

Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia	<b>BULLETIN</b> <b>№ 3 (102)</b>	July 2024
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## Awards

**The veteran of the Kazakhstan national water industry, Nariman Kipshakbaev has been awarded the Order of “Otan” by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan <sup>1</sup>**



The former Water Minister, Professor Nariman Kipshakbaev, has been awarded the Order of “Otan” by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan for his outstanding contribution to the socio-economic development of the country and for his active public activities.

Nariman Kipshakbaev was born on 27 May 1934 in the Kostanay province. He was appointed as a Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Kazakh SSR from 1981 to 1990. From 1990 to 1995 – Chairman of the State Committee for Water Resources. He supervised the development of the draft Water Code and made a great contribution to the

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<sup>1</sup> Source: The Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/water/press/news/details/782936?lang=ru>

establishment of an international organization on transboundary water use between the countries of Central Asia, Russia and China. He played an important role in the establishment of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), which still exists.

Currently, Nariman Kipshakbaev serves as an advisor on the matters related to the Aral Sea and the Syr Darya River. During his long professional career he has received more than ten awards, including the Order of Honor (Qurmet) for great contribution to the state and the Order of “Barys II”.

"I would like to thank Nariman Kipshakbaevich for his enormous contribution to the development of water resources in Kazakhstan. The fruits of his long-term work have so far benefited our country and its neighbors. We would also like to congratulate this veteran of the national water industry on his 90th birthday. Nariman Kipshakbaevich is still very active in the field of water security and water protection in Kazakhstan, setting an example for all his colleagues", - noted the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Nurzhan Nurgigitov.

## Meeting of the Heads of Central Asian States

### Summit of Heads of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

The 24<sup>th</sup> expanded Summit of heads of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held in Astana on 3-4 July.



The Summit was attended by: President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Kyrgyzstan Sadir Japarov, President of Russia Vladimir Putin, President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping, Minister of External Affairs of India Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Acting Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif, and President of Iran Mohammad Mokhber.

The following SCO dialogue partners participated in the Summit: President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Governor of Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Chairman of Khalk Maslahaty of Turkmenistan Gurbanguli Berdimukhamedov, President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, and President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh.

Representatives of international organizations included the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, General Secretary of the CIS Sergei Lebedev and Secretary General of the CSTO Imangali Tasmagambetov.

The participants discussed the current issues of political, economic and cultural-humanitarian cooperation. The Summit was held under the theme «Strengthening Multilateral Dialogue – Striving for Sustainable Peace and Development».

During the meeting of the Council of Heads of State and the SCO members, 25 documents were signed and included:

- Astana Declaration of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization;
- Decision of the approval of the Strategy for the development of energy cooperation between the SCO member states until 2030;
- Decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on the adoption of a Program for the development of cooperation between the SCO member states in the field of protected areas (especially protected natural areas, protected natural areas) and eco-tourism;
- Statement of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on safe drinking water and sanitation;
- Statement of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on effective waste management;
- Agreement between the governments of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on environmental cooperation.

## **Astana Declaration of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization<sup>2</sup>**

**(extract)**

The leaders of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter referred to as “the SCO” or “the Organization”), following the meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State held in Astana on 4 July 2024, declare the following.

[...]

The Member States plan to further up cooperation in the fields of politics and security, trade, economy, finance and investment, and cultural and humanitarian ties with a view to build a peaceful, safe, prosperous and environmentally clean planet Earth and to achieve harmonious coexistence of man and nature.

The Member States reaffirm that Central Asia represents the core part of the SCO.

They support the Central Asian states’ efforts to ensure peace, security and stability in their respective countries and in the region as a whole, welcome the holding of regular Consultative Meetings of the Heads of State of Central Asia, and advocate the SCO’s active role in further strengthening stability and socio-economic development of the region.

The Member States also emphasize that the strategic development goals of the SCO and the countries of Central Asia are mutually complementary.

The Member States declare that the SCO is a most important participant of the international interaction system and makes a significant contribution to regional security, sustainability and growth of the global economy, healthy lifestyles and green environment, and the promotion of social, cultural, sports and scientific ties between the SCO countries.

[...]

The Member States confirm their dedication to strengthening cooperation in agriculture and ensuring food security. They aim to diversify areas of interaction with a focus on innovation and resource conservation, promoting exchanges in agricultural science. They also intend to utilize multilateral platforms such as the SCO Demonstration Base for exchanges and training in agricultural technologies to advance modern agriculture in the region.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://eng.sectSCO.org/20240709/1438929.html>

They acknowledged the adoption of the Programme for Cooperation in the field of breeding and seed production of agricultural crops (Astana, 29 May 2024).

[...]

The Member States are in favor of further promoting cooperation in ensuring energy security. They consider it important to have a coordinated and balanced energy transition that takes into account the interests of countries both producing and consuming traditional fuels, in accordance with national priorities and capabilities of the SCO member states.

The Member States that have chosen to use civil nuclear energy will develop cooperation on voluntary and mutually agreed terms in the research, innovation, development and deployment of civil nuclear technologies pursuant to their national legislations.

Having welcomed the outcome of the SCO Energy Forum (Astana, 3-4 October 2023), the Member States approved the Strategy for Energy Cooperation among the SCO member states until 2030.

The Member States confirmed their intention to promote cooperation between analytical and expert centers of the SCO member states. They welcomed the results of the 19th meeting of the SCO Forum (Tashkent, 5-6 June 2024) and underlined the importance of this advisory and expert mechanism for a permanent exchange of views among scientists and experts of the Organization's members.

[...]

