

# 6

## SECTION

United Nations  
and its Specialized  
Agencies

## 6.1. General Assembly



78<sup>th</sup> Session  
United Nations  
General Assembly

General Assembly (GA) occupies a central position as the chief deliberative organ of the United Nations. It is comprised of all Members of the United Nations, each having one vote. It is authorized to discuss full spectrum of issues covered by the Charter. The UNGA convenes on September each year.

The 78<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly themed “Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all” was opened under the chairmanship of [Dennis Francis](#), Trinidad and Tobago, in New-York on 19 September.

The UNGA [High-level week](#) comprised seven summits that adopted four political declarations on universal health, pandemic preparedness, fight against tuberculosis, and accelerating actions for achieving the SDGs.

The 2023 SDG Summit marked the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals ([September 18-19](#)).

### Statements from Central Asia countries at the general debate of the UNGA 78<sup>th</sup> Session

#### Statement by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan



*“Diplomacy and dialogue should always prevail in seeking the resolution of international disputes. We must therefore together exert the greatest efforts to stabilize the only system of global institutions we have”*

**Security Council reform.** H.E. Tokayev stressed the need to stabilize the system of global institutions, underlining that the world will not succeed in tackling these challenges without a comprehensive reform of the Security Council. He further emphasized that “the voices of middle Powers and all developing countries need to be amplified and clearly heard”. Since the Council appears unable to move beyond deadlock, it should become more representative so other countries, including Kazakhstan, can play a greater role in maintaining peace and security.

**Climate change.** “...Even if we successfully limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees by 2030 – which looks increasingly unlikely – we will experience between 2 and 2.5 degrees of temperature rise in Central Asia. Despite the long road of the Paris Climate Agreement, we must all remain committed to a carbon-free future. The climate agenda should not be used to introduce measures restricting trade and investment cooperation. Instead we must focus on positive change, such as Climate-Positive Actions identified by the United Nations including investing in green jobs, ending fossil fuel subsidies, and ensuring that all climate actions are fair, inclusive, and involve women at all levels.” The Head of Kazakhstan also noted that without proper funding, however, ambitious plans will remain unmet.

He proposed to launch Just Energy Transition Partnership in Kazakhstan. A gradual, sustainable, and socially responsible transition away from coal would be a big bonus for global climate change goals. Kazakhstan's initiative to open the Project Office for Central Asia on Climate Change and Green Energy in Almaty can lead on these issues. Kazakhstan looks forward to hosting a Regional Climate Summit in Kazakhstan in 2026 under UN auspices.

**Water.** The President underlined in his statement that **water scarcity** in CA has created serious economic and other challenges in transboundary river basins. This will be replicated across the world: by 2040 global demand for water may outstrip supply by as much as 40%. “...We must therefore combine political will and economic resources to address this critical global issue simultaneous with climate action. Next year, we will assume chairmanship of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea. We will continue efforts to

prevent further degradation of the environment and its impact on livelihoods around what was once the fourth largest lake on the planet. Today it is the world's largest lake – the Caspian Sea – that also faces ecological challenges including shallowing, water diversion, and the pollution of flora and fauna. Saving the Caspian Sea must be a matter of common priority that requires long-term international cooperation."

**Food security and Trans-Caspian International Transport Route.** The President also raised the issue of global food security. Particularly, Kazakhstan is ready to act as a regional food supply hub. "We have all the required resources, infrastructure and logistics in place

for these purposes. Kazakhstan is already a reliable link for nearly 80% of overland transit traffic between Asia and Europe." He also addressed the idea of Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, the so called "Middle Corridor", which can significantly strengthen East-West engagement and increase the pace of trade between critical markets.

*Statement summary:*

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/78/kazakhstan>

*Full version:* [https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/78/kz\\_en.pdf](https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/78/kz_en.pdf)

*Video:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EomtiitqDfw>

## Statement by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic

### Cooperation among the Central Asian countries.

"Strengthening relations with the countries of the region is a natural top priority for our country", emphasized Kyrgyz President, noting that in recent years "regional cooperation in Central Asia has been developing consistently and in all directions." President Zhaparov envisions CA as a single geo-economic space, a "geopolitical intermediary" for the international community. On the path to full regional integration, it is necessary to resolve issues related to the legal delineation of state borders. The President highlighted that after almost 30 years of negotiations, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan signed an Agreement on the legal delineation of the state border. "We want to live in peace, harmony, and friendship with all our neighbors", President Zhaparov underscored.

**SDGs.** President Zhaparov noted in his speech that the concluded SDG Summit once again reaffirmed the importance of unwavering commitment to sustainable development, identifying challenges in their implementation, and outlining specific commitments by states. "We are halfway to 2030, the deadline for reaching Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Kyrgyzstan, in its pursuit of achieving SDGs currently ranks 45<sup>th</sup> out of 166 UN Member States. We aim to be among the top 30 countries in reaching SDGs by 2030. The international community must breathe new life into these goals and strengthen solidarity in their attainment. It's important that we don't get lost in numbers, schedules, diagrams, and other 'economic intricacies,' because the essence and core of the 17 Goals are about people themselves."

**Financing climate actions.** As President Zhaparov said, the level of annual funding announced in 2015 under the Paris Agreement is no longer sufficient today and should be increased. "Another problem is that most climate finance is provided to low and middle-income countries in the form of loans", he noted and informed that he addressed partners with a request to exchange external debt for environmental projects but received no reaction from many of the developed countries. "Government of Germany was the only country that wrote off 15 million euros of debt", added Kyrgyzstan's leader.



*"Kyrgyzstan supports the UN as the only universal, intergovernmental, international Organization mandated by all Member States to find solutions to the challenges that constantly arise"*

**Glaciers.** "In light of global climate change, mountainous regions have been particularly vulnerable. In Kyrgyzstan, mountains occupy about 94% of the territory. Mountain glaciers are an integral part of the Earth's cryosphere, influencing not only the climate of our planet but also providing a habitat for flora and fauna and supplying water to people. Climate change in Central Asia has led to intensive melting of glaciers. If earlier it was predicted that by 2050 the area of glaciers in Kyrgyzstan would be reduced by half, and by 2100 they could disappear altogether, now there is reason to believe that this will happen much faster. This leads to aggravation of problems throughout the region: such as lack of water for drinking and agriculture, land degradation, and a threat to food security", President Zhaparov warned calling the international community to unite efforts to overcome these and other challenges.

"As you may know, in 2022, at the initiative of our country and the Italian Republic, the United Nations



General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution on 'Sustainable Mountain Development' co-sponsored by 110 Member States. This document declared the years from 2023-2027 as Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions." "A national 'Roadmap' for the implementation of the 'Five-Year Period of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions for 2023-2027' has been developed, which will be adopted shortly. The 'Roadmap' includes measures at the global, regional, and national levels, including within the framework of existing and prospective projects and measures related to the Sustainable Development Goals. As the concluding stage of the "Five-Year Action", we

plan to host the Second Global Mountain Summit "Bishkek+25", in Kyrgyzstan in 2027, 25 years after the First Summit", announced Kyrgyz President and invited everyone "to actively participate and make concrete commitments to preserve mountain ecosystems."

*Statement summary:*

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/78/kyrgyzstan>

*Full statement:* <https://mfa.gov.kg/ru/osnovnoe-menyu/press-sluzhba/novosti/prezident-sadyr-zhaparov-vystupil-na-78-y-sessii-generalnoy-assamblei-onn>

*Video:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14SQY8VjXhg>

## Statement by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan



Friends of Glaciers and beyond to implement the mandates of the Resolution. Tajikistan is convinced that this initiative will give a powerful impetus to a new global movement to take necessary collective action and to protect glaciers from intense melting. I would also like to highlight the successful outcomes of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, **"Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028**. He noted that Dushanbe will host the Third High-Level Conference on the Implementation of the Decade of Action "Water for Sustainable Development" in 2024 and the International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation in 2025. "We expect the international community to take an active part in these important international events. As a proactive and champion country in the global water and climate agenda, Tajikistan will continue to strive to promote cooperation between countries and organizations", stated Emomali Rahmon.

**Climate-related disasters.** Most of his speech, President Rahmon dedicated to climate change issues. Tajikistan actively supports UN mitigation programs and puts forward its own initiatives in this area.

