

SECTION

6

United Nations  
and Its Specialized  
Agencies

## 6.1. General Assembly



79<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.

On September 10, the UN General Assembly opened its 79th session under the presidency of H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang of Cameroon in New York. The session was guided by the motto: "Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development and human dignity for present and future generations".

The main event of this year's GA was the Summit of the Future (22-23 September), which resulted in the adoption of the "Pact for the Future". The Pact, which includes the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations, is the outcome of a multi-year, inclusive process aimed at adapting international cooperation to contemporary realities and future challenges. It focuses on key issues, which will shape the future of humanity, including sustainable development, international peace and security, science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation, youth and future generations, and transforming global governance.

### Statements from Central Asia countries at the general debate of the UNGA 79th Session

#### Statement by the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan



*"The plight of millions of conflict victims worldwide, across the Middle East, Eastern Europe and parts of Africa, deserve immediate, decisive and collective action. But the UN Security Council's decision-making process is paralyzed"*

**Need for global reforms and strengthened cooperation.** "Having annual discussions about reforming global institutions is no longer enough. It is time to enact the change our world so desperately needs", Mr. M. Nurtleu said. He reminded that last year, from this podium, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev introduced the Initiative of World Unity for a Just Peace and Harmony. "The voices of Middle Powers and developing nations are vital in bridging divides and nurturing a more effective international security architecture", the Minister underlined.

**Escalating rhetoric of nuclear threats.** The Minister noted that the pressing risk of another nuclear arms race

is exacerbating geopolitical polarization. "Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are key pillars of my country's foreign policy. Kazakhstan is therefore deeply concerned by the escalating rhetoric of nuclear threats. We appeal to all nuclear states to adhere to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", Mr. M. Nurtleu said, adding: "I also urge those countries who have not joined the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) to do so as soon as possible for the safety".

**Existential threat of climate change.** Another existential threat no nation can afford to ignore is climate change. The Minister called on G-20 countries and multilateral development banks to provide green technologies and concessional financing to low- and middle-income countries in line with the Paris Agreement. "Our region stands on the frontline of global warming despite accounting for only 1% of global emissions. Central Asia will face an above average 2.5°C increase in temperatures by 2050", the Minister noted. He reminded that Kazakhstan will host a Regional Climate Summit in 2026.

**Lack of access to safe water.** One of the consequences of climate change is water scarcity across the world. "One in four people today lacks access to safe drinking water. If this trend continues, by 2050 more than 5 billion could suffer water shortages", the Minister noted. "In Central Asia by that time water deficiency will affect 25 to 30% of the population", the Minister added. He said that as the current Chair of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, Kazakhstan is working with regional partners on a long-term and sustainable cooperation mechanism

for the effective use of water and energy resources in Central Asia.

**Land-locked countries.** As the largest landlocked country, Kazakhstan actively promotes the interests of all LLDC countries. “Despite significant strides, we are still far from implementing the Vienna Program of Action. We are lagging on critical indicators – particularly the adoption of innovative technologies for trade facilitation and the development of transit and transport corridors”, Mr. M.Nurtleu said. He reminded that Kazakhstan is already a bridge for 80% of overland transit cargo traffic between Asia and Europe. “Kazakhstan is committed to strengthening synergies between the Belt and Road project, the Global Gateway Initiative, and the North-South and Trans Caspian International Transport Route corridors”, Mr. M.Nurtleu noted.

**Development of Afghanistan.** According to the Minister, today’s regional agenda also includes the development of Afghanistan into a stable and predictable state, a reliable trade partner. “In this con-

text, the UN Regional Centre on Sustainable Development for Central Asia and Afghanistan in Almaty will be a game-changer for coordinated SDG delivery”, Mr. M.Nurtleu said.

**Upholding human rights.** The Minister spoke on importance of upholding human rights and noted that safeguarding women’s rights and ensuring children’s safety are top priorities of Kazakhstan. “Being one of the champions of repatriation of women and children from conflict zones in the Middle East, Kazakhstan will host an International Conference in 2025 on best practices in the field of repatriation and reintegration”, he added.

*Statement summary:*

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/79/kazakhstan>

*Full version:*

[https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/79/kz\\_en.pdf](https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/79/kz_en.pdf)

*Video:* <https://gadebate.un.org/ru/79/kazakhstan>

## Statement by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic

### Unprecedented spending on military needs and call for resources to be redirected to global challenges.

The President provided data of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute: global military spending in 2023 increased by 6.8% and reached a record level of US\$2.5 trillion per year, or 2.3% of global GDP, the highest amount in decades. The Head of the State underlined that wars and armed conflicts only exacerbate poverty and inequality. “We must ensure that the money that are allocated to wars, destruction, death, could go to creation or to solving global challenges for all of humanity, to help countries in their fight against climate change, to prevent mass displacement and global migration”, Mr. S.Zhaparov stated.

### Lack of progress in supporting poor countries.

The Head of State noted that economic inequality continues to rise. “World leaders have been talking for decades about the need to eliminate poverty, but there is always a lack of willpower. Countries in Africa, South Asia and Latin America continue to face chronic underfunding and a lack of support from the international community”, he stated. The President added that the countries at the very bottom of the economic pyramid need investment in healthcare, education, infrastructure and climate change mitigation.

### Cooperation of reach and least developed countries.

“The world faces an important choice. We can continue increasing arms, seeking security through military power, or we can choose the path of sustainable development aimed at eradicating poverty and supporting the most vulnerable”, Mr. S.Zhaparov said. He called on developed countries not only to increase the financial assistance to least developed



*“Leading powers are spending huge amounts of money on creating and developing armed forces, increasing arsenals and developing new, more destructive types of weapons. Unfortunately, this is happening in a world where many nations and peoples still do not have access to basic services – water, medical care, education”*

countries, but also to make it targeted, focusing on infrastructure projects and social development. Least developed countries should actively be involved in international initiatives on sustainable development and commit to the efficient use of the provided resources.

**Climate change.** Mr. S.Zhaparov reminded that one of the most dangerous challenges threatening the very existence of our planet is climate change. “Kyrgyzstan faces a triple challenge - the need to invest in development, reduce poverty and adapt to climate change to achieve carbon neutrality”, the Head of the State underlined. “Each of these areas

requires special financing, especially in the context of ensuring climate resilience for our country and vulnerable communities. We are determined to succeed by working together with our partners", he added.

The Kyrgyz Republic pays special attention to climate issues in the implementation of its national policy and sets an ambitious goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. "More than 95% of our energy is produced mainly by HPPs, which are the main driver towards achieving the goal of zero emissions", the President noted. He also stated that the country began construction of a modern and innovative city "Asman"

on the shores of Lake Issyk-Kul, and the construction of another green city is planned for 2026 in the city of Kemin. Mr. S.Zhapparov also stated that the Kyrgyz Republic supports the UN Secretary-General's position on the need to reform the international financial architecture and reduce the debt burden for developing countries.

*Statement summary:*

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/79/kyrgyzstan>

*Full version:* [kg\\_en.pdf](#)

*Video:* <https://gadebate.un.org/ru/79/kyrgyzstan>

## Statement by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan



*"The controversial geopolitical processes, rapid weaponization, conflicts and aftermath of climate change will undoubtedly give rise to the long-term negative consequences. We need to consolidate joint efforts of the international community to protect security, maintain stability and ensure sustainable development"*

**Development is at risk.** The President of Tajikistan noted that achieving the SDGs is under threat. "We are witnessing the setbacks in results achieved within the SDGs in many developing countries. In view of this, we need to intensify our efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in a timely manner and pay particular attention to the financing for sustainable development", the President stated. "Necessarily, the activities of the international financial and economic system should meet the needs of developing countries so that it can facilitate the timely counterresponse of member states to modern threats and challenges", Mr. E. Rakhmon added. He highlighted the importance to continue financing countries in need by international financial institutions, especially through the International Development Association.