The Member States emphasize the importance of further enhancing cooperation in the sphere of education, expanding inter-university cooperation, and studying the best practices in digital education, including introducing innovative educational technologies. They advocate for the further improvement of the SCO University's activities, including by increasing the number of participating universities and expanding training programs. They also welcomed the proposal of the People's Republic of China to create a SCO Digital Education Association.

The Member States note that cooperation in the field of science and technology complies with the common interest in global technological development. They will implement multilateral joint research and innovation projects within the SCO.

[...]

The Member States note the importance of strengthening cooperation in the field of environmental protection, environmental security, natural resources



management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, including through technology transfers and resource mobilization to meet the needs of developing countries. In this context, they welcomed the endorsement of an agreement on cooperation in the field of environment between the governments of SCO member states. They also welcomed the continuation of work under agreements formalized in the Statement of the SCO Heads of State Council to respond to climate change (Samarkand, 16 September 2022).

They welcome the approval of drafted joint approaches for addressing environmental issues, a program for expanding cooperation between SCO member states in the field of protected territories (specially protected nature territories and protected nature territories) and environmental tourism, a joint action plan to implement the SCO's Green Belt Programme in 2024-2026. They decided to establish an ad hoc working group of SCO member states on climate change issues.

While noting negative consequences of sand and dust storms for economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development, the Member States underscored the need to draft joint action plans at regional and sub-regional levels.

The Member States welcomed the results of the 3rd International High-Level Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 (Dushanbe, 10-13 June 2024).

The Member States, while expressing concern about the negative impact of all types of waste on human health and emphasizing the importance of taking practical action to combat environmental pollution, adopted the Statement on Effective Waste Management.

[...]

The Member States expressed readiness to strengthen cooperation in emergency response and relief as well as preventive actions. They positively assess the SCO countries' efforts to provide mutual assistance in emergencies and are ready to enhance mutual training and exchange of experience, including in the field of industrial safety.

[...]

The Member States emphasized that access to safe drinking water is crucial for public health. In this regard, they adopted a Statement on Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation.

[...]

The Member States commended the special high-level event between the SCO and the UN One Planet, One Future: Joining Efforts for Environmental

Sustainability, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding between the SCO Secretariat and the UN Environment Programme signed in Nairobi on 28 February 2024.

[...]

The Member States welcomed the outcome of the videoconference SCO-FAO Dialogue on Food Security: Sustainable Development of the SCO Member States' Agriculture Sector in Conditions of Climate Challenges, held on 29 November 2023, as well as the updated Joint Action Plan between the SCO Secretariat and FAO.

[...]

## **Summit of the Organization of Turkic States "Building a sustainable future through transport, connectivity and climate action"**

The Informal Summit of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) organized upon initiative of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the theme "Building a sustainable future through transport, connectivity and climate action" was held in Shusha, Azerbaijan on 6 July 2024.

The summit brought together the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Vice President of Turkey Cevdet Yılmaz, Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orbán, President of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Ersin Tatar and Secretary General of the OTS Ambassador Kubanychbek Omuraliev.

The participants stressed the need for close cooperation in addressing climate change and its impacts on sustainable development of the Turkic states through joint climate action. The importance of the strategic partnership between the Turkic States in the field of energy, including the development of cooperation in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency, was noted. Special mention was made of the project to integrate the energy system of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan ("Green Corridor").

Following the Summit, the Carabakh Declaration was signed.

## **Carabakh Declaration of the Informal Summit of the Organization of Turkic states<sup>3</sup>**

**(extract)**

[...]

The Heads of State of the OTS,

Considering the Turkic world as a family based on common ethnic roots, history, language, culture, traditions and values of the Turkic peoples that is committed to the ideas of peace, security, stability, development and prosperity in the region and in the world;

[...]

Affirming that a sustainable future is possible through the joint efforts aimed at developing stable and multifaceted links among the Turkic states inter alia for preserving the healthy planet through climate action;

Acknowledging that the current geopolitical and security challenges which the world faces require the consolidated position of the Turkic States to act as a single force that necessitates regular consultations;

Declared that they:

[...]

2. Reiterate the importance of using the full potential and opportunities of the Turkic States in the political, economic, transport, defense-industry, humanitarian, educational and cultural fields for further strengthening and deepening their strategic partnership and shaping a collective strategy of the OTS;

3. Stress the necessity to set more ambitious goals in view of potential of Turkic States in global scope, put in force relevant mechanisms and regulations to effectively implement the OTS tasks and purposes for building sustainable future by enhancing joint efforts and undertaking regional projects of strategic importance;

[...]

9. Emphasize the need for closer cooperation in addressing the climate change and its impacts on the sustainable development of the Turkic States through unified climate action;

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<sup>3</sup> Source: <https://www.turkicstates.org/assets/pdf/haberler/garabagh-declaration-3357-261.pdf>

10. Encourage the development of climate resilient smart cities and villages concepts within the Turkic States to enhance quality of life, promote sustainable development, and foster economic growth by improving digital infrastructure, public services, and sustainable practices, with a focus on integrating clean energy resources like solar, wind, and hydroelectric power to support climate action and in this line, initiate discussions on establishment of OTS Climate and Green Digital Platform and OTS Forum of Climate Resilient Villages;

11. Highlight the significance of the strategic partnership among the Turkic States in the field of energy, including development of cooperation in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency and welcome the recent developments in Azerbaijan-Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan Power Systems Interconnection Project (Green Corridor);

12. Call for enhanced cooperation for energy integration and interconnection among their energy systems to utilize immense potential of renewable energy in the Turkic States and to use opportunities for development of an extensive energy systems for export and trade of electricity, including from renewable sources among member states and to third countries;

13. Encourage the development of an institutional building mechanism (twinning) among the relevant authorities of the members of OTS in the fields of common interest like trade, energy, transport and similar, with the aim of transferring the experiences;

[...]