With more than 13,000 glaciers, 60 per cent of water resources in Central Asia emanate from Tajikistan. Nevertheless, more than 1,000 glaciers have melted – this will have significant implications for the food security, water availability and ecosystems of the region and beyond, he warned. "The intense **melting of glaciers** as the primary source of freshwater requires the adoption of concrete measures, including research, data collection and processing, and enhanced international cooperation. I express my gratitude to all Member States for their cooperation in adopting the UNGA Resolution 77/158 from December 14, 2022 on **International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, 2025**. I invite all interested parties to join efforts to ensure the targeted implementation of this Resolution. We stand ready to work with the international community within the newly created Group of

**Regional solidarity.** The Tajik leader noted successful cooperation among the countries in the region that creates favorable conditions for addressing current challenges, promoting peace and responding effectively to emergencies. In this context, he also noted a difficult political and economic situation in Afghanistan that is affecting the region as a whole. Emomali Rahmon stated that Tajikistan created conditions to continue providing humanitarian assistance and its infrastructure to support the Afghan people and appealed to the international community to increase the volume of humanitarian aid to the suffering people of Afghanistan.

*Statement summary:*

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/78/tajikistan>

*Full version:*

[https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/78/tj\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/78/tj_en_0.pdf)

*Video:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6R0r8YtwPE>

## Statement by the President of Turkmenistan

**UN's role.** The President of Turkmenistan proposed to start discussing the possibilities of preparing a Global Security Strategy based on the principles of the UN Charter and universally recognized norms of international law and reflecting the presence of recently emerged new risk factors.

**Climate change.** "Turkmenistan considers that the solution of urgent climate and environmental problems will be among the key areas of UN activity for the coming years, especially the issues related to global methane commitments. I must say that after joining the Paris Climate Agreement in 2017, a number of relevant national programs were adopted in our country to reduce and eliminate the negative impact of methane emissions. First and foremost, we are talking about a step-by-step transition to modern, climate-friendly, and resource-saving technologies, especially in the fields of energy, industry, and transport." "As an important step in adopting a strategic approach to environmental problems in Central Asia, Turkmenistan proposes to establish a specialized agency, the **Regional Center for Climate Change Technologies in Central Asia**, which will work on climate issues in a substantive and systematic way. We are ready to provide the organizational and technical conditions for the functioning of such a Center in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan."

**Caspian ecology initiative.** President Berdimuhamedov recalled the confirmation by all participants of the Sixth Caspian Summit in Turkmenistan last summer of their readiness for close cooperation on ecological issues. "I believe that this creates good opportunities for the start of a broadbased and systemic interaction of coastal countries with the UN", stated Serdar Berdimuhamedov, proposing to establish the Cas-



*"...it is time for the UN to pay more attention to ecological problems in Central Asia. There is a need for proactive consideration of implementing concrete measures to create an all-inclusive environmental strategy for our region ..."*

pian Ecology Initiative in close cooperation with the UN. It "could become an international platform for productive and professional interaction on a wide range of issues related to the protection of the Caspian Sea and its biological resources."

*Statement summary:*

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/78/turkmenistan>

*Full version:* [https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/78/tm\\_en.pdf](https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/78/tm_en.pdf)

*Video:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwmCej4GJxA>

## Statement by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**Unity of international community.** On the background of numerous crises that the world currently faces, the Uzbek leader called on countries to unite their efforts bearing in mind that common interests should be placed above existing conflicts. He recalled the Samarkand Solidarity Initiative aimed at common security and development. "Our main goal is to comprehensively understand the responsibility for the present and future of our countries and peoples and to engage in a global dialogue of all parties that are ready for open and constructive cooperation."

**Climate change.** "Currently, the world is facing a critical environmental situation. The triple planetary crisis – crises of the climate change, the loss of biodiversity and the environmental contamination are worsening. In such challenging conditions, while Central Asia continues to grapple with the Aral Sea tragedy, the region is becoming one of the most vulnerable parts of the world in the face of climate change. Uzbekistan is doing its best to mitigate the consequences of the Aral Sea tragedy, which remains a global



*"...transforming Central Asia into a peaceful and prosperous region will remain a priority goal of Uzbekistan's foreign policy"*

problem. In recent years, 1.7 million hectares of green areas with drought tolerant plants had been created on the dried up bed of the Aral Sea. The support of the international community is essential for us to continue these efforts."

Over the next thirty years, the air temperature in the region has increased by one and a half degrees. If this tendency continues, the flow of the two major rivers in the region – Amu Darya and Syr Darya – may decrease by 15% in the next twenty years. It is expected that per capita water supply will decrease by 25% and agricultural yields – by 40%, warned President Mirziyoyev. "Given this context, we support the establishment of the position of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Water Resources. We are in favor of attracting and introducing the

state-of-art technologies in the process of establishing a Water Saving Technologies Platform in Central Asia, using the UN-Water mechanism. We are building up a systematic cooperation as part of the Green Development Program adopted by the countries of the region. Such a partnership completely meets our interest and is aimed at preventing threats related to climate change. In this context, I believe that the introduction of the Central Asian Climate Dialogue would be expedient."

*Statement summary:*

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/78/uzbekistan>

*Full version:* [https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/78/uz\\_en.pdf](https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/78/uz_en.pdf)

*Video:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2y9Ks3SIVM>

## Selected Resolutions on Water, Environment and Development Adopted by the UNGA 78<sup>th</sup> Session:

Disaster risk reduction (A/78/152); Protection of global climate for present and future generations of human-kind (A/78/153); United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, (2025-2034) (A/RES/78/314); Combating sand and dust storms (A/78/158); Sustainable, safe and universal water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services in health-care facilities (A/RES/78/130); Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (A/78/272); The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation (A/RES/78/206); Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/78/165); Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development (A/RES/78/160); Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat

Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (A/78/154); Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/RES/78/168); Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development (A/RES/78/155); Central Asia facing environmental challenges: fostering regional solidarity for sustainable development and prosperity (A/RES/78/147); Agricultural technology for sustainable development (A/RES/78/144); Sustainable development: International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan (A/RES/78/142); Information and communications technologies for sustainable development (A/RES/78/132).

## 2023 Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028



UNGA by its resolution (A/RES/73/226) decided to convene, in New York, from 22 to 24 March 2023, coinciding with World Water Day, the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028.

**UN Water Conference 2023** is a second over almost 50 years<sup>226</sup> water conference organized by the UN to catalyze joint and concerted actions to tackle global water challenges and accelerate progress on SDG6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all).

The Conference, co-hosted by the Governments of Tajikistan and the Netherlands, featured plenary meetings, a number of high-level special events, interactive dialogues, and over 500 side events. The Conference brought together around 10,000 participants – heads of state and government, official UN member country delegations, representatives of 100 regional and international organizations, civil society, business

<sup>226</sup> the first UN water conference took place in Mar del Plata, Argentina in 1977



leaders, youth, academia, and stakeholders from a number of sectors. Central Asia was represented by delegation from all five countries.

The conference concluded with generation of over 700 commitments by governments and stakeholders towards accelerating progress for the second half of the International Decade for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the

appointment of a Special Envoy on Water and a new political momentum to achieve SDG6.

The CA countries have made a [joint statement](#), by which they committed to further strengthening regional cooperation to achieve sustainable development and made a number of obligations at regional and national levels.

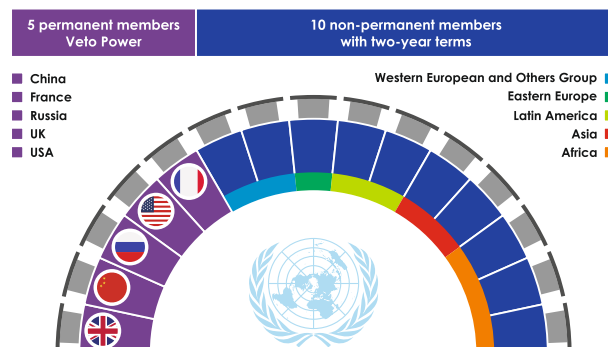
Conference web-site: [sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023](https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023)

## 6.2. Security Council

The Security Council (SC) has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security; all UN members are obliged to follow its decisions. It has 15 members, including 5 permanent members with veto power (Great Britain, China, Russia, USA, France) and 10 non-permanent, elected by the UNGA for two-year terms of five countries each year.