**Digital technologies and artificial intelligence.** The Head of State underlined that digital technologies and artificial intelligence pave suitable ways for achieving the SDGs. "Tajikistan is taking measures for the gradual transition to digitalization by adopting a national strategy and relevant legal acts", he stated. "In this

context, I propose to the General Assembly to adopt at its upcoming session a Special Resolution on the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Creating New Opportunities for Socio-Economic Development", the President added.

**Fight against terrorism and rise of Islamophobia.** The Head of Tajikistan stated that the international community must take joint and effective actions to withstand the threats of terrorism and extremism, radicalism, cybercrime, trafficking in narcotics and weapons smuggling. Mr. E. Rakhmon noted that Tajikistan constantly carries out joint actions in cooperation with the UN and other international partners to counter security threats and challenges.

**Afghanistan.** The President called for establishing peace and stability in neighboring Afghanistan and expressed readiness to assist in the development of peaceful life in this country. Mr. E. Rakhmon also called on the international community to spare no effort to help the people of Afghanistan, including regions affected by natural disasters, to prevent a humanitarian crisis in this country.

**Climate change and glaciers melting.** The President of Tajikistan recalled that climate change is causing the accelerated melting of glaciers and the reduction of river water volume in different parts of the world, including Central Asia. "To date, more than 1,000 out of 14,000 of Tajikistan's glaciers, which are the main source of drinking water in the region, have completely melted, and the pace of their melting is dramatically increasing. This is despite the fact that precipitation and glaciers of Tajikistan make up to 60% of the source of water in Central Asia", he added.

On the initiative of Tajikistan, the UN has proclaimed 2025 the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation. According to the President, this creates a "favorable foundation" for developing international cooperation in this area. The President also highlighted that the country currently generates 98% of its electricity from hydropower, ranking it 6th in the world for the share of green energy produced from renewable sources. The President of Tajikistan identified adapting to climate

change and combating its negative consequences as one of the global community's top priorities. "We are convinced that the international community succeeds to achieve its common goals and objectives through the development of trustful dialogue, mutual understanding and constructive cooperation", he stated.

*Statement summary:*

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/79/tajikistan>

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*Video:* <https://gadebate.un.org/ru/79/tajikistan>

## Statement by the Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan

**Neutrality and peace.** Mr. R. Meredov highlighted that next year Turkmenistan will celebrate 30th Anniversary of the UN General Assembly's resolution on international recognition of neutral status of Turkmenistan and called to provide neutral countries the status of priority partnership with the UN in its peace-keeping efforts. The Minister highlighted Turkmenistan's leadership in preparation to the year 2025 declared as the International Year of Peace and Trust.

**Solidarity for Afghanistan.** Mr. Meredov stressed the role of Turkmenistan in supporting reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. He mentioned major infrastructure projects such as the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline, and the construction of power transmission and fiber-optic communication lines and railways. In addition, the Minister noted the assistance that his country provides to Afghanistan, including construction of social facilities and education of Afghan students in Turkmenistan.

**SDGs.** Mr. R. Meredov called on the global society to support a number of specific initiatives from Turkmenistan. Those include the Global Framework Program for the transition to a circular economy, Global Atlas of Sustainable Transport Connectivity, and the Alliance for Global Energy Security and Sustainable Development. Minister stressed the commitment of Turkmenistan to overcoming humanitarian crises, protecting motherhood and children, and safeguarding the rights of refugees and stateless persons. Currently more than 32 thousand people, including refugees and stateless persons, have been granted Turkmenistan citizenship.

**Environmental protection.** The Foreign Minister advocated for more active and extensive UN involvement in saving the Aral Sea and mentioned Turkmenistan's recent initiatives, including on creating UN Special Program for the Aral Sea Basin. He also called to take comprehensive measures to address desertification and water challenges in the region. According to



*"In addressing the global climate agenda, Turkmenistan will be focusing on protection of the natural environment in Central Asia and the Caspian Sea region"*

Mr. R. Meredov, another topic has gone far beyond regional borders is the Caspian Sea issue. He emphasized the need for global cooperation to protect the unique Caspian ecosystem proposing the Caspian Environmental Initiative as a platform for dialogue with international partners.

**Global challenges.** In his concluding remarks, Mr. R. Meredov voiced his confidence in the UN and its immense capacity to secure global peace, security, and sustainable development. "Turkmenistan will continue contributing to addressing global challenges for the future of the world", the Minister stated.

*Statement summary:*

<https://gadebate.un.org/en/79/turkmenistan>

*Full version:*

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*Video:* <https://youtu.be/iQDV3bS8-2U>

## Statement by the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**Climate change consequences.** According to Foreign Minister, water availability per capita in Central Asia has halved over the past few decades. The Aral Sea disaster continues having an extremely negative impact on ecosystems in all states in the region. "We call on the international donor community to expand projects in the Aral Sea region to

mitigate the devastating consequences of this disaster", he continued and recalled that the Aral Sea became the first region in the world to be granted by the UN the status of a Zone of Environmental Innovation and Technology. "Our advanced experience could benefit other countries facing similar problems", Mr. B. Saidov added.



*"The air temperature in Central Asia is rising faster than the global average. This creates a wide range of problems, which pose serious risks to food and energy security"*

**Global challenges and the role of the UN.** The Uzbek Foreign Minister stated that wars and conflicts, triple planetary climate crisis, worsened world economy and technological gap are affecting all countries without exception. In this context, he called to preserve the great potential of multilateral cooperation developed over decades within the UN and other international organizations. "We firmly believe that the United Nations must remain central in addressing the challenges of the 21st century", Mr. B.Saidov added.

**Actions at national level.** The Minister also highlighted that resolving global issues at the national level is crucial for maintaining stability and the well-being and prosperity of any country. "The consistent imple-

mentation of the SDGs has been identified by the President of our country as the cornerstone of Uzbekistan's state policy", Mr. B.Saidov stated. According to him, Uzbekistan has made significant progress in reducing poverty, improving public access to education, transitioning to a green economy, and promoting gender equality in recent years. "Our GDP has more than doubled, and the poverty rate has fallen to 11%", he added.

**Women's right.** The Minister noted that empowering women and girls is a key element of state policy. According to him, Uzbekistan has made notable progress in ensuring gender equality, ranking among the top five countries in this regard.

**Regional cooperation.** The Minister stated that Central Asia remains top priority in Uzbekistan's foreign policy. Today the region is firmly focused on connecting to major global markets and revitalizing the Great Silk Road.

**Afghanistan is an integral part of Central Asia.** "Unfortunately, the international community has been unable to take measures capable of reversing the challenging situation in this country", the Foreign Minister noted. According to him, Uzbekistan is pursuing a pragmatic policy towards Afghanistan. "We will continue contributing to Afghanistan's economic reconstruction and the development of its transport and energy infrastructure", Mr. B.Saidov added.

Full version: [https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/79/uz\\_en.pdf](https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/79/uz_en.pdf)

Video: <https://youtu.be/Ua8qu3OLIDk>

## Selected Resolutions on Water, Environment and Development Adopted by the UNGA 79th Session:

Sustainable Development: UNEP Report (A/79/437/Add.7); Zone of peace, trust and cooperation of Central Asia (A/79/L.1); Sustainable development: disaster risk reduction (A/79/437/Add.3); World Lake Day (A/79/L.39); Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/79/443); International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development (A/79/L.33); International Day of the Snow Leopard (A/79/L.40); Oceans and the law of the sea (A/79/L.37); Sustainable deve-

lopment: protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (A/79/437/Add.4); Sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity (A/79/437/Add.6); Sustainable development: Harmony with Nature (A/79/437/Add.8); Sustainable development: ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (A/79/437/Add.9); Sustainable development: combating sand and dust storms (A/79/437/Add.10); Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/79/443).

