary to consider the possibility of developing a bilateral agreement on the rational use of the Amu Darya. All these measures will bring the Turkmen-Uzbek dialogue to the qualitatively new level.

As a result of negotiations, 17 documents were signed, including:

- [Joint Statement](#);
- Intergovernmental Agreement on Inter-regional Cooperation.

Sources: <http://turkmenistan.gov.tm>,
<https://president.uz>

Other meetings

Shortly before the Summit of the Heads of IFAS Founder-States, the Presidents of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan held a meeting to discuss the current state and future prospects of bilateral cooperation (August 24, Turkmenbashi). The Parties noted that the state visit of the President of Turkmenistan to Uzbekistan in April has given a new impetus to multifaceted relations of the countries.

Tripartite Working Group on Water Management Issues

Water cooperation between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan is maintained through the Trilateral Working Group, which also includes BWO Amu Darya. The Parties constructively, in the spirit of mutual trust and respect for each other's interests, address issues related to sharing of watercourses in the Amu Darya basin. As of 1 January 2019, the Group held 192 meetings, including 11 meetings in 2018. At these meetings, water managers of the Amu Darya lower reaches addressed the water allocation matters.