### UNSC activity in 2023 on energy, climate and natural resources

SC organized: (1) ministerial-level Arria-formula meeting on "Protection of civilians: Achieving a better protection of water-related essential services and infrastructure for the civilian population during armed conflicts". The meeting also explored how addressing the adverse effects of climate change can help to inform measures to protect water services and related infrastructure ([March 22](#)); (2) open debate on sea-level rise and its implications for international



peace and security ([February 13](#)) and on climate change, peace and security under the "Threats to international peace and security" agenda item ([June 13](#)).

Source: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/energy-climate-and-natural-resources/>

## 6.3. Secretariat

The Secretariat is one of the main organs of UN. At the head of the United Nations Secretariat is the Secretary-General, appointed by GA upon recommendation of UNSC for a 5-year term. Since January 2022, António Guterres (Portugal) has been serving as the Secretary-General.

Each year, the Secretary-General reports on the work of the Organization, including priority areas of the UN's activity and future plans. [2023 Report](#) highlights the work in the following key area: (1) **sustainable development** (United Nations country teams led by resident coordinators work in 162 countries and territories to help to implement the 2030 Agenda); (2) **peace and security** (deployed 53 peacekeeping operations, special political missions, and support offices to prevent conflict and support peace building); (3) **development in Africa** (helping 54 countries to leapfrog development challenges and catalyze a sustainable and equitable recovery from COVID-19 and the impact of cascading crises); (4) **human rights** (facilitated assistance for 47,000 victims of torture and 13,000+ victims of contemporary forms of slavery); (5) **humanitarian assistance** (helped to mobilize a record \$30B to assist 216M people across 69 countries and territories); (6) **justice and international law** (as of



“ The women and men of the United Nations are determined in our efforts to address today's cascading crises and set humanity on a new path to peace, stability and prosperity. ”

António Guterres, Secretary-General

2023, 643 multilateral treaties addressing matters of worldwide interest are deposited with the Secretary-General); (7) **disarmament** (channeled funds to 112 arms-control-related projects benefiting 147 Member States); (8) **drugs, crime and terrorism** (assisted 29

Member States in drafting or revising firearms legislation and supported 60 countries in countering and preventing cybercrime).

Source: UN

## 6.4. UN Development Program (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is the UN's global development network that promotes positive change and gives countries access to the knowledge, experience and resources that help improve people's lives.

It operates in 177 countries and territories.



### UNDP activities in the Central Asian countries in 2023

#### UNDP in Kazakhstan

UNDP actively assists Kazakhstan in fulfilling its Paris Agreement commitments. This includes expanding green economy, introducing innovative farming techniques, strengthening disaster response systems and financing clean technologies.

##### **Nature, land resources and ecosystem management.**

Continued: (1) [Sustainable food systems and improved ecosystem services](#) (2021-2026) aimed to trigger wide-scale adoption of efficient land management technologies and promote green value chains to reduce degradation of productive agricultural land and associated high value ecosystems in Northern Kazakhstan Landscape; (2) [Reintroducing turan tiger](#) (2021-2025); (3) [Sustainable forest management](#), the goal of which is to preserve and sustainably manage the key globally important ecosystems for multiple benefits (2018-2024).

**Energy and climate change.** Continued: (1) [Low-carbon urban development in Kazakhstan](#) (2015-

2024); (2) [Financial support programs for entrepreneurs implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects](#); (3) [Attracting investors in the field of energy efficiency](#) (2021-2026) to advance energy efficiency of buildings, infrastructure, and other facilities in Kazakhstan.

Completed projects: (1) [Just Transition – green biofuel to benefit women in rural areas of Kazakhstan](#) (2022-2023), a pilot project on alternative fuel introduction; (2) [Leveraging Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#) to achieve net-zero emissions and climate-resilient development, in response to the climate emergency (2022-2023) aimed at introducing new climate smart technologies that can be scaled up on most of the farms, in the field of renewable energy, digitalization for water use, and proper drought control for small- and medium-size agriculture enterprises.

Source: [open.undp.org/projects](https://open.undp.org/projects)

#### UNDP in Kyrgyzstan

UNDP helps Kyrgyzstan achieve its national priorities, including in the area of green growth, access to green financing, management and fighting of climate change. In 2023, UNDP Kyrgyzstan implemented project portfolio for \$20.8 million.

**Climate change, environment and energy.** Ongoing projects: (1) [Partnership of Action for Green Economy](#) (2017-2024), aimed to assist Kyrgyzstan to transfer to green economy; (2) [Strengthening climate resilience of the Batken Province of the Kyrgyz Republic through introduction of climate smart irrigation and mudflow protection measures](#) (2019-2023); (3) [Climate change and resilience in Central Asia](#) (Fergana Valley, 2021-2024) – completed assessments of climate risks, vulnerabilities and mapped climate hotspots; developed early warning for four selected pilot communities in three provinces of the Fergana Valley con-

sidered as highly vulnerable to climate change; (4) [Advancing development of a National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) process for medium and long-term adaptation planning and implementation in the Kyrgyz Republic](#) (GCF/UNDP, 2021-2024), which prepares sectoral adaptation plans in addition to the national plan and developed climate-related statistics, including 95 specific indicators.

The Project "[Conservation of globally important biodiversity and associated land and forest resources of Western Tian Shan mountain forest ecosystems to support sustainable livelihoods](#)" (since 2017) was completed in 2023. Three field studies were conducted to assess the region's biodiversity and ecological corridors and buffer zones were mapped, and snow leopard population was quantified. Based on this, an ecological corridor spanning over 64 thousand ha



and a buffer zone exceeding 25 thousand ha were established in Western Tien Shan.

**SDG.** Completed projects: (1) [National SDG Acceleration Support Platform](#) (2018-2023) – an anchor point for advancing SDG integrated approaches, to bring together work-streams for transformation impact; (2) [UN Joint SDG Fund, Reinforce the SDG Financing](#)

[Architecture](#) (2020-2023), aimed to create an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), with the ambition to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency in the use of public funds and governance of private finance to support the implementation of Kyrgyzstan's National Development.

Source: [undp.org/kyrgyzstan](https://undp.org/kyrgyzstan); [open.undp.org/projects](https://open.undp.org/projects)

## UNDP in Tajikistan

UNDP within the framework of its [Country Programme for Tajikistan](#), 2023-2026 renders assistance to achieve: (1) sustainable, inclusive, and green economic growth; (2) integrated management of climate and environmental risk and (3) people-centred governance and rule of law. In 2023, UNDP's project portfolio in Tajikistan totaled \$23.6 million.

**Natural resource management.** Continued: (1) [Improvement of Water Resources Management in Khatlon Region](#) (2022-2024) aimed to improve livelihoods, water supply and sanitation, irrigation and drainage systems of rural communities in Khatlon region; (2) [Technical support to Tajikistan Water Sector Reform](#) (2022-2024) to achieve an efficiently planned, developed and managed water sector; (3) [An integrated landscape approach to enhancing the climate resilience of small-scale farmers and pastoralists in Tajikistan](#) (2019-2025) aimed to introduce an integrated approach to landscape management to develop the climate resilience of rural communities in Tajikistan.

**Climate change and energy.** Continued: (1) [Green Energy SME Development Project](#) (2018-2024), the strategic objective is to facilitate the transformation of Tajikistan's energy sector, in particular the emergence of independent energy entrepreneurs. Draft "Concept for the development of the energy sector (RES)" was elaborated and coordinated with the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, 543 solar, wind and BESS stations of generating capacity of 6,721 kW were installed; (2) [Enabling an Effective National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) in Tajikistan](#) (2020-2023), the main goal of which is to establish the institutional arrangements and human/institutional capacities to develop and execute National Adaptation Plans to implement Tajikistan's National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy; (3) [Leveraging Nationally Determined Contributions to achieve net-zero emissions and climate-resilient development, in response to the climate emergency](#) (2022-2023) aimed at strengthening community resilience to climate-induced disasters through nature-based solutions.

Source: [open.undp.org/projects](https://open.undp.org/projects)

## UNDP in Turkmenistan

The focus areas of UNDP's work in Turkmenistan include assistance to better governance and inclusive economic growth, greater country resilience and adaptation to adverse effects of climate change. In 2023, UNDP's project portfolio in Turkmenistan included 27 projects.