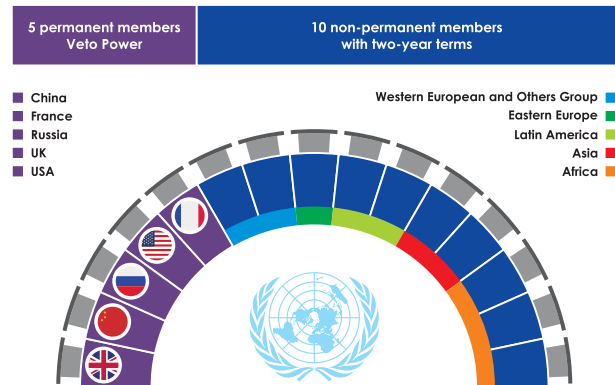


## 6.2. Security Council

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 2024 on climate and natural resources

SC organized: (1) *meeting* of the Informal Expert Group on Climate Change, Peace and Security, currently co-chaired by Mozambique and Switzerland, to discuss the implications of climate change on the security situation in West Africa and the Sahel ([January 26](#)); (2) *high-level open debate* on "The impact of [climate change](#) and food insecurity on the maintenance of international peace and security" chaired by Guyana to promote enhanced understanding, more coordinated responses, and proactive approaches to addressing the linkages between food insecurity and climate change in a peace and security context ([February 13](#)); (3) *Arria-formula meeting* on "Stepping up Preventive Action: From Environmental Challenges to Opportunities for



Peace" to highlight the interaction of environmental degradation and consequences of climate change with economic, social, political, and demographic factors. In this regard, the meeting explored climate-related security risks around the world, which are marked by loss of livelihoods, food and water insecurity, competition over scarce natural resources, human mobility and political and economic instability ([July 8](#)).

Source: Security Council

## 6.3. Secretariat

Each year, the Secretary-General reports on the work of the Organization, including priority areas of the UN's activity and future plans. The [2024 Report](#) highlights the work in the following key areas: (1) **sustainable development** (UN country teams led by resident coordinators work in 162 countries and territories to help to implement the 2030 Agenda); (2) **peace and security** (deployed 50 peacekeeping operations, special political missions, and support offices to prevent conflict and support peace building); (3) **development in Africa** (helped 54 countries to address development challenges and promote sustainable development and the implementation of 2063 Agenda); (4) **human rights** (facilitated assistance for 60,000 survivors of torture in 92 countries and 12,000+ survivors of contemporary forms of slavery); (5) **humanitarian assistance** (helped to mobilize \$23 billion to assist 128 million people across 74 countries and territories); (6) **justice and international law** (managed information on 648 multilateral treaties addressing matters of worldwide interest); (7) **disarmament** (channeled funds to 112 arms control-related projects benefiting 148 Member States); (8) **drugs, crime and terrorism** (trained 3,000+ criminal justice and counter-terrorism officials from 75 Member States and enhanced membership in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, with 182 States parties).

Source: UN



“ At every step, our Organization and our personnel will continue to stand in solidarity with the people of the world through these trying times, as we seek to forge a more peaceful, healthy, equal and prosperous future together ”

Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General

## 6.4. UN Development Program



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 2024

#### UNDP in Kazakhstan

UNDP is actively supporting Kazakhstan in fulfilling its commitments under the Paris Agreement, with a focus on expansion of green economy and sustainable management of natural resources.

**Completed projects:** (1) Leveraging Nationally Determined Contributions (2022-2024); (2) Development of Kazakhstan's 8th National Communication and Preparation of Two (4th and 5th) Biennial Reports (2019-2024); (3) Irrigation and drainage in South Kazakhstan, capacity building and awareness raising (2017-2024); (4) Assistance to the Republic of Kazakhstan in fulfilling international obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the carbon footprint of electricity suppliers for the leading technology company Bifury (2019-2024); (5) Regional SDG platform (2021-2024) – a Regional SDG Platform for Central Asia was officially launched; the final meeting of the project Steering Committee was held (June 25); (6) Sustainable forest management (2018-2024); (7) De-risking Renewable Energy Investment (2017-2024) – the results of the project were presented and recommendations were given on further implementation of financial and non-financial support mechanisms and new strategies were identified to be applied in the future (August 13, Astana).

**Ongoing projects:** (1) Attracting investors in the field of energy efficiency (2021-2026); (2) Supporting the Economic Empowerment of Afghan Women through Education and Training in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan (2019-2025); Promotion of sustainable food systems (2022-2027); Reintroducing of Turan tiger (2021-2025); 7th Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program (2022-2026).

**New projects:** (1) Umbrella Program to Support NBSAP<sup>245</sup>

Update and the 7th National Reports (2024-2027); (2) Climate Promise Kazakhstan – from pledge to impact (2024-2025); (3) Biodiversity Finance Initiative (2024-2030); (4) Integrating climate change adaptation into Kazakhstan's strategic planning (2024-2028); (5) Enhancing Urban Resilience to Disaster Risk and Climate Change in Central Asia (2024-2027) to enhance

urban resilience to climate-driven risks in Central Asia by utilizing regional collaborative mechanisms and national transformational strategies, fostering sustainable and resilient futures; (6) Promotion of sustainable food systems and improved ecosystems services in Northern Kazakhstan landscape (2024-2027) to test and pilot sustainable land use and ecosystem management approaches and practices at the landscape level for decision-making at the national and regional levels.

Source: [open.undp.org/projects](https://open.undp.org/projects), UNDP in Kazakhstan

#### 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 2024, UNDP Kyrgyzstan implemented project portfolio for \$18.5 million.

**Completed projects:** (1) National SDGs Acceleration Support Platform (2018-2024); (2) Reducing Risks and Vulnerabilities from Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) and mudslide in Kyrgyzstan through Strengthening the National Disaster Monitoring system and communities' adaptive capacity (2022-2024), which introduced a cutting-edge IT module designed for GLOF monitoring; the National Action Plan was developed, national disaster risk reduction capacity was strengthened, and adaptive potential of local communities was enhanced.

**Ongoing projects:** (1) UN Support for Strengthening Disaster Preparedness (2012-2025); (2) Integrated Community-based Management of High Value Mountain Ecosystems in Southern Kyrgyzstan for Multiple Benefits (2023-2028); (3) Capacity building in Environment (2018-2025); (4) Advancing development of a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process for medium and long-term adaptation planning and implementation in the Kyrgyz Republic (2020-2025) – a roundtable discussion on the interim results of the project, training for representatives of local media, and a series of interactive training seminars on "Assessment of Climate Risks and Vulnerability" and "Scenario Development" were held (January 16-26).

**New projects:** (1) Empowering Bishkek Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (2024-2025); (2) Biodiversity Finance Initiative (2024-2030); (3) Umbrella Program to

<sup>245</sup> National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan

### Support NBSAP Update and the 7th National Reports (2024-2027).

The “Climate Box” program was launched for school-children in Bishkek. This program offers students and educators interactive educational materials on climate change to help them understand climate issues and take defined actions to protect the environment.

As part of the Climate Change and Resilience in Central Asia project: (1) IT equipment was handed over to the Kyrgyz MES (April 11); (2) a two-day training workshop on “Capacity Building of Key Stakeholders and Decision Makers on Climate Change and the Water-Energy-Food Security and Health Nexus (NEXUS)” was conducted (June 30); (3) comprehensive infographics tailored for both adults and children, as well as a detailed map outlining climate change risks and hotspots were prepared for the Ferghana Valley of the Kyrgyz Republic.

### Adaptation to climate change in Kyrgyzstan



Sources: <https://open.undp.org>, UNDP in Kyrgyzstan

### UNDP in Tajikistan

UNDP as part of its 2023-2026 Country Program for Tajikistan renders assistance to achieve: (1) sustainable, inclusive, and green economic growth; (2) integrated management of climate and environmental risk and (3) people-centered governance and rule of law. In 2024, UNDP's project portfolio in Tajikistan totaled \$20.68 million.

**Completed projects:** (1) Improvement of Water Resources Management in Khatlon Province (2022-2024); (2) Technical Support to Tajikistan Water Sector Reform (2022-2024).

**Ongoing projects:** (1) Umbrella Program to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans (2023-2027); (2) Conservation and Sustainable Management of High-Value Arid Ecosystems in the Lower Amu Darya Basin (2023-2028); (3) Enabling an Effective National Adaptation Plan in Tajikistan (2020-2025); (4) Green Energy SME Development (2018-2025); (5) An integrated landscape approach to enhancing the climate resilience of small-scale farmers and pastoralists in Tajikistan (2019-2027).