17. Take note of the importance (necessity) of consolidation of efforts for joint development of space projects in order to increase the capacity and competitiveness of national space programs and integrated development in the field of space technologies in order to increase the level of technological development and competitiveness of joint projects;

18. Instruct the Secretariat to establish cooperation mechanism of the relevant authorities of the Member and Observer States to cooperate in the field of the protection of environment and climate agenda to strengthen the regional and global response to the climate change challenges;

19. Welcome the initiative of the Republic of Uzbekistan, announced at the Astana Summit 2023, to establish a permanent Turkic Environmental Forum at the ministerial level and to plan its first meeting within the framework of the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 29) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held from 11 to 22 November 2024 in Baku;

20. Wish the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan success in hosting the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 11-22 November 2024 and support the consistent efforts of Azerbaijan in delivering tangible outcomes of the COP29 based on expectations of the parties to the Convention;

21. Express their readiness to engage in promoting the initiative to establish the new global dialogue “Mountains and Climate” in the annual calendar of the UN Climate Change Conference and consider joining the draft Document “Call to action for advancing the Mountain Agenda: mainstreaming mountains within the UNFCCC”;

22. Welcome the initiative of Kazakhstan to host the Regional Climate Summit in 2026 under the auspices of the UN and international organizations;

23. Wish the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan success in hosting the 6th Consultative Meeting of the Heads of States of Central Asia countries in Astana on 9 August 2024;

[...]

Signed on 6 July 2024, in Shusha, in the Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkish and Uzbek languages.

## Large hydraulic facilities

### Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan signed agreement on Kambarata-1<sup>4</sup>

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan signed a cooperation agreement on the construction of Kambarata HPP-1.



The inter-ministerial agreement between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan on the construction of Kambarata-1 on the Narin River was signed during the International Energy Investment Forum in Vienna.

The Coordination Donor Committee on the construction of Kambarata -1 was established at the international energy investment forum. Among its members are the World Bank, OPEC Fund, Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and others. The first session of this committee will be held this fall.

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<sup>4</sup> Source: <https://www.inform.kz/ru/kazakhstan-podpisal-soglashenie-o-stroitelstve-kambaratinskoy-ges-e081c2>

## The preparatory work on Kambarata-1 was demonstrated in the Ministry of Energy<sup>5</sup>

The preparatory work on the construction of Kambarata-1 has been continued, according to press-service of the Ministry of Energy as of June 26, 2024.

All work is ongoing in line with the schedule.



The funding for this preparatory work was provided from the budget of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Currently, the following activities are underway:

- bridge construction
- diversion of Narin riverbed
- tunnel excavation
- road construction and concreting
- overhead line construction
- substation construction
- temporary village construction for HPP workers

The key objective of the energy workers is to complete the preparatory work as quickly as possible and to speed up the construction of the hydropower plant.

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<sup>5</sup> Source: <http://www.tazabek.kg/news:2123656>



The following work is underway in this direction:

1. The total length of the road from the 318 km Bishkek-Osh Road to the section № 2 of KAGES-1 site is 5.6 km. A total of 3.6 km of road base was prepared and concreted.

2. The total length of the transport tunnel TT-2, including the exit portal, is 1.388 m. Currently, 75 m have been excavated on one side and 11.5 m on the other side of the exit portal.

4. Work on overhead lines -110 kV, with a total phase length of 4605 km, 27.6 km of AC-150/24 double circuit lines were installed. In addition, 10 support towers were installed.

5. Construction of the substation-110/6 kW at the KAGES-1 site, development of soil and rocks at road blocks No.10, 11, 12 and 13 are underway. Construction of the diversion canal – section No.1 in the area of Baka-Shak live rock slides has been completed, and the closing dike was built on the the Naryn River to shift the river channel for further work on the highway through Baka-Shak.

6. Preparation of the bridge piers is in progress, with the current installation of piers No. 1 and N. 4.

7. The foundation of a temporary village for the construction workers is laid.

## Construction of Rogun HPP

Rogun HPP is a hydropower plant currently under construction on the Vakhsh River. This plant is an upper part of the Vakhsh Cascade. Upon completion, the Rogun dam will be the tallest in the world with a height of 335 m and will have a total capacity of 3600 MW (compared to Nurk HPP's capacity of 3000 MW). It is expected to be the largest hydropower plant in Central Asia. Construction of the Rogun HPP is to be completed in 2029 and the plant is expected to be officially commissioned in 2031.

### Funding

According to the Ministry of Energy, \$1 billion a year is needed to keep the construction within the approved schedule, and \$6.2 billion for the full implementation of the project.

### Government funding

So far, the project has been financed through government funding, which, according to official figures, have totaled more than 40 billion somoni since 2008 (when construction of Rogun was resumed).

In 2017, a total of \$500 million of funds were raised from foreign investors for these purposes through the placement of government bonds (Eurobonds).

**In 2023**, 5.2 billion somoni was spent from the Tajikistan budget for the construction of the Rogun HPP.

This was stated by the Minister of Finance of Tajikistan Fayziddin Kakhhorzoda during the reporting press conference<sup>6</sup>.

This amount is 2.7 billion somoni more than planned, as explained the minister on public spending in 2023.

According to the Ministry of Finance, 5 billion somoni (\$456 million) is planned to be allocated for the Rogun project in the course **2024**.