**Climate change and environmental protection.** Continued: (1) [Conservation and sustainable management of land resources and high nature value ecosystems in the Aral Sea Basin for multiple benefits](#) (2021-2026), during which awareness raising and knowledge building activities were conducted to address capacity gaps of key stakeholders, the needs of local population and farmers around the buffer zones were determined, the list of biodiversity indicator species and their population status was confirmed, recommendations on sustainable pasture management options were drafted, etc.; (2) [Developing a National Adaptation Planning process](#)

[in Turkmenistan](#) (2021-2024) – series of workshops on integration of adaptation to climate change in water use planning was held; (3) [Sustainable Cities in Turkmenistan: Integrated Green Urban Development in Ashgabat and Awaza](#) (2017-2024) – a work meeting was held with representatives of ministries and agencies in Turkmenistan to discuss key area of 'green' construction and sustainable urban development in the country.

**SDG.** The Project "[Partnering for SDG acceleration](#)"<sup>227</sup> was launched in 2018. In 2024 it is planned to launch the third phase of the Project, which is to contribute to sustainable development by strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan as the responsible body for coordinating activities for the implementation in Turkmenistan of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Source: [www.tm.undp.org](https://www.tm.undp.org) and [open.undp.org/projects](https://open.undp.org/projects)

<sup>227</sup> a joint platform for coordinating the work of the relevant ministries and departments of Turkmenistan and UN agencies in the implementation of the SDGs

## UNDP in Uzbekistan

The focus areas of UNDP activities in Uzbekistan are strongly aligned with the National Development Strategy of Uzbekistan (2022-2026) and include programmes to promote effective democratic governance, achieve inclusive and sustainable growth, sustain a clean environment, take action for the climate, and advocate for equality between men and women.

**Land and ecosystem management and sustainable development.** Continued: (1) [Sustainable Rural Development](#) (2022-2025) to create favorable living conditions for rural residents and ensure their access to basic infrastructure, socio-economic services including access to health and education; (2) [Climate resilient livelihoods of horticultural producers in Fergana Valley in Uzbekistan](#) (2022-2023); (3) [Conservation and sustainable management of lakes, wetlands, and riparian corridors as pillars of a resilient and land degradation neutral Aral basin landscape supporting sustainable livelihoods](#) (2022-2026); (4) [Facilitation and Support with Effective Implementation of the Integrated Roadmap for the Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea region](#) (2022-2024).

The Project "[Assisted afforestation for the vulnerable terrains](#)" (2022-2023) was completed. 100 ha in Termez city and three districts in Surkhandarya province were planted with erosion control forest-forming species.

**Climate change.** Continued: (1) [Promoting green urban development in Tashkent city through accele-](#)

[rating investments in low emission infrastructure](#) (2021-2027); (2) [Supporting an inclusive transition to a "green" economy in the Agri-food sector and development of a "climate-smart" Uzbek Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System \(UAKIS\)](#) (2021-2025); (3) [Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to increase resilience of Uzbekistan communities to climate change-induced hazards](#) (2021-2028).

The Project "[Supporting Self-Reliance through Climate Resilient Agriculture in the Aral Sea Region](#)" was launched in 2023. This project, which will last to 2025, aims at increasing self-reliance of people in the targeted communities by introducing climate resilient agricultural practices and social infrastructure.

**SDG.** The project "[Financing for sustainable development](#)" (2020-2023) has been completed. The Project was aimed to enhance dialogue, coordination, national capacities and policy measures aimed at facilitation of effective financing strategy for the achievement of national SDGs in Uzbekistan.

In 2023, UNDP supported<sup>228</sup> the Government of Uzbekistan to mobilize private investment in its [green bond issuance](#) of \$350 million on the London Stock Exchange. Proceeds will be used to finance environmental, transportation and sanitation initiatives.

Source: [www.uz.undp.org](http://www.uz.undp.org) and [open.undp.org/projects](http://open.undp.org/projects)

## The UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund (MPHSTF) for the Aral Sea region

On 27 November 2018, the UN Headquarters in New York hosted a High-Level Event on the launch of the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region in Uzbekistan (MPHSTF). In 2023, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the UN participating organization and the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office on [January 27](#).

As part of its International Climate Initiative (IKI), the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany contributed €700,000 to MPHSTF to specifically support reducing stress on local communities caused by the deteriorating environmental situation.

At COP28, MPHSTF jointly with partners organized a side event titled "[Showcasing the Aral Sea Restoration Activities for a Climate-Resilient Future](#)". The event underscored the urgency of collective action in confronting environmental catastrophes, emphasizing the role of such initiatives in fostering resilient development (Dubai, UAE, December 2).

**Completed projects:** (1) [Unleashing young people's and vulnerable citizens' creativity and innovation by strengthening their adaptive capacity to address the economic and food insecurities in the exposed communities of the Aral Sea region](#) (2021-2023); (2) [Towards universal health coverage and security in Karakalpakstan](#) (2021-2023).

Two additional joint programs were financed for a total amount of \$4.4 million. These are aimed to promote green and innovative community by empowering rural youth and women and to create climate resilient people-centered primary health care system: (1) [Empowering youth towards a brighter future through green and innovative development of the Aral Sea region](#); (2) [Laying the foundations for people-centered, climate resilient primary health care and water, sanitation and hygiene practices at healthcare facilities and schools in Karakalpakstan](#). Over 241,000 people and 5,000 school children are being benefited from access to climate resilient WASH services and healthy practices by the end of the project.

Source: [www.aral.mptf.uz](http://www.aral.mptf.uz)

<sup>228</sup> UNDP supported the development of the SDG bond framework for the issuance and the identification of eligible green projects and strengthened capacities to support reporting on use of the proceeds

## 6.5. UN-Water

In 2003, the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination established the inter-agency coordination mechanism UN-Water. It coordinates the efforts of UN entities and international organizations working on water and sanitation issues. Over 30 UN organizations carry out water and sanitation programs.

### Activities in 2023

The [UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6](#) entered its third phase, with successful completion of the sufficient and credible [data compilation campaign 2023](#) and setting priorities for increased efforts and investments to ensure global coverage.

The consultation webinars for promoting gender contextualization of the SDG 6 global indicators were held ([November 14-16](#)).



The following publications have been launched: (1) [Blueprint for Acceleration: Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2023](#), which provides a “blueprint” to accelerate progress on water and sanitation (May 26); (2) [UN World Water Development Report<sup>229</sup> 2023](#) “Partnerships and cooperation for water” describing how building partnerships and enhancing cooperation across all dimensions of sustainable development are essential to accelerating progress towards SDG 6 and realizing the human rights to water and sanitation.

Source: [www.unwater.org](http://www.unwater.org)

## 6.6. UN Economic Commission for Europe

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is one of five regional commissions of the United Nations set up in 1947. Its main scope of work includes environment, transport, statistics, sustainable energy, trade, wood products and forests, housing and land use, population and economic cooperation and integration.



### UNECE Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

UNECE is hosting the Secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and is providing the secretariat for the Protocol on Water and Health together with WHO/Europe (Protocol). In 2023, the Water Convention was working on implementation of its Program of Work for the period 2022-2024 and the Protocol was implementing decisions of its sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 16-18 November 2022). In 2023 Kazakhstan was a Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention. On December 26, 2023, Uzbekistan became the first Central Asian country to join the Protocol on Water and Health as a full Party.

UNECE is hosting the Secretariat of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents as well. The Convention aims at protecting human beings and the environment against industrial accidents by preventing such accidents as far as possible, by reducing their frequency and severity and by mitigating their effects. On issues related to the prevention of accidental water pollution, the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions work closely together,

including through their Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents and in the implementation of capacity-building projects and activities, e.g. in the Syr Darya River Basin (see further information on the joint study below).