**New projects:** (1) Preparation of the 1st Biennial Transparency Report and the combined 5th National Communication and 2nd Biennial Transparency Report of the Republic of Tajikistan under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC (2024-2028); (2) Support to Water Initiatives of Tajikistan (2024-2025); (3) Umbrella Program to Support NBSAP Update and the 7th National Reports (2024-2027).

Source: <https://open.undp.org>

### 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 2024, UNDP's project portfolio in Turkmenistan included 35 projects.

**Completed projects:** (1) Partnering for SDG acceleration phase II (2021-2024); (2) Sustainable Cities in Turkmenistan: Integrated Green Urban Development in Ashgabat and Awaza (2017-2024); the project activity included a number of trainings, including: a training for specialists of the Environmental Control Service laboratories and the velayat environmental protection departments of the Turkmen MEP (May 14-15, Ashgabat); series of events to promote energy efficiency in Turkmenistan with a training seminar “Studying international experience in the implementation of innovative technologies for energy efficiency in the electric power industry” and an International conference on “Prospects for the introduction of green innovative technologies for energy efficiency in the electric power industry of Turkmenistan” (March 13-20, Mary); a practical training aimed to support specialists of Turkmenistan in greenhouse gas inventory, including familiarization with the global platform on the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Program (April 3-5, Ashgabat).

**Ongoing projects:** (1) Strengthening national capacity on DRR Seismic Risk Assessment, prevention and respond to potential earthquakes and associated cascading emergencies (2018-2025); (2) Conservation and Sustainable Management of Land Resources and High Value Ecosystems in the Aral Sea Basin for Multiple Benefits (2021-2027) – LDN working group

was established to use technical capacities of the Scientific and Public Council on Desertification supported by Tebigi Kuvvat NGO; LDN baseline collection methodologies at the national level were elaborated; workshops were organized on the practical application of the LDN and effective water resource management in irrigated agriculture; (3) Developing a National Adaptation Planning Process in Turkmenistan (2021-2025) – project activities include a roundtable to present a database on priority technologies available for the future implementation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in the country; a joint workshop on “Strengthening Climate Resilience of the Water-energy-food-ecosystem Nexus in Turkmenistan and Central Asia”; a series of workshops for representatives of the private sector of Turkmenistan on the issues of climate risks and adaptation.

**New projects:** (1) Biodiversity Finance Plan Turkmenistan (2024-2028); (2) Partnering for SDG acceleration, Phase III (2024-2025) – assistance was rendered in the preparation of national reports on the progress of SDG in Turkmenistan, which will serve as a platform for the preparation of subsequent Voluntary National Reviews of Turkmenistan.

Sources: [open.undp.org/projects](https://open.undp.org/projects), UNDP in Turkmenistan

#### 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 programs to promote effective democratic governance, achieve inclusive and sustainable growth, sustain a clean environment, take action for the climate, and advocate for gender equality.

**Completed projects:** (1) Sustainable Development of Mountain Ecosystems (2017-2024); (2) Integrated Conservation Management and Restoration of High-Value Landscapes in Uzbekistan (2023-2024); (3) Development of sector-driven National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to advance medium and long-term climate change adaptation planning in Uzbekistan (2020-2024); (4) Leveraging NDCs to achieve net-zero emissions and climate-resilient development in response to the climate emergency (2022-2024).

**Ongoing projects:** (1) 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); (2) Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early War-

ning System to increase resilience of Uzbekistan communities to climate change-induced hazards (2021-2027); the National Framework for Hydrometeorological and Climatic Services was first developed; (3) Enhancing the resilience of the local population and promoting the green, inclusive development of the most vulnerable communities in the Aral Sea region (2022-2026) – 1,562 people have got access to clean drinking water in project areas; (4) Conservation and sustainable management of lakes, wetlands, and riparian corridors as pillars of a resilient Aral basin landscape supporting sustainable livelihoods (2022-2026); (5) Supporting Self-reliance through Climate-resilient Agriculture in the Aral Sea Region (2023-2025) – a delegation of government officials, UNDP representatives, and key stakeholders from Uzbekistan undertook a technical study tour to Japan to learn from its advanced agricultural technologies, water management practices, and sustainable development initiatives to address the challenges faced by communities in the Aral Sea region (October 8-15, Japan).

**New projects:** (1) Biodiversity Finance Initiative – Phase II (BIOFIN Uzbekistan) (2024-2030); (2) Building knowledge and skills of local partners and communities to address environmental insecurities through innovative air, land, and water management solutions in the Aral Sea Region (2024-2025); (3) Support to Financing Green Development in Uzbekistan (2024-2026).

As part of the EU-funded regional project “Climate Change and Resilience in Central Asia”, workshops were organized on: (1) transboundary water cooperation: identifying tasks on the way to expanding cooperation using the example of the Fergana Valley (March 26, Fergana); (2) building resilience to climate change through nature-based solutions (April 18-19, Namangan); (3) exchanging experience on and discussing transboundary water management in Central and South Asia (June 27, Fergana).

As part of the “Climate Education to Promote SDGs and Climate Action” and “Eco-Schools Uzbekistan” projects, a national workshop was launched for teachers (May 2, Green University) to train teachers on the use of the updated “Climate Box” Educational Kit in the educational process. The Climate Box gives access to learning materials in 13 languages and an interactive space for teachers and school education experts.

Sources: [open.undp.org/projects](https://open.undp.org/projects), UNDP in Uzbekistan

## 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.

### UN-Water Activities in 2024

At the special “SDG 6 and Water Agenda” event of the UN High-Level Political Forum, the first-ever [UN System Wide Strategy \(SWS\)](#) on water and sanitation was presented (July 16, New York). The strategy is intended to provide a comprehensive approach for United Nations entities with a mandate which includes themes related to water and sanitation to work collaboratively – not as a sector in a ‘silo’, but holistically to address the interrelated cross-sectoral aspects of water and sanitation. The SWS is structured around five points of entry: *leading and inspiring collective action on water and sanitation, leveraging unified support as a UN system at country level, integration of water and sanitation issues across sectors, acceleration mechanisms for SDG 6, and joint review and learning.*

**Events:** (1) 39th meeting dedicated to the preparations for the upcoming meetings on water and sustainable development, including the two UN Conferences in 2026 and 2028 (March 12-13, Rome, Italy)



and 40th meeting focused on the linkages between the water agenda and the three Rio Conventions on biodiversity, climate change and desertification, as well as priority actions in support of the UN System-wide Strategy on Water and Sanitation, (November 4-5, New York); (2) side event “Accelerate implementation of SDG 6 in SIDS – How does the UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation support SIDS?” at the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) Conference (May 27).

**Publications:** (1) “Water for Prosperity and Peace” report highlights the nexus between sustainable water management, well-being and peace; (2) [SDG 6 Country Acceleration Case Study](#): Jordan, the Czech Republic and Cambodia; (3) analytical brief “Water for Climate Mitigation”; (4) SDG 6 progress reports “Progress on Implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management”, “Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation”, “Progress on Change in Water-Use Efficiency”.

Source: UN-Water

## 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

**Events.** Under the Water Conventions and the Protocol, UNECE organized: (1) 35th (January 30-31) and 36th meetings of the Bureau to the Water Convention (May 8-9, Geneva); (2) global workshop on droughts in transboundary basins (February 26-27, Geneva); (3) 14th meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (February 28, Geneva); (4) expert consultation on transboundary water cooperation and climate change in view of the preparation of the 3rd progress report on SDG indicator 6.5.2 (February 29, Geneva); (5) 17th meeting of the Implementation Committee of the Water Convention (March 7-8, Italy); (6) 14th



meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health (April 16-17, Geneva); (7) 5th joint meeting of the Working Group on IWRM and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (May 6-8, Geneva); (8) 25th meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Protocol on Water and Health (July 2, Geneva), (9) 10th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (October 23-25, Ljubljana).