**In January**, the government made a decision to allocate 100 million somoni (more than \$9.1 million)<sup>7</sup> from this fund for the construction of Rogun. Then, **in April**, 60 million somoni (more than \$5.5 million) was allocated to replenish the authorized capital of JSC "Rogunskaya HPP".

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<sup>6</sup> <https://tj.sputniknews.ru/20240216/finansirovanie-rogun-plan-1061725786.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://asiaplustj.info/ru/news/tajikistan/economic/20240426/pravitelstvo-tadzhikistana-napravlyayet-na-rogunskuyu-ges-dopolnitelnie-55-mln-dollarov>

The funds are provided by the Stabilization Fund for Economic and Social Development. The Fund, in turn, receives these resources from dividends on state shares paid into the republican budget.

In early **July**, the Government of Tajikistan instructed the country's Ministry of Finance to transfer another 77.5 million somoni (about \$7.3 million)<sup>8</sup>.

Part of these funds (42.3 million somoni) will be used to "reduce financial obligations to contractors and suppliers". The remaining 35.2 million somoni will be used in 2025 to service the Eurobond debt that were raised in 2017 for the completion of the Rogun HPP.

### **Funds raised by international financial institutions**

In December 2023, it was reported that the Saudi Fund for Development would allocate \$100 million to the construction of the Rogun HPP<sup>9</sup>.

Rogun's investors are also the Islamic Development Bank (\$150 mln) and the Arab Development Funds (\$400 mln), which approved financing on April 27, 2024<sup>10</sup>.

In addition, according to the Ministry of Finance, agreements are in place to obtain a preferential loan of \$500 million from the Asian Bank for Infrastructure Investments (PRC).

Potential investors in the project include the World Bank, European Investment Bank, ADB, Eurasian Development Bank and others.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://rivers.help/n/3265>

<sup>9</sup> <https://tass.ru/ekonomika/19179491>

<sup>10</sup> <https://asiaplustj.info/ru/news/tajikistan/economic/20240517/abr-skoree-vsego-primet-uchastie-v-finansirovanii-roguna>

## Events

### 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum “Water for Shared Prosperity”

The 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum under the theme “Water for Shared Prosperity” was held in Bali, Indonesia on May 18-24, 2024.

#### General information

**Participants:** total number of participants reached 75 thousand, including more than 20 thousand officially registered ones from 160 countries, 6 heads of state and governments; 51 ministers and representatives of 34 international organizations, a total of 135 officials at the ministerial level.

There were also 216 parliamentarians from 44 countries, 300 representatives of local and regional authorities from 23 countries and 847 representatives of sub-regions.

On behalf of Central Asia, the Minister of Water Management of Uzbekistan Sh. Hamraev, First Deputy Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Kazakhstan B. Bekniyaz, First Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, D. Shoimzoda and Chairman of the State Committee for Water Management of Turkmenistan D. Gendjiev took part in the event.

#### **Program** (over 280 sessions across the process)

- 2 plenary sessions
- 20 high-level panels on 20 priorities
- political process: 21 sessions in 5 segments
- regional process: 35 sessions in 4 regions
- thematic process: 126 sessions and 21 syntheses on 6 sub-themes (*Water security and prosperity; water for people and nature; disaster risk reduction; governance, cooperation and water diplomacy; sustainable financing of water; knowledge and innovation*) and 30 topics
- 15 special sessions and 55 side events

**Exhibition:** Pavilions of 126 organizations and 19 countries, including

the pavilion of Tajikistan.

## Key messages from the Forum

**Water is not only politics, water is hydro-diplomacy.** These words were delivered by Loic Fauchon, the President of the World Water Council at the opening ceremony of the Forum and echoed in other sessions, underlining the importance of transboundary cooperation and water diplomacy. It is necessary change the narrative of discussions from conflict one to cooperation, focusing on the opportunities and values uniting people, countries, basins and continents and thinking about the benefits for a river.

The appointment of the Special Envoys for Water in many countries around the world and their active participation in the Forum is a clear sign of the growing importance of water issues in foreign policy.

137 country statements were made, a **ministerial declaration** was adopted which, among other things, recognized the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of water resources, including groundwater; the inclusion of water issues in action plans; and, in particular, the need for increased funding; implementation of measures and actions to reduce pressures on water availability; national policies, plans and actions of IWRM in a systemic context; proposal for a World Lake Day as part of the UN process; capacity building of all relevant stakeholders; water, energy, food security, nutrition, poverty and hunger eradication nexus; disaster risk reduction; transboundary cooperation under international law; empowerment of diverse stakeholders; innovative and sustainable financing from all sources; promotion of education, research and innovation; establishment of a center of excellence for water resources in the Asia-Pacific region; use of networks and partnerships.

The Ministerial Declaration included a **“Compendium of concrete results and actions”**, comprising the projects in the following areas: center of excellence in water and climate (5 projects); sustainable lake management (5 projects); access to drinking water and sanitation (23 projects); knowledge and innovation in the water sector (6 projects); disaster resilience and risk management (9 projects); sustainable water management and policy (4 projects); water, ecosystems and transboundary cooperation (4 projects); strengthening the water nexus (3 projects); expanding stakeholder opportunities and using network (6 projects); innovative and sustainable financing (2 projects); promising projects (46 projects).

180 parliamentarians from 49 countries attended the **parliamentary**

**meeting** and discussed the issues related to water policies and visions for global sustainability and prosperity. The main themes were the access to drinking water and sanitation, innovative practices for equitable access, the role of water in combating climate change, water diplomacy for peace (summarized in the Nusa Dua Communique). The parliamentary community was once again called upon to prioritize actions to fulfil obligations adopted in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and implement the vision of equal and prosperous future in the interest of present and future generations.