### Events in 2023

Under the Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health, as well as the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, UNECE organized: (1) Regional workshop on monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins in Central Asia ([February 1-2](#)); (2) 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation ([May 25-26](#)); (3) 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) ([June 19-21](#)); (4) Training workshop “From practitioner to practitioner: how to use the two global Water Conventions to promote cooperation on the ground” ([July 3-4](#)); (5) Global workshop on conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater: national to transboundary level ([October 16-17](#)); (6) 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group

<sup>229</sup> prepared by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Program on behalf of UN-Water



on monitoring and assessment (October 17-18); (7) Global workshop on the development of transboundary water cooperation agreements or other arrangements (November 7-8); (8) Strategic round-table on increasing resilience to climate change in the water and sanitation sector under UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health (November 13-14); (9) 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force on target-setting and reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health (November 14); (10) Global workshop on funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development (December 5-6); (11) 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus (December 7-8); (12) 2<sup>nd</sup> Inter-institutional Working Group on mine tailings safety

and the prevention of accidental water pollution (IIWG) meeting (Astana, Kazakhstan, March 15); (13) 2<sup>nd</sup> IIWG meeting (Dushanbe, Tajikistan, April 4); (14) Inception meeting on the establishment of the Inter-Institutional Working Group on Tailings Safety and Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution (IIWG) in Uzbekistan (April 27); (15) Sub-regional workshop on strengthening mine tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Central Asia (Dushanbe, Tajikistan, May 25-26);

Details: <https://unece.org/info/events/unece-meetings-and-events/environmental-policy/water-convention>; <https://unece.org/info/events/unece-meetings-and-events/industrial-accidents>

## UNECE Activities in Central Asia in 2023

**Transboundary cooperation.** In 2023, UNECE continued to support the Chu-Talas Commission and was in close contact with UNDP regarding the process of SAP approval that resulted in signing of the joint statement on SAP by the Co-Chairs of the Chu-Talas Commission at its 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting on December 22.

Results of past projects are available on: <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-convention/transboundary-cooperation-chu-and-talas-river-basin> and in the brochure [https://unece.org/DAM/env/water/Chu-Talas/RUS\\_ClimateProofingChuTalas\\_web\\_10Dec2018.pdf](https://unece.org/DAM/env/water/Chu-Talas/RUS_ClimateProofingChuTalas_web_10Dec2018.pdf)

**National Policy Dialogues on Water (NPDs).** Since 2019, the NPD process in Central Asian countries has been supported through a regional NPD project, implemented by UNECE in cooperation with OECD, as part of the WECOOP programme which supports the EU-Central Asia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (WGECC).

**NPD in Kyrgyzstan.** The 18<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Kyrgyzstan was held in Bishkek and online on February 3. One of the key points for the discussion was on the developments of the National Water Strategy and Water Code, on the economic and financial instruments, donors coordination.

**NPD in Tajikistan.** The 16<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting of the National Policy Dialogue was held in Dushanbe on February 15. The NPD provided a platform for a long-awaited presentation by the MEWR and discussion with the stakeholders on the progress in the implementation of the Programme of Reform of the Water Sector of the Republic of Tajikistan 2016-2025, on the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme by 2030, a concept to support the higher education development for the water sector specialists training in Tajikistan by 2030. The meeting was also used for a dialogue between the donors and the authorities on then-planned commitments of the Republic of Tajikistan to the 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).

In the frame of the NPDs, the three investment concepts were developed and are further discussed with the authorities and IFIs: (1) water-saving irrigation technologies with elements of drip fertigation in the Chu-Talas basin (Kazakh side); (2) modernization of water distribution systems and water management infrastructure in the Chu-Talas basin (Kyrgyz side); (3) construction of riverbank protection and mudflow conducting structures in the Zarafshon River basin (Tajik side).

**A study on the Syr Darya water quality and prevention of accidental water pollution.** In the frame of the NPD, the following products were developed: (1) an in-depth report addressing the state of water resources, water quality issues and policies and institutions for water management, industrial safety and prevention pollution. The report contains concrete recommendations for riparian countries on transboundary contingency planning and reducing water pollution, including an executive summary with findings; (2) an inventory and map of 61 tailings management facilities (TMFs) – 9 in Kazakhstan, 30 in Kyrgyzstan, 12 in Uzbekistan, and 10 in Tajikistan – and 133 other hazardous industrial facilities, including 33 TMFs with potential transboundary effects in the Syr Darya basin; (3) the infographics visualizing key findings from the report.

Project reports and additional information are available at: <https://unece.org/pollution-syr-darya-river-emergency-situations>

**3<sup>rd</sup> reporting exercise under the SDG indicator 6.5.2.** UNECE and UNESCO are co-custodian agencies for the SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation. In 2023, all countries sharing transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers were invited to submit national reports in the third reporting cycle. In Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have submitted their reports. The national reports and the aggregated data will become publicly available in 2024.

**2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Inter-institutional Working Group on tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Kazakhstan.** The meeting was dedicated

to discussing recent industrial safety developments and challenges at stake for Kazakhstan, in particular the recommendations deriving from the projects implemented under the auspices of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, such as alignment of Kazakhstan's national legislation with the provisions of the Convention. The WG: (1) reviewed the results of project on "Development of joint measures to prevent and respond to pollution of the Syr Darya river in emergency situations (Phase I)" and agreed to develop a Joint Contingency Plan between riparian countries; (2) considered the newly adopted "Road map for action to strengthen mine tailings safety within and beyond the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region"; (3) agreed to work towards the development of its workplan for 2023, with concrete actions to strengthen mine tailings safety and reduce the risk of accidental water pollution in Kazakhstan by national authorities, in cooperation with operators, and representatives of NGOs and academia ([March 15](#)).

**2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Inter-institutional Working Group on tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Tajikistan.** The meeting focused on the review of current issues and measures taken to reduce the risks of accidents at tailings management facilities and water pollution, the benefits of UNECE tools and regional projects, and the exchange of international good practices in the safe operation of tailings management facilities. Participants paid special attention to the benefits that Tajikistan would gain from acceding to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, the recommendations of the UNECE projects on industrial safety and prevention of accidental water pollution, notably on harmonization of the national legislation with the Convention's provisions and "Development of joint measures for prevention and response to pol-

lution of the Syr Darya River in emergency situations". As a result of the discussions, agreed proposals for further work of the Working Group were developed ([April 4](#)).

**Subregional workshop on mine tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Central Asia.** The subregional workshop is organized by the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, in cooperation with the Government of Tajikistan and with financial support from the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, GIZ, OSCE and the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation. It is implemented as part of the UNECE Projects on strengthening mine tailings safety [in Central Asia \(2020-2023\)](#) and [in Uzbekistan \(2021-2023\)](#), which are financed by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment under the Convention's Assistance and Cooperation Programme ([May 25-26](#)).

**SPECA program.** The 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) was hosted by the Kazakhstan-British Technical University. The focus of the session was to identify economic, investment, and policy opportunities in the water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus to support the achievement of SDGs 6 and 7. Additionally, the WG emphasized capacity building for sustainable natural resource management and exploring the feasibility of a water-energy consortium. Key discussions included presentations on the current status of the nexus in the region, highlighting challenges, ongoing initiatives, and recent developments, alongside country-specific case studies detailing national challenges, innovations, and success stories in implementing the nexus approach ([November 7](#)).

Source: UNECE

## International Water Assessment Center

The International Water Assessment Center (IWAC) is the center for international cooperation on integrated water resource management, which has been established as a subsidiary body of the Water Convention in Astana in 2017. The main purpose of IWAC is to support the implementation of the Water Convention and its relevant work programs.

### Activities in 2023

IWAC in cooperation with the UNECE organized: (1) the Regional Workshop on Monitoring, Assessment and Information Sharing in Transboundary Basins in Central Asia<sup>230</sup> to assist countries in studying international experience in monitoring, assessment and sharing information in transboundary basins and discussing the possibilities of strengthening cooperation between the countries of Central Asia in the field of protection and use of water resources in transboundary basins (Astana, [February 1-2](#)); (2) the session "Promo-

ting innovations in transboundary cooperation through the tools of the Water Convention" during the World Water Week. The aim of the session was the application of innovative tools for solving transboundary basin problems in transboundary cooperation (Stockholm, [August 21](#)).