**Publications.** (1) Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Data-sharing in Transboundary Basins; (2) Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation: Mid-term status of SDG Indicator 6.5.2, with a special focus on Climate Change-2024; (3) Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation under the Water Convention: 3rd report on implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (2020-2023).

## UNECE Activities in Central Asia in 2024

### Work on Protocol on Water and Health

UNECE and WHO/Europe launched a joint project "Improving water, sanitation, hygiene and health through implementation of the program of work of the Protocol on Water and Health". The objective is to strengthen the capacity of countries in Central Asia (particularly, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan), Eastern Europe and the Caucasus to set and implement water, sanitation, hygiene and health targets under the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health, with a view to strengthening resilience against COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

#### Kazakhstan

Kazakh Government representatives and academia discussed the benefits and provisions of the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health. The national bodies (Committee for Water Resources of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation; Committee for Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Ministry of Industry and Construction; Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources; Committee of Sanitary and Epidemiological Control of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Kazakhstan) presented reviews of countries' priorities and activities in the areas of WASH, water management and health. This helped better understand the country's needs and align project activities with them. The existing draft targets developed under the Protocol on Water and Health in 2016 will be updated and revised in parallel with the 2025 implementation of the "Equitable Access Score-card 2.0". This process will include an analysis of baseline data (September 4-5, Astana).

#### Turkmenistan

Turkmen government representatives and academia discussed the benefits and provisions of the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health. Relevant national authorities (Sanitary and Epidemiological Service of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry and Production and Design Institute "Turkmenusulimtaslama" of the State Committee for Water Management) made comprehensive overviews of the country's priorities and activities in the areas of WASH and water management. It was recommended to undertake a baseline WASH analysis to assist the country in understanding the Protocol's benefits and obligations and in assessing its potential accession (October 2-3, Ashgabat).

#### Uzbekistan

As part of the SDG-financed "Strengthening action in Uzbekistan on water and sanitation and protection of water resources from accidental pollution in the face of climate change" project, activities on the Protocol on Water and Health were discussed during a consultative mission and coordination meetings with national experts and stakeholders; a baseline analysis and further development of targets were agreed

upon (November 12-13, Tashkent). As a new Party to the Protocol, Uzbekistan has a legal obligation to develop its targets within two years of accession. In 2024, the following were developed: (1) a Framework Program for a Joint Emergency Plan for the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Accidents at Industrial Sites and Tailings Dams in the Syr Darya River basin; (2) a roadmap and preliminary draft law on accession to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents; (3) basic provisions for a baseline analysis of the situation in Uzbekistan in areas covered by the Protocol; and (4) draft updated wastewater treatment regulations along with a project for the new classification of natural water bodies in terms of quality.

### Activities on tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution

#### Tajikistan

The 3rd meeting of the IIWG on Tailings Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution was held. The participants highlighted the importance of implementing the National Water Resources Strategy of Tajikistan and the recent steps taken by Tajikistan towards accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (May 15, Tajikistan).

#### Uzbekistan

Activities of the "Strengthening tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Uzbekistan and beyond in Central Asia" project include: (1) 3-day training session, where participants applied the UNECE Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for Tailings Management Facilities. The training served as an important platform for strengthening regional and cross-border cooperation. Representatives from Tajikistan shared their experience in applying tools and guidelines developed under relevant UNECE conventions, contributing to a productive atmosphere of learning and knowledge sharing (September, Tashkent province); (2) 1st meeting of the IIWG on Tailings Safety and Prevention of Water Pollution in Uzbekistan (September 24); (3) 7th meeting of the Uzbek-Kazakh Joint Working Group on environmental protection and water quality in the Syr Darya River Basin (December 20, online).

An international workshop and field visit were organized for increasing capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to accidental water pollution from tailings facilities. National and international experts discussed legal frameworks, monitoring practices, early warning systems, and the role of transboundary basin organizations. The workshop provided a platform for exchanging information on best practices and strengthening cooperation between the Parties to the Conventions on Transboundary Waters and Effects of Industrial Accidents and other UN countries, thereby enhancing the capacity of experts in industrial safety and water pollution prevention to implement the Roadmap for Safe Tailings Management by 2030 (April 23-24, Bratislava, Slovakia).

### SPECA Program

The 27th session of the Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment of the SPECA focused on regional energy connection, decarbonization, water and trade relationships, and water and energy nexus development. The report on necessity, viability and modalities for the establishment of the United Nations Special Programme for the Aral Sea Basin in line with UNESCAP resolution 79/8 (Ziganshina D.R.) was presented during the meeting ([November 25](#), Dushanbe).

For details, see [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific](#).

### SDG indicator 6.5.2

In 2023-2024, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan submitted [national reports](#) to UNECE and UNESCO during the 3rd reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2.

Source: UNECE, <https://unece.org/>

## International Water Assessment Centre

The International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) is the centre for international cooperation on IWRM, which has been established as a subsidiary body of the Water Convention. Since 2017, IWAC is located in Astana.

### IWAC Activities in 2024

IWAC, with the financial support of the OSCE Program Office in Astana, has been implementing the Project "Improvement of the education system in the water sector of Kazakhstan" aimed at developing measures to improve education in the water sector of Kazakhstan. So far, the analysis of the current state and perspectives for education in the water sector of Kazakhstan has been prepared, and conceptual and strategic recommendations on improving the process of professional training for the water sector have been elaborated.

IWAC supports Central Asian countries in developing a legal and institutional framework for the prevention of accidental water pollution at the national level. In cooperation with UNECE, IWAC assisted Kazakhstan and Tajikistan in establishing interagency working groups on tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution. IWAC participates in the meetings of these working groups on an annual basis and promotes intersectoral coordination on safe tailings management and water pollution prevention in transboundary basins.

IWAC supports the promotion of the Water Convention at global water events, including the One Water Summit chaired by France and Kazakhstan and held as part of the 16th Session of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification ([December 2-13](#), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia). One of the main objectives of the Summit was to promote the development of transboundary water cooperation and increase awareness of the Convention. In this context, IWAC is assisting the Government of Kazakhstan in promoting the Convention among the

countries of Asia and the Middle East. Particularly, a hybrid roundtable was held on the topic of "Enhancing Kazakhstan's Cooperation with Asian and Middle Eastern Countries in the Field of Transboundary Water Protection and Utilization". At the end of the meeting, the parties reached an agreement to continue the dialogue on the promotion of the Convention ([June 12](#)).

Source: [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/INF8\\_IWAC%20report%202022-24\\_Engl.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/INF8_IWAC%20report%202022-24_Engl.pdf)

Astana hosted: (1) a meeting on the occasion of the launch of the Project "Improving water supply, sanitation, hygiene and health through implementation of the program of work of the Protocol on Water and Health", with the support of the Kazakh Ministry of Health ([September 4-5](#)); (2) a working meeting on improving the education system in the field of water management in Kazakhstan, in collaboration with the MWRI RK and the OSCE Program Office in Astana. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the results of the analytical study of the current situation in the field of training and professional development in the water sector and to develop measures to improve the professional development system ([September 24](#), mixed format).

IWAC participated in: (1) workshops on transboundary water allocation, WEFE Nexus, development of agreements and other arrangements titled "Supporting the exchange of lessons learned, best practices and practical tools" ([April 15-16](#), Livingstone, Zambia) and on building capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to accidental water pollution from tailings management facilities ([April 23-24](#), Bratislava, Slovakia); (2) 5th joint meeting of the Working Groups on IWRM and Monitoring and Assessment ([May 6-8](#), Geneva, Switzerland); (3) 36th meeting of the Bureau of the Water Convention ([May 8-9](#), Geneva, Switzerland).

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

A high-level meeting at COP29 saw the launch of the SPECA Multi-Partner Trust Fund, which will finance programs to address common economic development and regional integration challenges in the context of global trends, such as climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss, digitalization, the shifting structures of global supply chains and other issues, as well as the SPECA region's specific needs. The Fund is already open for contributions and is expected to be funded by voluntary contributions from the SPECA

Member States, bilateral and multilateral donors and other partners.