The Forum also included a high-level session on “**Cooperation in Global South: The Bandung Spirit Water Summit**”<sup>11</sup>, aimed at collective action to find solutions to water problems in small and remote islands. The government of Indonesia put forward three proposals as part of South-South cooperation: establishment of a World Lakes Day, creation of a Center of Excellence for Water and Climate Resilience and a commitment to implement integrated water resources management in small islands. Specific actions for water cooperation “in the Bandung Spirit” were grouped into five agendas, namely: water and peace; climate change and disaster risk management; water and sanitation for all; water financing and governance; and development of a fund for and by young generations.

**Joint Commissions** from different basins as noted at the Forum as “accelerators of water diplomacy” and “spaces of solidarity” presented the results of their activities on data and information collection, processing and dissemination, monitoring and assessment, and capacity building. As a result, **the Bali Basin Champions Agenda has been adopted**, a new commitment to support river basin management to enhance the achievement of the SDGs. It includes collaborative actions, such as TwinBasin Initiative (TBI), a global program to build capacity and share experiences among organizations from around the world, working on integrated water resources management at both national and transboundary basin levels.

Successes and tasks of **regional cooperation in Central Asia** on sustainable transboundary water management were discussed at two special sessions - “Transboundary water cooperation in the Aral Sea basin” (EC IFAS and International Water Assessment Center) and “Mobilizing water finance for climate resilience in Central Asia and the Caucuses (GWP) as part of the regional process, and presented at the basin segment and thematic sessions.

Much attention has been paid to financing, improving the efficiency of existing mechanisms and finding new ones to finance the water sector and

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<sup>11</sup> In the Spirit of Bandung means in solidarity. The “Spirit of Bandung” was proclaimed at the first major Asian-African Conference (18-24 April 1955) in Bandung (West Java, Indonesia). The Spirit of Bandung is a symbol of the African-Asian Association.

transboundary cooperation. More active involvement of the private sector remains a long-standing priority but is difficult to achieve. Successful models of public-private partnerships (PPP) in the irrigation sector are still rare. Examples of successful financing in other sectors can serve as models for testing in the water sector.

Many countries and organizations are focusing on climate-resilient infrastructure. For example, one of the key issues in deepening Japan's water policy is the implementation of water infrastructure initiatives to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

**Building capacity and developing expert partnerships** have been proposed in a form of Center of Excellence as a hub of “collective wisdom” (Indonesia), expert platforms (SIC ICWC and OECD), network interaction (UNESCO/UNITWIN Climate Education Network). The **Bali Coalition** was launched to support professional training in the water sector, the partner of which is the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Network of Water-Management Organizations Organizations (EECCA NWO), with SIC ICWC as the Secretariat of the Network. The aim of the coalition is to strengthen professional skills as a key accelerator for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly access to drinking water and sanitation.

The value of local knowledge and practices and the inadmissibility of replicating even the most advanced experiences without understanding the context and circumstances were discussed in several sessions. This leads to loss of invested resources and instability of the actions. **The involvement of communities** and stakeholders should also be differentiated, taking into account the culture and traditions of the country and region. Several events were dedicated to increasing women’s participation, including a side event entitled “Together we are the power – role of women leaders in water and climate”, organized jointly with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network of which the SIC ICWC is a member.

**Youth** was integrated in almost all activities and sessions of the Forum. Some young researchers showed impressive results in their projects and theses. But it was also very frustrating to have the youth present their biography and teach others what to do. It would be more productive to establish a dialogue and cooperation between all generations that could complement each other's professional and social skills.

**The 11<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum** will be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2027.

On May 20, 2024, the opening ceremony of the 10th World Water Forum was held at the International Conference Center in Bali, Indonesia. The opening ceremony was attended by 7 Heads of State and Government, Ministers of several countries, including Sh. Khamraev, Minister of Water Management of the Republic of Uzbekistan, B. Bekniyaz, First Vice-Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, J. Shoimzoda, First Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Welcoming speeches were delivered by Loic Fauchon, President of the World Water Council, and Elon Musk, famous businessman and investor.



In his welcome speech, Loic Fauchon announced the beginning of the struggle to secure world's water resources, listing 7 commitments of water warriors, including promotion of water security policy worldwide at all levels, enshrining a right to water in the constitutions of countries, wider adoption of nature-based solutions, strengthening hydro-diplomacy, etc.

The first day of the Forum also included a ministerial meeting, a meeting of parliamentarians, and the opening of the Forum exhibition, which brought together 126 organizations and companies from 23 countries.

On May 21-22, a number of sessions were held as part of the thematic and regional process. In particular, sessions on innovative methods of "green" financing of the water sector, including in Central Asia and the Caucasus.



The proposed solutions involved the use of technical (gray) and nature-based solutions, and the need to combine both. The issues of private financing were raised, and challenges with private sector engagement in water sector, for example, through public-private partnerships (PPPs) were highlighted at the session. The experience of Central Asia and Caucasus in mobilizing water finance for climate resilience was presented.



### **Session “Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin for a Better Future”**

On May 22, the session on transboundary water cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin was held as part of regional process. The session was organized by the Executive Committee of IFAS and IWAC in a plenary session format.

The heads of water agencies of five countries within the Aral Sea Basin and representatives from international development organizations (World Bank, USAID, UNECE, ADB) shared a vision for solutions to enhance climate resilience of water in the basin and the main directions for joint actions.