IWAC took part in: (1) the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Working Group on tailings safety and the prevention of accidental pollution of water bodies in Kazakhstan (Astana, [March 15](#)) and the Subregional workshop on mine tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Central Asia (Dushanbe, [May 25-26](#)); (2) sub-regional workshop on supporting accession of Central Asian countries to the Protocol on Water and Health (Belgrade, [June 26-27](#)); (3) Eighteenth Meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment under the Water Convention (Geneva, [October 17-18](#)); (4) Global Workshop on Conjunctive Ma-

<sup>230</sup> with the financial support of the Green Central Asia Initiative implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

agement of Surface Water and Groundwater: National to Transboundary Level (Geneva, [October 16-17](#)); (5) Eighth meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus. The aim of the meeting was to take stock of 10 years of work on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus under the Water Convention, facilitate the exchange of expe-

riences and update information on progress made, lessons learned and best practices in applying the nexus approach, financing and implementing strategies and plans for energy transition to clean energy (Geneva, [December 7-8](#)).

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

## 6.7. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



Established in 1947, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is one of the five regional missions of the UN.

ESCAP works to overcome some of the region's greatest challenges by providing results-oriented projects, technical assistance and capacity building to member States in the following areas: macroeconomic policy and development; trade and investment; transport; social development; environment and sustainable development; information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction; statistics and sub-regional activities for development.

### SPECA program

ESCAP in cooperation with UNECE manages SPECA, which celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023. A joint statement made by ministers and high-level repre-

sentatives of countries participating in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) endorsed the proposal to initiate a UN General Assembly resolution to highlight the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SPECA and encourage the UN Member States, UN regional commissions and specialized agencies to continue extending support to efforts of the SPECA participating States ([April 18](#)).

The following events took place in Baku: (1) the 2023 SPECA Economic Forum on "Transforming the SPECA Region into a Connectivity Hub with Global Outreach", which focused on the increased significance of connectivity, in the face of new challenges, in the Trans-Caspian International Transport Corridor (Middle Corridor) between Europe and China ([November 21-22](#)); (2) first Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the SPECA participating States, the key topic of which was the regional transformation into a global logistics center connected to the rest of the world. The summit supported the creation of a Multilateral Trust Fund under the auspices of the UN. The [Baku Declaration](#) adopted at the summit underscores the high political commitment to sharing the region's enormous potential (November 24).

Source: [www.unescap.org](http://www.unescap.org), [www.unece.org](http://www.unece.org)

## 6.8. The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia



The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) is a special UN political mission established on the initiative of the five Governments of Central Asian in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in 2007 to support national authorities in identifying and addressing existing and potential threats to regional peace and security. In implementing its initiatives, UNRCCA interacts with regional and international organizations. The Centre began operations in 2008 and is led by a Special Representative of the Secretary General.

### Key priorities for 2021-2025

The current UNRCCA Programme of Action for 2021-2025 focuses on five key priority areas, which correspond to the Centre's mandate: (1) promoting preventive diplomacy among the Governments of Central Asia; (2) monitoring and early warning in support of conflict prevention; (3) building partnerships for prevention, including with regional and sub-regional organizations; (4) strengthening the United Nations preventive diplomacy in Central Asia; (5) encouraging cooperation and interaction between Central Asia and Afghanistan in close cooperation with the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

The "Strategy in support of cooperation between the states of Central Asia in the field of water, energy, environment and climate for 2022-2025" (hereinafter



referred to as the "Water Strategy") was adopted in 2021 with the active participation of all five CA states and focused on four main fields of activities, including: (1) preventive diplomacy and capacity building; (2) strengthening institutions and legal frameworks; (3) ensuring transparency, strengthening relationships and promoting partnerships; and (4) working on cross-cutting issues of the peace and security agenda.

### Activities in 2023

As part of "Water Strategy", UNRCCA organized: (1) an online meeting of experts from the Central Asian States on the situation in the region with the shared water-related resources, where the participants exchanged on the state of cooperation in water and environment sectors in the Aral Sea basin, including in such areas as rational use of water resources, mitigating implications of the climate change, and taking into account different external factors (December 7); (2) a capacity-building event on climate risks in CA and a meeting of national experts. The participants (1) discussed such topics as international best practices and the experience of the Central Asian states on mitigation of and adaptation to the climate risks and the outcomes of the UN Water Conference; (2) exchanged on recent developments in international water law and policy, including the recent decisions of the International Court of Justice in this field; (3) reviewed the Early Warning Bulletins on the state of transboundary water resources in the Aral Sea Basin.

A separate session was devoted to exchanges on challenges and opportunities to cooperation between Central Asia and Afghanistan in the field of water resources (Almaty, April 18-19).

The UNRCCA Preventive Diplomacy Academy, in cooperation with the British Embassy in Turkmenistan, organized a training session for the participants and graduates from the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan on the topic of "Climate Change". The purpose of the training session was to raise awareness among youth about climate change's impact on people's stability and security, as well as about the possible participation of young people in processes to overcome this challenge. Participants gained an understanding of the linkages between climate change and conflicts and became familiar with international regulatory mechanisms based on the UNFCCC and learned in more detail about the annual Youth Conference, which is a negotiating platform for young activists in climate change (Ashgabat, September 5).

UNRCCA has published a brochure entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia: 15 years of engagement in the region" on the occasion of its fifteenth anniversary. In cooperation with SIC ICWC, it published four Aral Sea Basin Transboundary Water Early Warning Bulletins.

Source: <https://unrcca.unmissions.org/ru>

## 6.9. World Meteorological Organization

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It was established in 1950.

It is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behavior of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans. WMO celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023.

### Activities in 2023

76<sup>th</sup> session of WMO Executive Council session was held in Geneva on February 27-March 3. The session discussed the community resilience to extreme weather, climate and water-related events and considered an initiative on the creation of an international greenhouse gas monitoring infrastructure.

WMO has approved new top strategic priorities to guide it through the next four years, including: (1) enhancing preparedness and reducing loss of life, critical infrastructure and livelihood from hydrometeorological extremes; (2) supporting climate-smart decision-making to build or enhance adaptive capacity or resilience to climate risk; (3) enhancing socioeconomic value of weather, climate, hydrological and related environmental services.



**WORLD  
METEOROLOGICAL  
ORGANIZATION**

WMO in partnership with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Netherlands Red Cross, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) has launched a new initiative "From satellites to sandbags: water at the heart of climate action" (September).

**WMO publications.** Report "2022 Year in Review: Climate-driven Global Renewable Energy Potential Resources and Energy Demand" (jointly with IRENA), WMO Airborne Dust Bulletin. For other publications, please, see <https://library.wmo.int/>.

Source: [www.wmo.int](http://www.wmo.int)

## 6.10. International Fund for Agricultural Development



The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a multilateral financial institution established in 1977. It mobilizes resources to eliminate malnutrition and improve agricultural productivity and incomes for rural poor in developing countries.

It provides direct financing in the form of loans and grants, attracts additional resources to implement projects and programs. Currently it has a number of ongoing projects in Central Asia.

### Activities in 2023

#### Kyrgyzstan

Since 1993, IFAD has invested US\$ 129 million in rural development in Kyrgyzstan, including: assistance in reducing poverty and increasing economic growth in pastoralist communities.

In 2023, the IFAD country strategy and program [evaluation](#) was conducted. The main findings included: (1) IFAD's interventions in support of pasture management and veterinary services have been comprehensive, encompassing policy and legislative framework and field level; (2) interventions produced important results, including improved and more equal access to pastures (e.g. remote pastures), improved veterinary services and disease control; (3) interventions incorporated numerous innovations, mostly around pasture governance and private veterinary services (e.g. various practices and approaches relating to community-based pasture management, bringing in youth from disadvantaged households in areas lacking veterinarians on scholarship).

However, pasture improvement and sustainable management received less attention than expansion of accessible pastures, a poverty focus was generally weak, an insufficient attention was paid to gender aspects and private sector involvement. Finally, it was recommended to strengthen the identified weaknesses.

The [Access to Markets Project](#) (2016-2024, IFAD contribution – \$21.17 million) aimed to raise incomes and enhance economic growth in Kyrgyzstan's pastoralist communities continued in 2023.

IFAD allocated \$31.28 million for farming communities development under the Regional Resilient Pastoral

Communities Project (\$65.22 million, 2021-2026). About 557,000 household are expected to benefit directly from the project.

#### Tajikistan

The total amount of IFAD funding in Tajikistan is \$115.16 million. The organization's activities are based on the [program](#) titled "Strategic Opportunities of the Country for 2019-2024". The Program is aimed at reducing rural poverty and strengthening national food security in rural areas of Tajikistan. This is to be addressed under two strategic goals: (1) promoting inclusive agriculture-based economic growth in poor rural communities; and (2) increasing the resilience of smallholder producers to climate change.