Dushanbe hosted: (1) 27th session of the SPECA Working Group on Water, Energy, and Environment, which presented a regional roadmap for integrating energy systems to support sustainable development (ESCAP), scenario modelling for strengthening energy connectivity in Central Asia (SEI), the role of water trade, management and hydropower in adapting to climate change. Additionally, a report was presented on the ESCAP Resolution 79/8 on the necessity and modalities of establishing the UN Special Programme for the Aral Sea (November 25); (2) economic forum on the topic "Green development in the SPECA region", which addressed the issues of green economic development of SPECA Member States, in particular, water and energy security and climate change, transport, smart trade, innovations and technologies for sustainable development and gender equality (November 26-28); (3) 19th session of the SPECA Governing Council, which considered the matter of Turkmenistan's chairmanship in 2025, preparation of a corresponding Concept and Plan of Activities (November 28). The [Dushanbe Declaration](#) was adopted. By this Declaration the participants acknowledged the urgent need for regional cooperation in green development and pledged to strengthen collaboration across critical sectors, including energy, trade digitalization, investment, water cooperation, and innovation ecosystems (November 28).

Source: ESCAP

## 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 Asia 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 inter-national organizations. The Centre is led by a Special Representative of the Secretary General.

**Key priorities for 2021-2025:** (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.

### UNRCCA Activities in 2024

Events: (1) hybrid session for participants of the Preventive Diplomacy Academy and students of the Training Center for Priority Areas of Diplomacy of Turkmenistan to examine a complex relationship between climate and water ([March 19](#), Turkmenistan); (2) in cooperation with the CAREC, the Nexus simulation game session for the PDA 2024 cohort and PDA Alumni members from Turkmenistan. The game let its participants stand in the shoes of politicians and CEOs who jointly shape an economy that provides energy, water and food to its cities ([April 30](#), Turkmenistan); (3) meeting of experts of the Central Asian States on water, energy, environment, and climate cooperation in the region ([October 29-30](#), Almaty and [December 19-20](#), online).

Within the framework of the 3rd High-Level International Conference on the International Decade For Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018-2028, UNRCCA [organized](#) the "Water and Women" Forum to consolidate actions and exchange best practices on promoting the role of women in water management, governance and water diplomacy and the "International Glacier Forum" to provide a political and expert platform to present the Roadmap for the Year of Glacier Preservation 2025 and to discuss pressing issues of the glacier melt, impact of climate change and to formulate common actions.

The [6th Government-Youth Dialogue for Central Asia](#) was published. This publication represents a compilation of messages delivered by young people during the 3rd (December 8, 2021, Dushanbe, Tajikistan) and 4th (December 11, 2022, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan) Dialogues between Governments and Youth of Central Asian countries.

Source: UNRCCA

## 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 Activities in 2024

The 78th session of the WMO Executive Council was held. It [adopted](#) the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) road map and Global Greenhouse Gas Watch and scaled up action on the cryosphere (ice and snow) in the face of dramatic changes. Nine resolutions on the WMO Earth system observation and prediction were also [approved](#) ([June 10-14](#), Geneva).

WMO: (1) updated a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hong Kong Observatory to further strengthen meteorological co-operation ([March 28](#)); (2) launched the [Energy and Meteorology portal](#), a platform providing weather, water, and climate information to support the energy sector's transition to net zero ([April](#)); (3) conducted a two-day international training for forecasters on satellite meteorological data and applications in Al-Farabi KazNU ([September 18](#)); (4) joined the Global Initiative for Information Integrity on Climate Change, which aims to strengthen global efforts to address misinformation and disinformation, particularly in critical areas like climate change ([November 20](#)); (5) launched the Severe Weather Forecasting Program-Central Ame-



WORLD  
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rica, the first SWFP regional subprogram to be implemented in Latin America, to strengthen the capacities of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama to provide improved forecasts and early warning services for heavy rainfall, severe thunderstorms, strong winds, high waves and heat intensity ([December 20](#)).

The Meteorological Training Centre for Belt and Road Countries was established, marking a significant milestone in enhancing the capabilities of meteorological professionals in the B&R regions and promoting future meteorological co-operation and development ([December 3](#)).

**WMO publications.** [73rd WMO Bulletin](#); [publication series](#) on state of the climate in different parts of the world. For other publications, please, see [library.wmo.int](#).

Source: WMO

## 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.

### IFAD Activities in 2024

#### Kyrgyzstan

IFAD has invested \$129 million in rural development in Kyrgyzstan since 1993. In August, the new Country Strategic Opportunities Program for 2025-2030 was presented. Three main objectives were identified: (1) increase smallholder productivity and incomes from agriculture with a focus on livestock; (2) support sustainable natural resource management and enhance smallholders' resilience to climate change; (3) improve rural livelihoods through value addition and income diversification.

The "Access to Markets" project was completed (2016-2024, IFAD financing – \$21.17 million). Project results: over **90,700** beneficiaries from **17,164** households, **2** veterinary laboratories were upgraded, more than **1,666** private veterinarians were trained, **260** artificial insemination stations were established, **144** farmers' groups were formed, and **142** grant proposals were developed to provide cooperatives with essential machinery, infrastructure, and high-quality inputs. While the project significantly enhanced livestock production and market access, it fell short of its 55% target, partly due to external factors like adverse weather and climate issues. For details, see [here](#).

As part of the Pastoral Communities project (\$31.28 million, 2021-2026), IFAD allocated \$9.2 million in grants to support farmers. This nationally scaled project supports vulnerable rural households that depend on grazing lands and forests for their livelihoods.

#### 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'" is continued (2021-2030, IFAD financing – \$37.85 million). 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. The 2024 results: 400 villages were selected; the Project Steering Committee was established and its 1st meeting was held (December 25); about 80% of the overall expenditures were related to works, goods, equipment and services category, 12% to operating costs, 4% to technical assistance and studies, and 3% to training, workshops and travel costs.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan held a meeting with the IFAD President Mr. Alvaro Lario, where they discussed the implementation of government strategies and programs of the Republic of Tajikistan in the area of agriculture and food security, as well as preparations for the 3rd Dushanbe Water Conference (May 30, Rome, Italy).

#### Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan joined IFAD in 2011. The total IFAD funding in Uzbekistan amounts to \$435.5 million. IFAD in its activities in Uzbekistan is guided by the Country strategic opportunities program 2023-2027, aimed to sustainably increase rural prosperity and improve livelihoods of small-scale producers. Three strategic objectives underpin the program: (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.

On September 15, IFAD opened its new office in Uzbekistan.

Preparations were discussed for the launch of a joint project<sup>246</sup> aimed at reducing poverty in rural areas by improving climate services in agriculture, increasing sustainability, and increasing income and economic growth in rural communities. Following the talks, the parties agreed to continue active cooperation within the framework of the joint project and discussed opportunities to strengthen cooperation and expand the project portfolio (December 4, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia).

<sup>246</sup> The five-year project will include the implementation of 3 components: developing an agro-climatic monitoring system and institutional and technical capabilities for long-term analysis of climate scenarios and raising public awareness of the projected adverse impacts of climate change on agriculture and appropriate response measures

IFAD [provided](#) a \$2.5 million loan to Hamkorbank and 1,500 low-income dairy and horticulture producers will be able to access micro-loans to increase their incomes and improve their livelihoods.

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

private farming households as well as rural youth. As part of the [project](#): (1) seminars and trainings were organized on improving business capacities of the population, value chains, exports and imports, and the correct use of laboratory equipment for plant quarantine; (2) a laboratory was established and equipped with the latest high-precision equipment, reagents and laboratory utensils in Ferghana; (3) veterinary clinics were built and equipped in the Fergana Valley.

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

## 6.11. United Nations 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 2030 Agenda. Key areas of activity include the following five program sectors: education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information.