In conclusion, the countries endorsed the outcome document on enhancing their regional engagement and called for international organizations and partners to consolidate their support to the Aral Sea Basin Program (ASBP-4).



### **Sub-regional session outcome document “Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Aral Sea basin for a better future”<sup>12</sup>**

On May 22, 2024, in Bali, Indonesia, the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS) and the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) organized a sub-regional session “Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin for a better future” within the framework of the 10th World Water Forum. The sub-regional session was held with financial support from the World Bank at the expense of the CAWEP Multilateral Trust Fund.

The session was aimed to assist Central Asian countries in shaping a common vision for the joint use and protection of water resources in the context of climate change by developing shared approaches and concrete actions to implement the priorities of the Aral Sea Basin.

The session was attended by official representatives of the water management and environmental agencies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as representatives of international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, scientists, experts,

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<sup>12</sup> Extract

youth, and other interested parties.

The session's program included an opening, a keynote address, two panel discussions with representatives from Central Asian countries and international organizations, and a closing.

In the opening, participants were welcomed by Mr. Serzhan Abdykarimov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Indonesia, and Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha, Director of the Global Water Practice at the World Bank Group.

Mr. Askhat Orazbay, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, made a keynote speech on "Cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin: Progress and Achievements, Problems and Prospects of Cooperation under a Changing Climate." Heads of water management agencies of the founding countries of IFAS took part in the panel discussion as well.

Based on the conclusions of the main report, the speakers of the first panel discussed the issues of disaster risk reduction related to the negative impact of climate change on water resources in the Aral Sea basin, ensuring and strengthening regional cooperation to improve climate resilience of water resources in the basin. During the discussion, participants outlined the national priorities of the countries regarding the use and protection of water resources in the Aral Sea basin and emphasized the need to take joint measures to ensure the sustainable use of water resources in the basin.

At the second panel, speakers shared best practices and knowledge on transboundary water management, technologies, and methods to combat the negative impact of climate change on water resources, discussed possible ways to improve adaptation planning in the Aral Sea basin and proposals for attracting climate funding for joint measures to increase climate resilience in the Aral Sea basin.

Based on the results of the discussions, the participants made the following resolution:

1. express gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for organizing the 10th World Water Forum and the Secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Process of the Forum for supporting the organization of the sub-regional session;
2. note the relevance of studying best practices on water resources management in transboundary basins, the introduction of technologies and methods to combat the negative impact of climate change on water resources, as well as the need to use them in improving resource management in the Aral Sea basin.
3. emphasize the need to strengthen cooperation on joint management of

the Aral Sea Basin's water resources amid accelerating climate change processes.

4. highlight the need to intensify efforts to improve the organizational structure and legal framework of IFAS, considering the interests of all countries.

5. call on international organizations and partners to consolidate support for the implementation of the Action Program for Assistance to the Countries of the Aral Sea Basin (ASBP-4) and the Regional Environmental Program for Sustainable Development in Central Asia (REP4SD-CA).

6. stress that ineffective water resource management is one of the major development challenges in the region. In this regard, water ministries of all countries need to adopt a long-term investment program, the "Multi-Stage Approach," to enhance efficiency and conserve water resources, modernize dams, hydraulic infrastructure, sediment management, and dam safety;

7. recommend the IFAS to take appropriate measures on implementation of the projects of the Action Program for Assistance to the Countries of the Aral Sea Basin (ASBP-4), including through strengthening existing coordination mechanisms with the participation of international partners and on supporting implementation of projects aimed at ensuring effective interaction and mobilizing actions;

8. recommend the IFAS to consolidate the actions and efforts of international partners, with the creation of an appropriate platform to assist countries in building capacity to combat the negative impact of climate change on the water resources of the Aral Sea basin.

9. emphasize the importance of intensifying the efforts of countries to develop a joint mechanism for the use of water and energy resources in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya River basins, as well as to present and agree on a draft regional strategy for the rational use of water resources of transboundary rivers in Central Asia

10. draw the attention of the countries to the need to strengthen the implementation of water-saving technologies in the region and automation of gauging stations to achieve transparency in transboundary water management.

11. emphasize the need to improve the material and technical base and to consider strengthening the powers of the executive bodies of the BWO Amu Darya and BWO Syr Darya;

12. note the relevance of global and regional initiatives of the founding countries of IFAS in the field of water resources, including the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development," 2018-2028, the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation - 2025, as well as using the One Water Summit platform to promote projects in the Aral Sea Basin and the need

to demonstrate successful cooperation experience of the riparian countries in the joint use and protection of water resources at the Summit, launching a joint initiative aimed at fundraising for environmental projects and restoring ecosystems of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya river basins, reducing disaster risks, and improving medical services.

13. welcome the activities of the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) for assisting in the development of cooperation on the use and protection of water resources in the Aral Sea basin and recommend strengthening assistance to the countries of the basin within the framework of the IWAC Work Program for 2025-2027.

More detailed information on the 10th World Water Forum can be found in the brochure of the **10th World Water Forum 'Water for Shared Prosperity'** (18-25 May 2024, Bali, Indonesia)<sup>13</sup> prepared by SIC ICWC.



<sup>13</sup> Available on: <http://cawater-info.net/library/rus/10wwf-ru.pdf>

## **Third High-Level International Conference on International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028**

The Third High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action ‘Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028’, organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan with the support of the UN and other partners, was held in Dushanbe on 10-13 May.

The overall objective of the Conference was to support the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", to review progress catalyzed by the UN World Water Conference 2023, with a special focus on the implementation of the Program of Action on Water, and to identify obstacles and opportunities related to the implementation of the commitments set out in the Program of Action on Water.