The Community-based Agricultural Support Project 'plus' (2021-2030, IFAD contribution – \$37.85 million) continued in 2023. The project aims to increase resilience of ecosystems and adaptation of livelihoods in rural areas affected by climate change, for an estimated 100,000 rural households (650,000 individuals) in 21 of the most climate vulnerable districts of the country.

#### Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan joined to IFAD in 2011. The total IFAD funding in Uzbekistan amounts to \$166.5 million. IFAD in its activities in Uzbekistan is guided by the [Country strategic opportunities programme 2023-2027](#), aimed to sustainably increase rural prosperity and improve livelihoods of small-scale producers. Three strategic objectives underpin the programme: (1) increased resilience and productivity of small-scale producers; (2) improved access for small-scale producers to viable food systems and agricultural markets; (3) enhanced enabling environment for inclusive rural transformation.

The [Agriculture Diversification and Modernization Project](#) (2017-2025, IFAD contribution – \$93.5 million) is implemented in Andizhan, Fergana and Namangan provinces of Uzbekistan. Target groups include rural low-income households on Dekhan farms, small private horticulture and livestock farmers, and agribusinesses. Special attention is paid to ensure the participation of women-headed Dekhan and private farming households as well as rural youth.

Source: [www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)

## 6.11. UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It coordinates international cooperation in these areas. Established in 1945, it includes 193 member-states. UNESCO's programs contribute to the achievement of the SDGs defined in the Agenda 2030. Key areas of activity include the following five program sectors: education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information.

### Activities in 2023

**Events.** At the UN 2023 Water Conference, UNESCO was a partner in [26 side events](#) taking place in parallel to the official conference programme. These side events were organized by member states with various United Nations agencies and other stakeholders and contributed directly to the conference's outcomes through the following streams: (1) raising the profile of science through the support of a [science-based global water assessment](#); (2) raising the profile of [groundwater and cooperation](#); (3) [filling the gap in capacity](#); (4) mainstreaming [gender equality in water management](#), etc.

During the COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates UNESCO organized a series of events, in particular: (1) Cryosphere Changes Impacts and Adaptation in Central Asia: Case Studies from UNESCO Activities ([December 5](#)); (2) Towards the Implementation of the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation and Glacier Day, 2025 and beyond ([December 5](#)); (3) Scaling Up: Systems Approaches for Climate and Water Management, in partnership with ADB and WB ([December 8](#)).

**Publications.** (1) The 2023 United Nations [World Water Development Report](#) on Partnerships and Cooperation assesses the nature and role of partnerships and cooperation among stakeholders in water resources management and development and their role in accelerating progress towards water goals and targets. Report has been produced by UNESCO's World Water Assessment Programme on behalf of UN-Water, a grouping of more than 30 United Nations agencies; (2) The Water, Energy, and Food Security Nexus in Asia and Pacific: this three-volume, open-access book series introduces the complex links



between water, energy, and food security in the three sub-regions of Central and South Asia, East and Southeast Asia and the Pacific. By bringing together inputs from the world's leading thinkers, experts, practitioners and researchers, each volume explores some future scenarios and recommends approaches to best deal with future challenges; (3) [River Culture. Life as a dance to the rhythm of the waters](#) – a collection of interdisciplinary studies by more than 120 authors from river systems all over the world, exploring overarching issues on river management in the Anthropocene.

### UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty

**Projects.** A new regional [project](#) "Strengthening the resilience of Central Asian countries by enabling regional cooperation to assess high altitude glacio-nival systems to develop integrated methods for sustainable development and adaptation to climate change" was launched in July 2023. The project aims to strengthen the adaptation capacity of five Central Asian countries to climate change impacts on the cryosphere through assessment, promotion of regional cooperation, and stakeholder engagement.

As part of the "Reducing vulnerabilities of populations in Central Asia from glacier lake outburst floods in a changing climate" ([GLOFCA](#)) Project, a Glacial Lake Inventory (GLI) toolbox for mapping and monitoring of glacial lakes in Central Asia was developed. The GLI toolbox offers the possibility to monitor temporal lake changes in an automated way, and the detected lake outlines can be exported as shape files. The toolbox was presented to the countries during a face-to-face training in Almaty in November 2022, followed by a series of webinars in May 2023. The training series gave national partners the opportunity to use the toolbox in practice.

Source: [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org), [www.en.unesco.kz](http://www.en.unesco.kz)

## 6.12. Food and Agriculture Organization

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was established in 1945. FAO's work globally and in the Europe and Central Asia region is guided by the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031. FAO's Strategic Framework seeks to support the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**



for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind.

### FAO Activities in CA States in 2023

**The informal consultation for Europe and Central Asia** provides a platform on which the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and Members can interact, facilitating consultation on key issues in the region. The main purpose of the [informal consultation](#) in 2023 is defining the FAO priorities for the Europe and Central Asia Region for 2024-2025, which will be presented for endorsement at the 34<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) in 2024.

The Consultation aims at facilitating an exchange of views among all Members of the Europe and Central Asia region considering also the challenges from the multiple crisis the region is facing.

### Kazakhstan

#### Ongoing projects:

(1) Elaboration of the 2022-2026 State Program (including the Concept) of Agro-Industrial Development (\$370,000, 2020-2023);

(2) Contribution to development and further scaling up of healthy nutrition (\$465,000, 2023-2025);

(3) Strengthening the Statistical System on Accounting for the Production of Agri-Food Products (\$75,000, 2023-2024);

(4) Kazakhstan Resilient Agroforestry and Rangeland Project (\$1.9 million, 2023-2027);

(5) Promoting the development of land market and supporting the development of small family farms (\$275,000, 2022-2023);

(6) Supporting investments in smallholders inclusive agrifood value chain development in Kazakhstan (\$474,400, 2020-2023), during which a study tour was organized to Hungary to address the complex challenges faced by rural communities, smallholders, and family farmers in Eastern Europe and Central Asia; the tour included participation in the third Regional Workshop on Integrated Community Development ([June 6-8](#)).

FAO Kazakhstan held an international seminar on the development of an international agri-food hub in Kazakhstan where representatives of the Ministry of Trade and Integration, the Ministry of Agriculture, QazTrade JSC, and industry experts from the Netherlands, America and Tanzania have participated. During the meeting, overall outcomes of case studies on agri-food hubs activities in Africa, the Netherlands and the USA were presented, conclusions and recommendations for Kazakhstan on the development of a cross-border agri-food hub based on international experience were discussed ([December 26](#)).

### Kyrgyzstan

#### Ongoing projects:

(1) Support for development of sustainable value chains for climate-smart agriculture (\$ 350,000, 2021-2023);

(2) Promoting accelerated green investment in agriculture through capacity building of national financial institutions (\$ 300,000, 2021-2023);

(3) Strengthening capacities of public and private sector for regulation, certification and marketing of organic products (\$ 300,000, 2022-2024);

(4) Support to revision of the Land Code and to development of agricultural land markets (\$ 50,000, 2022-2023);

(5) Carbon Sequestration through Climate Investment in Forests and Rangelands (\$30 million, 2022-2030);

(6) Introduction and promotion of innovative approaches for adopting best technologies for horticulture (\$175,000, 2023-2025).

Within the framework of the FAO project "Enhancing the Capacity for Food Safety Management in the Fruit and Vegetable Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic", trainings were conducted on food safety in the fruit and vegetable sector for entrepreneurs in the Osh, Batken, Jalal-Abad, Chu and Issyk-Kul province of Kyrgyzstan during three-months (Bishkek, [July-September](#)).

The training workshop was organized on food security issues, including food availability and quality, agricultural insurance, salt reduction, elimination of trans-fats, and other nutrition problems for Deputies and Employees of the Office of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic (Bishkek, [December 1](#)).