### UNESCO Activities in 2024

**UNESCO** is [promoting](#) two concrete tools for its Member States and educational communities around the world: (1) [UNESCO's new Greening Curriculum Guidance](#) – a practical manual providing, for the first time, a common understanding of what climate education should consist of and how countries can mainstream environmental topics across curricula, with detailed expected learning outcomes according to age group (from 5-year-olds to 18+); (2) [UNESCO's new Green School Quality Standard](#), which sets the minimum requirements on how to create a "green school" by promoting an action-oriented approach. It recommends that all schools set up green governance committees including students, teachers and parents to oversee sustainable management. It also calls to encourage teacher training, conduct audits of energy, water, food and waste audits, while also calling for stronger ties with the wider community to help students address environmental issues at local level.

**UNESCO launched:** (1) jointly with the Brazilian Government and UN the *Global Initiative for Information Integrity on Climate Change* to fight the climate-related disinformation ([November 19](#)); (2) *International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024-2033)* – a global and coordinated initiative designed to harness the power of all of the sciences – basic, applied, social and human – to advance sustainable change to our societies, economies and environment ([December 2](#)).

**Publications.** (1) [State of the Cryosphere Report](#); (2) [UN World Water Development Report 2024: water for prosperity and peace](#) (See 6.5); (3) [State of the ocean report, 2024](#).



### UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty

**UNESCO Chairs in Central Asia promote innovative education for Sustainable Development.** The III Winter PR School at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University included a conference on the Model of Innovative Education to discuss prospects for cooperation in identifying innovative methods for teaching the issues related to sustainable development ([February 26](#)).

In Kyrgyzstan, UNESCO supported [two summer schools](#) on (1) rockslides in the Kokomerren River basin that allowed participants to deepen their understanding of the geological and tectonic processes shaping the region (August 10-25); (2) geoheritage, geology, and climatology that offered a comprehensive study of the region's landscapes, introducing participants to fields such as sedimentology, paleontology, stratigraphy, and paleoclimatology (August 15-28).

UNESCO in cooperation with the Central Asian Alliance for Climate Change Education (TsAKO): (1) [launched](#) the Climate Change Education Ambition in Central Asia. Within the ambition, the Regional Climate Change Education Ambition Report has been developed for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The report synthesis a regional perspective on current cooperation around climate change, areas of complementarity, emerging trends, and potential areas for joint action; (2) held the meeting of the TsAKO to develop a strategy for promoting the climate education agenda based on a regional study of climate education ambitions in Central Asian countries ([June 3-4](#)).

**Projects.** Activities under the "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"

project include: (1) a workshop on strengthening resilience of Central Asian countries, where the first step in the preparation of the National Adaptation Plans and Strategic Action Program was made. Participants identified the regional priorities related to the cryosphere (April 3-4, Almaty); (2) a series of the national workshops to contextualize each country's status and perspectives on the cryosphere, water resources, and climate change (May-June); (3) a national workshop in Turkmenistan, where local specialists presented the status of the cryosphere in other Central Asian, discussed key challenges in monitoring and research, and proposed solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change on the cryosphere in Turkmenistan (October 8-9, Ashgabat); (4) a subregional workshop focused on advancing the Diagnostic Analysis development for the Central Asian cryosphere under the impacts of climate change. Countries discussed how key components of the cryosphere impact water resources, ecosystems, and regional economies (November 4-5, Almaty).

Activities under the "Reducing vulnerabilities of populations in Central Asia from glacier lake outburst floods in a changing climate" project include: (1) the

3rd regional exchange workshop, which served as a crucial platform for sharing experiences, enhancing regional cooperation, and discussing innovative solutions to mitigate the impact of GLOFs on vulnerable communities and infrastructure in Central Asia (March 6-7, Almaty); (2) a field visit to the Baralmos Glacier and its associated lakes to assess risks, introduce new monitoring equipment and enhance local scientific capacity (August 19-30, Tajikistan); (3) presentation of the research findings on "Modelling and evaluating GLOF risk management measures in the Kyrgyz Ala-Archa valley", including the analysis of the effectiveness and cost-benefit of five potential GLOF DRM measures (August, Vienna); (4) a seminar "Glacier Lake Outburst Flood Early Warning Systems: technical design, instrumentation and communication" (October 22-24, Almaty); (5) project team visit to schools in Pskem and Tepar to conduct interactive disaster preparedness lessons and install automated meteorological stations (October 28-29, Uzbekistan); (6) seminars in Issyk and Talgar to improve local awareness and preparedness for GLOFs (November 21 and 26, Kazakhstan).

Source: UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty, [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

## 6.12. Food and Agriculture Organization



### Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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 for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life.

#### FAO Activities in 2024

The "Integrated Natural Resources Management in Drought-prone and Salinity-Affected Agricultural Production Landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey" (CACILM-2) project has been successfully implemented. It provided essential support to countries severely affected by desertification and salinization, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The final workshop, held in Bukhara, focused on evaluating the project's impact on land and water management, and on exploring opportunities to scale up the results for enhanced regional cooperation in combating desertification, land degradation, and food security threats.

#### Kazakhstan

**Ongoing projects:** (1) Preparation of the UTF project on plant breeding and seed production under FAO Kazakhstan Partnership Program (\$100,000; 2024-2026); (2) Developing the Concept on food security and sustainable food systems (\$97,000; 2024-2025); (3) Elaboration of the long-term sectoral program for the development of dairy farming (\$55,000; 2024-2025); (4) Technical support to conduct the National Agricultural Census (\$50,000; 2024-2025); (5) Transforming Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in Kazakhstan to Ensure Environmental Sustainability (\$100,000; 2024-2025); (6) Contribution to development and further scaling up of healthy nutrition (\$465,000; 2023-2025); (7) SLM and restoration of degraded lands mainstreaming biodiversity in Southern region of Kazakhstan (\$150,000; 2024-2025); (8) Kazakhstan Resilient Agroforestry and Rangeland (\$1.9 million; 2023-2027).

As part of the: (1) JICA-financed "Improved locust management" project, a training on locust monitoring and information management for the State Inspection Committee in the Agricultural Sector of the Kazakh Ministry of Agriculture (April 1-5, Astana) and the 8th meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of Central Asia (June 7, online) were organized; (2) "Integrated natural resource management for improved ecosystem conservation and biodiversity preservation" project, which will promote multiple-land use practices for biodiversity conservation outside protected areas, a national inception workshop was held (June 18, Astana); (3) "Supporting investments in smallholders inclusive agrifood value chain development in Kazakhstan"

project, a workshop was held with two sessions on "Investments in Community-Driven Rural Development" and "Financing Smallholders for Agribusiness and Rural Development" (June 26, online).

As part of the CACILM-2 project, FAO specialists conducted a series of training sessions across multiple villages in the Kyzylorda region, including Shieli, Zhalagash, Kazaly districts, and Kyzylorda city. Discussions emphasized crop diversification and the introduction of summer and winter crops to enhance resilience to climate change and address forage gaps. Additionally, the seminars highlighted the importance of afforestation with native species on saline marginal lands, which can provide valuable products while helping to lower elevated groundwater tables through bio-drainage (June 11-26).

### Kyrgyzstan

**Ongoing projects:** (1) Supporting the capacity development of official controls and food producers on food control and food safety management systems (\$40,000; 2024-2026); (2) Enhancing the financial and investment awareness among farmers and national financial institutions (\$40,000; 2024-2025); (3) Assistance to the National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic in preparing for the agricultural census (\$30,000; 2024-2025); (4) Strengthening capacities of Public and Private Sector for regulation, certification and marketing of organic products (\$300,000; 2022-2024); (5) Integrated Water Resources Management for Agroforestry Restoration in the Syr Darya River Basin (\$150,000; 2024-2025).