The structure of the conference followed the structure of the UN Water Conference 2023 and **included the following five interactive dialogues:**

- *Interactive Dialogue 1. Water for Health: Access to WASH, including the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation.*
- *Interactive Dialogue 2. Water for Sustainable Development: Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus, and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development.*
- *Interactive Dialogue 3. Water for Climate, Resilience, and Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).*
- *Interactive Dialogue 4. Water for Cooperation: Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross-Sectoral Cooperation, including Scientific Cooperation, and Water Across the 2030 Agenda.*
- *Interactive Dialogue 5. Water Action Decade: Accelerating the Implementation of the Objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General’s Action Plan.*

**Nine forums** were organized as a part of the conference to engage different stakeholders and support cross-sectoral discussions:

- Central Asia Forum on Water and Climate Change.
- African Water Forum “Reviewing Progress and Framing the Agenda for Post-2025 Africa Water Vision”.

- 3rd Regional Forum of Basin Organizations.
- International Glacier Forum dedicated to the International Year of Glacier Preservation 2025.
- Youth and Children's Water and Climate Forum.
- Women and Water Forum.
- Forum on Science and Technology.
- Private Sector Forum.

Parliamentarians Forum on ICPD30: “Water resources and demographic sustainability in the interests of youth”

All interactive dialogues and forums addressed the five dimensions of the Global Acceleration Agenda for SDG 6 as overarching themes: financing, data and information, capacity building, innovation and governance, and the linkages between accelerating SDG 6 and other water-related SDGs in the development of the dialogues and forums.

### **The Water and Glacier Festival**

The Water and Glacier Festival was held for the first time in Tajikistan. The main objective of the Water and Glacier Festival was to raise public awareness of the value of water as a vital resource and glaciers as the main sources of clean drinking water, as well as the need to treat them with care and preserve them for future generations. Along with positive messages, the festival highlighted the existing problems and challenges in this area and the need to mobilize efforts to overcome them.

The festival also aimed to highlight Tajikistan's policy and practice as a leading country in promoting water issues on the global agenda, as well as to draw attention to the UNGA Resolution declaring 2025 the International Year of Glacier Preservation and March 21 as World Glacier Day. This declaration is crucial in addressing issues related to climate change, glacier preservation, and eliminating water scarcity on the planet, and it stands as one of the most important achievements of Tajikistan on the international stage.

### **The international exhibition “Rethinking the Value of Water”**

As part of the conference, the International Exhibition 'Rethinking the value of water' was organized and held at the Kokhi Somon. The aim of the exhibition was to further strengthen and develop cooperation among stakeholders, to highlight innovative ways, methods, techniques and technologies for sustainable water resources management, and to establish close business relationships among various stakeholders.



## Opening ceremony<sup>14</sup>

On 11 June, Emomali Rakhmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, addressed the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028.

After the Head of State, Emomali Rahmon, the heads of delegation of national governments, international and regional organizations and institutions, as well as a number of high-level experts, including Željka Cvijanović, member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the UN General Assembly, Constantine Chiwenga, First Vice-President of Zimbabwe, Esperança da Costa, Vice-President of Angola, Mutale Nalumango, Vice-President of Zambia, Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, Paula Narváez, President of the UN Economic and Social Council, Raymond Ndong Sima, Prime Minister of Gabon, Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, President of the Islamic Development Bank, Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican's Secretary of State, and Saroj Kumar Jha, Global Director for the World Bank Group's Water Global Practice, addressed the Conference and gave a high appraisal of Tajikistan's global initiatives to address water and climate issues.

## **Address of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmon at the opening ceremony of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on International Decade for Action "Water for sustainable development", 2018-2028<sup>15</sup>**

Dear Excellencies,  
Head of delegations,  
Ladies and gentlemen!

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<sup>14</sup> Source: <https://khovar.tj/rus/2024/06/prezident-respubliki-tadzhikistan-emomali-rahmon-prinyal-uchastie-i-vystupil-na-tretej-mezhdunarodnoj-konferentsii-po-mezhdunarodnomu-desyatiletiju-dejstvij-voda-dlya-ustojchivogo-razvitiya-2018-2028/>; <https://embassylife.ru/en/post/56715>;

<sup>15</sup> Source: <http://tajemb-my.org/speech-by-president-of-tajikistan-his-excellency-emomali-rahmon-in-the-opening-ceremony-of-the-3rd-dushanbe-water-action-decade-conference-water-for-sustainable-development-2018-20/>



I welcome all of you to Tajikistan for participation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference “Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028!”



We are satisfied that Tajikistan’s global initiatives, particularly within “Dushanbe Water Process” frameworks, during these two decades, united UN member states and its institutions, international and regional organizations, financial institutions, civil society and other stakeholders in order to discuss the global water issues and strive to look for solutions.

In March 2023, the international community witnessed a historic UN Water Conference co-chaired by Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which opened a new page in the world water agenda.

The conference caused significant developments in understanding the essence and the importance of water for sustainable development and the need for effective and urgent actions in this vital field.

Thus, we managed to collectively put water on the center of the table of global negotiations on development, and unite the world around this very important topic.

However, it is worth noting that our current actions and initiatives are still not sufficient for us to achieve our set goals to this end, due to current risks and rising threats becoming relatively fast and effective.

For the last five years, we have consistently been witnessing the hottest years and months on record on our planet.

According to reports, 2023 was recorded as the hottest year as well.

There is a strong possibility that this is not all what has yet to come, and we will witness more record numbers in the next few years.