### Tajikistan

#### Ongoing projects:

(1) Support of warm-water fishery sector (\$95,000, 2021-2023);

(2) Introduce innovative approaches for adopting best technologies for apricot production in Sughd (\$92,000, 2021-2023);

(3) Provision of Technical Assistance on E-agriculture to the Ministry of Agriculture" (\$90,000, 2021-2023);

(4) Support to export increase of agri-food products through green development and enhanced market access (\$88,000, 2022-2024);

(5) Strengthening capacity on promotion of conservation agriculture among farms at Romit Reserve (\$33,000, 2022-2023);

(6) Support to agricultural sector reform and improvement of the investment climate (\$95,000, 2022-2023);

(7) Cooperative development and strengthening of rural institutions under the Agrarian Reform Programme (\$96,000, 2022-2023);

(8) Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector Project (\$2.4 million, 2022-2036);

(9) Facilitating agrobiodiversity (ABD) conservation and sustainable use to promote food and nutritional resilience in Tajikistan (\$1.7 million, 2022-2025);

(10) Strengthening the capacity of the Republic of Tajikistan to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement (\$1.8 million, 2023-2026).

A National Stakeholder Validation Workshop on the Formulation of a Strategic Roadmap for Food Loss and Waste Reduction was organized in Dushanbe on [April 18](#). The workshop discussed and validated the strategic roadmap based on the participants' recommendations and the results of the FLW analysis.

FAO assisted in [launching](#) the national working group of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) to prepare a proposal to nominate Tajikistan areas for the GIAHS initiative.

## Turkmenistan

### Ongoing projects:

(1) Development of aquafeed value chain and aquatic animal health management capacity (\$120,000, 2023-2025);

(2) Developing digital solutions for sustainable pasture management (\$100,000, 2023-2025);

(3) Enhancing Capacities for Climate-Resilient Water Management (\$150,000, 2023-2025);

(4) Support to the establishment of digital Land Cadastre (\$300,000, 2023-2024);

(5) Improving the capacity of Turkmenistan to access climate finance through capacity building and strategic frameworks (\$642,825, 2023-2025);

(6) Strengthening the capacity of Turkmenistan to comply with the ETF under the Paris Agreement (\$50,000, 2023-2024).

Experts from the FAO Geospatial Unit conducted three online training sessions on the use of remote sensing to aid in the identification and mapping of crops to enhance more accurate data collection and analysis, leading to improved decision-making and resource management. The sessions were attended by a mixed audience of specialists from the Land Resources Service, central and regional offices, representatives of the Turkmen Agricultural University of S.A. Nyýazow, researchers, and land surveyors from the State Design Institute "Türkmenyertaslama" (June 7-9, online).

An ongoing FAO-GEF project on integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey established nurseries with drip irrigation systems in Dashoguz, developed a sustainable pasture management plan in Ahal and delivered equipment to combat drought and salinity in Nohur.

## Uzbekistan

### Ongoing projects:

(1) Preparing the grounds for digital transformation of agriculture (\$315,000, 2022-2023), within the framework of which, a National Digital Agriculture Program was developed;

(2) Support to country program development on sustainable agriculture (\$50,000, 2022-2023);

(3) Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program (\$6 million, 2022-2026,);

(4) Capacity-building to establish an integrated and enhanced transparency framework in Uzbekistan to track the national climate actions and support measures received (\$1.3 million, 2022-2025);

(5) Multi-faceted response to the food and energy emergency in Uzbekistan (\$80,000, 2022);

(6) Support for development of the Sustainable Agriculture Mechanization Strategy (\$140,000, 2023-2025);

(7) Technical Assistance for Sound Management of Hazardous Chemicals (\$4.3 million, 2023-2027);

(8) Sustainable forest and rangelands management in the dryland ecosystems of Uzbekistan (\$3.8 million, 2022-2026);

(9) Empowering youth towards a brighter future through green and innovative development of the Aral Sea region (\$231,000, 2022-2023).

A workshop was organized as part of implementation of the regional project "Enhancing agricultural land market development to address land abandonment and improve land consolidation procedures" funded from the FAO-Türkiye Partnership Programme on Food and Agriculture (FTPP II). The event presented the findings and recommendations from a prepared assessment report and policy recommendations related to land administration, land market development and land reform in Uzbekistan ([December 6](#)).

The "Digital Villages Camp", a skill development program designed for young talents of the Fergana Valley has been [launched](#) in Uzbekistan. This innovative initiative aims to introduce participants to the fundamentals of internet of things (IoT) for smart farming, offering a unique learning experience tailored to individuals between the ages of 16 and 30. Out of 90 applicants, 25 promising individuals were selected.

Over the course of five weeks of the camp, students will gain the necessary knowledge and hands-on experience required for programming IoT devices, leveraging open source solutions and devising smart

solutions – sensors for greenhouses and homestead plots.

Source: FAO in Europe and Central Asia 2023 Report, [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

## 6.13. International Law Commission

The International Law Commission (ILC) is a subsidiary body of UNGA, consisting of thirty-four members of recognized competence in international law, who sit in their individual capacity and not as representatives of their governments. The task of ILC is encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification. It was established in 1947. The Commission has no representatives of the Central Asian states in its composition.

During the 74<sup>th</sup> session of ILC in 2023, reports were presented on the following topics: succession of States in respect of State responsibility, general principles of law, sea-level rise in relation to international law, settlement of disputes to which international organizations are parties, prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea, and other issues.

On the subject of sea-level rise in relation to international law, ILC underlined the fundamental importance of the principle that “the land dominates the sea”. It was noted that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea allocated sovereign rights and maritime zones based on the size and form of their adjacent coastal territorial land. At the same time, some delegations considered that the application of the principle that “the land dominates the sea” in the context of sea-level rise was not absolute. It was noted that the right of peoples to self-determination

was closely linked with sovereignty over natural resources; the importance of further exploring the issue of territories submerged owing to sea-level rise and, in particular, their legal status was stressed. In this context, the Commission looks forward to the Study Group's work on the subtopics of statehood and protection of persons affected by sea-level rise, as well as to the consolidated results of work on the topic in a final substantive report.

On the subject of prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea, the first report of the Special Rapporteur (A/CN.4/758) and the memorandum prepared by the Secretariat concerning the topic (A/CN.4/757) were presented. It was acknowledged that piracy and armed robbery at sea continued to pose serious threats to international maritime security. The potential for the work of the Commission to contribute to enhanced international cooperation with respect to the prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea was highlighted. Several delegations expressed support for the approach the Commission had taken toward the topic. A number of delegations agreed with the Commission that its work should not duplicate existing frameworks and academic studies but should rather aim at identifying new issues of common concern.

Source: 2023 ILC Report

## 6.14. International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. It was established in 1945. It delivers judicial and advisory functions. No judges from Central Asia sit in the International Court. Cases submitted to the Court involve a wide variety of subject matters: territorial and maritime disputes; consular rights; human rights; environmental damage and conservation of living resources; international responsibility and compensation for harm; the immunities of States, their representatives and assets; interpretation and application of international treaties and conventions.

In 2023, the Court's list of cases included two cases directly related to water disputes – the Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros project (Hungary/Slovakia) and dispute

over the status and use of the waters of the Silala (Chile v. Bolivia). For the nature of the case and proceedings on Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros project (Hungary/Slovakia), see the ICJ report.

### **Obligations of states in respect of climate change:**

The General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 77/276<sup>231</sup> requested the Court to give an advisory opinion proceeding from the principle of prevention of significant harm to the environment and the duty to protect and preserve the marine environment on the following questions:

a) what are the obligations of States under international law to ensure the protection of the climate system and other parts of the environment from anthropo-

<sup>231</sup> 64<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting on March 29, 2023



genic emissions of greenhouse gases for States and for present and future generations;

b) what are the legal consequences under these obligations for States where they, by their acts and omissions, have caused significant harm to the climate system and other parts of the environment, with respect to: (i) States, including, in particular, small island developing States, which due to their geographical circumstances and level of development, are injured or specially affected by or are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change? (ii) Peoples and individuals of the present and future generations affected by the adverse effects of climate change?

By an order dated 20 April 2023, the President of the Court decided that the United Nations and its Member States were likely to be able to furnish information on the questions submitted to the Court for an advisory opinion. The Court subsequently authorized the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law, the European Union and the African Union to participate in the proceedings by presenting written statements on the questions submitted to the Court.

[Source: Report](#) of the International Court of Justice to the UNGA 78<sup>th</sup> Session, 2023, ICJ [Press releases](#)