As part of the (1) "Carbon Sequestration through climate investment in forests and rangelands" project (\$30 million, 2022-2030), the 3rd meeting of the National Project Steering Committee was held (July 25, Kazarman village); a five-day educational trip was organized to the Republic of Turkey to learn sustainable practices for restoring pastures, methods for preventing forest fires, reforestation, and restoration of degraded lands (November 11-16); (2) JICA-financed "Improved locust management" project, a five-day training session on locust monitoring and information management was held with field practice, during which the use of survey equipment and tools was demonstrated as well as the filling out the ASDC standard locust survey form on tablets and smartphones (March 25-29, Bishkek); a ceremony was held to hand over advanced computer equipment and cameras to the Department of Chemical Plant Protection and Quarantine of the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic (May 10); (3) "Digitalization of the methodology for assessing damage and losses for the agricultural sector in Kyrgyzstan" project, two trainings took place on applying the damage and loss assessment methodology in the agricultural sector of Kyrgyzstan

using the e-DLA<sup>247</sup> (July 30-August 2, Bishkek, Bokonbaevo village).

### Tajikistan

**Ongoing projects:** (1) Strengthening the capacity for digitalization of the agriculture machinery registration system (\$90,000; 2024-2025); (2) Assisting in conducting the agricultural census in Tajikistan (\$22,000; 2024-2025); (3) Formulation of a GCF project on Afforestation, Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Conservation for GHG reductions (\$92,000; 2024-2025); (4) Strengthening the capacity of Committee of Food Security on development of a new Food security program for 2024-2028 (\$85,000; 2024-2025); (5) Support in production and consumption of nutritious local species and herbs (\$40,000; 2024-2025); (6) Support of value chain strengthening in rural areas (\$352,000; 2023-2025); (7) Support to export increase of agri-food products through green development and enhanced market access (\$88,000; 2022-2024); (8) Cooperative development and strengthening of rural institutions under the Agrarian Reform Program (\$96,000; 2022-2025); (9) Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector (\$2.4 million; 2022-2026); (10) Strengthening the capacity of the Republic of Tajikistan to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement (\$1.3 million; 2023-2026); (11) Facilitating agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use to promote food and nutritional resilience in Tajikistan (\$1.7 million; 2022-2025).

FAO and the Tajik MA held the 1st National Forum of Cooperatives in Tajikistan (March 12-13).

As part of the second phase of the regional "Improvement of locust management" project, FAO: (1) held a training session on locust monitoring and information management and reduced negative impacts of pesticides on human health and the environment (February 26-March, Bokhtar); (2) handed over 10 kg of the biopesticide to project's direct beneficiary organization – the State Entity "Locust Control Expedition", along with 20 protected tablets and accessories for field data collection. This will enable the first-ever national demonstration trial against the Moroccan locust in Tajikistan. (April 1); (3) donated to the State Entity and other relevant institutions copies of the recently published monograph "Moroccan Locust *Docostaurus maroccanus* (Thunberg, 1815): morphology, distribution, ecology, population management" to help learn more about the problem.

### Turkmenistan

**Ongoing projects:** (1) Support to Strengthening National Crop Monitoring through Remote Sensing Technology (\$200,000; 2024-2026); (2) Establishing a national strategy for the National Animal Identification and

<sup>247</sup> The e-DLA tool is a highly innovative and customizable integrated digital solution that allows distributing roles according to institutional systems and local territorial organizational structure

Traceability System (\$100,000; 2024-2025); (3) Support to the establishment of digital Land Cadaster (\$300,000; 2023-2024); (4) Development of aquafeed value chain and aquatic animal health management capacity (\$120,000; 2023-2025); (5) Developing digital solutions for sustainable pasture management (\$100,000; 2023-2025); (6) Enhancing Capacities for Climate-Resilient Water Management (\$150,000; 2023-2025); (7) Catalyzing Nature-Positive transformation of agriculture in Turkmenistan for enhanced resilience (\$150,000; 2024-2025); (8) Improving the capacity of Turkmenistan to access climate finance through capacity building and strategic frameworks (\$642,825; 2023-2025); (9) Strengthening the capacity of Turkmenistan to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement (\$50,000; 2023-2024).

As part of the "Strengthening Regional Collaboration and National Capacities for Management of Wheat Rust Diseases" project, FAO and Turkmenistan concluded a two-day workshop focused on developing a National Strategy and Contingency Plan for the prevention and management of wheat rust diseases in Turkmenistan (July 23-24, Ashgabat).

### Uzbekistan

**Ongoing projects:** (1) Food control system assessment to strengthen food safety and facilitate trade (\$140,000; 2024-2026); (2) Support to the revision of the Land Code (\$125,000; 2024-2026); (3) Support for development of the Sustainable Agriculture Mechanization Strategy (\$140,000; 2023-2025); (4) Support to enhance food security and nutrition through piloting School Meal Program (\$240,000; 2024-2025); (5) Implementation of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems in Uzbekistan (\$100,000; 2024-2025); (6) Integrated NRM for Improved Ecosystem Conservation and Biodiversity Preservation (\$150,000; 2024-2025); (7) Technical Assistance for Sound Management of Hazardous Chemicals (\$4.3million; 2023-2027); (8) Food System, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program in Uzbekistan (\$6million; 2022-2026); (9) 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); (10) Sustainable management of forests in Mountain and Valley areas in Uzbekistan (\$3.2 million; 2018-2025).

As part of the (1) "Building Knowledge and Skills of Local Partners and Communities to Address Environmental Insecurities through Innovative Air, Land, and Water Management Solutions in the Aral Sea Region" project (\$250,000; 2024-2025), an agreement was signed between FAO and the Turkish Chamber of Forest Engineers to develop the "Ecosystem Restoration Guidelines for the Aral Sea Region: Integrating UN Decade, FAO Solutions, and Native Tree Species Conservation"; (2) "Sustainable Management of Forests and Rangelands in Dryland Ecosystems of Uzbekistan" (\$3.8 million; 2022-2026) project, a draft Strategy was designed to integrate gender approaches into agricultural development.

FAO, Uzbek MEEPCC and IUCN signed the Letter of Intent during the high-level plenary session "Nature Knows No Borders: Working Together for Migratory Species and Sustainable Development in Central Asia" as part of the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (February 11, Samarkand).

FAO and its Global Soil Partnership GSP, in collaboration with the Uzbek MA and a number of partners, held an introductory seminar on the launch of the "Recarbonization of Agricultural Soils (RECSOIL)" initiative in Uzbekistan (February, Tashkent).

Uzbekistan joined the Global Soil Doctors Program to train a hundred champion farmers from Bukhara, Kashkadarya, Khorezm and other provinces, who will, in turn, impart their knowledge to more farmers across Uzbekistan.

Source: FAO

## 6.13. International Law Commission

The International Law Committee (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 75th session of ILC in 2024, 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.

With respect to the topic "Sea-level rise in relation to international law", the Commission reconstituted the Study Group. It presented the additional paper (A/CN.4/774), which addressed statehood and the protection of persons affected by sea-level rise, supported the continuity of statehood, discussed various bases for the continuity of statehood, including the right of States to preserve their existence.

**Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the ILC.** Due to the liquidity crisis facing the UN, the Commission's session was reduced from 12 to 10 weeks. There-

fore, the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary was held in a reduced format: an event organized with the assistance of the Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland (May 24); a commemorative seminar organized by the Rashtriya Raksha University with the assistance of the Ministry of

External Affairs of India (February 29-March 1, India); a conference entitled "Unlocking opportunities: UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and dry port development in landlocked developing countries" organized by the MFA of Mongolia (March 25-26).

*Source:* 2024 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.

As of July 31, the Court's list of cases included one case directly related to water disputes – the Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros project (Hungary/Slovakia). For the nature of the case and proceedings on Gabčíkovo-

Nagymaros project (Hungary/Slovakia), see the ICJ [report](#).

In December, the public hearings concluded on the request for an advisory opinion on the Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change ([A/RES/77/276](#)). States and international organizations presented 91 written statements to the Secretariat. During the hearings, 96 States and 11 international organizations presented oral statements. The Court will begin its deliberation. The Court's advisory opinion will be delivered at a public sitting, the date of which will be announced in due course.

*Source:* [Report](#) of the International Court of Justice to the UNGA 79th Session, 2024, ICJ [Press releases](#)