It is worthy of noting that, year by year, the share of water-related emergencies within the total number of natural disasters and the amount of damages caused from said emergencies is also increasing.

For the last 20 years, this share has increased from 80 to 90 percent and the amount of damages has increased considerably too.

A clear example of this is the current year's floods in various parts of the world, including Tajikistan, which caused hundreds of millions of dollars in financial damages to the countries' economies.

If just a few years ago we were talking about quadrupling efforts to achieve the 6th Sustainable Development Goal, today, according to the UN – Water, we now need to instead increase our efforts six times in order to achieve this goal.

In this regard, it is necessary for us to strive for new and effective initiatives along with the fulfillment of our obligations taken under the United Nations Water Conference.

It is for this reason that we decided to follow up the results of the New York Conference and incorporated the new commitments into the core of the Dushanbe Conference's agenda.

It should be noted that the use of the "Dushanbe Water Process" as a platform to follow up the results of the United Nations Water Conference is one of our commitments under the Water Action Agenda, and we express our readiness to further expand this process.

Ladies and gentlemen!

Tajikistan, despite having abundant fresh water resources, including glaciers, lakes, and rivers, pays particular attention to water-related problems.

This is why the subject of water resources, their rational and sustainable use has been identified as one of the priorities of our state policy.

The support of Tajikistan's initiatives in the fields of water and climate by the international community, through the adoption of 10 resolutions of the UN General Assembly, manifests the active and key role of our country in promoting the agenda of water and climate at the international level.

In this context, the International Decade of Action "Water for Sustainable Development", which laid a real foundation for the acceleration of actions in the field of water, deserves a special emphasis.

Our country's activities in promoting the issue of water in the global climate agenda is also another point of attention.

Since the 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) held in Glasgow in 2021, and later in Sharm el Sheikh and Dubai, Tajikistan in cooperation with partner countries and international organizations is actively working to strengthen the issue of water in the Climate Agenda.

We believe that this way we will achieve effective results this year within the framework of the next Climate Summit in Baku.

The "Dushanbe Water Process" will play an important role as a broad and free dialogue venue for various interested parties for comprehensive preparation of the United Nations Water Conference in 2028 in Dushanbe.

The capacities of the platform can also be utilized for preparation of the United Nations Water Conference in 2026.

Dear friends,

We have implemented effective measures to solve the water issues at the national and regional levels.

In particular, we are implementing the "Water Sector Reform Program for 2016-2025" aimed at fully transition to the integrated management of water resources.

The development of the "National Water Strategy until 2040" and the "State Program for Drinking Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment until 2032", as well as the establishment of a unified information system in the water sector, are considered important steps by our country to this end.

Our programs and strategies in this direction also include the subjects related to the improvement of culture, rational and economical use of water, and the introduction of new irrigation technologies.

We are redoubling our efforts to transition to "Green Economy", and water resources play a key role in achieving this goal.

More than 98 percent of Tajikistan's electricity is produced from country's hydropower resources.

We have decided to increase this indicator to 100 percent by 2032, that is, to produce electricity entirely by "Green Energy" resources.

Turning Tajikistan into a "Green Country" by 2037 is our other aim.

In this context, along with the full use of renewable energy, we have adopted the "Program for Greening the Country's Nature until 2040" according to which more than two billion trees should be planted by then.

At the same time, we pay special attention to cross-border cooperation on water issues.

In this regard, I reiterate my country's readiness to further strengthening of regional cooperation in Central Asia and to solve the pressing water issues through a constructive dialogue.

Dear audience,

Today's world is under the influence of severe crises.

In recent years, in addition to common threats, including climate change, unfortunately, we are witnessing new threats and dangers that require double the attention of the world community, including the pressing issues of water.

The negative impacts of climate change on water resources, primarily on water sources and drinking water, are clear examples.

We shall not forget that water is the very source of life, and there is no life without it.

Water is the life of man and all living creatures in nature.

Water is not just a resource for drinking; it plays a key role in power generation, food production, industrial development, environmental sustainability and other aspects of human life.

In New York, we held five constructive interactive dialogues related to the importance of water in ensuring health, sustainable development, resilience to climate change, developing cooperation, and further steps within the Decade of Water for Sustainable Development; we achieved significant results.

In order to strengthen these achievements and to continue constructive dialogues, we developed the program of the Dushanbe Conference in accordance with the program of the UN 2023 Water Conference.

To this end, we called on the co-chairing countries of the New York dialogues to take the lead in discussing relevant topics.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my gratitude to these parties for their cooperation in conducting dialogues of the Dushanbe Conference.

At the same time, I would like to express my gratitude to all the partners who contributed to holding gatherings and side events of the Conference.

Yesterday you witnessed the Dushanbe Water Festival.

We try to transfer every water gathering in Dushanbe into a festival, because water as a source of life deserves proper care and respect.

We should use it wisely and sparingly, and not take it for granted, and protect it for future generations to come.

I am sure that the results of today's Conference will make a valuable contribution to solving the problems related to water and climate.

We hope that the important messages from interactive dialogues, conferences, and side events will play an important role in the implementation process of the commitments under the Water Action Agenda of the New York Conference, as well as in adopting new commitments and actions.

Effectively, as we see it, 2024 can be a year of high tribute to water resources.

Dushanbe Conference, Bali Water Forum, Summit of the Future in New York, World Water Weeks in Singapore, Cairo, and Stockholm, as one single chain, can contribute to this process.

In this context, we expect that the topic of water will be incorporated on the agenda of other world events, especially the conferences of the parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change in Azerbaijan, and the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Colombia.

All these gatherings, in turn, can lay a good foundation for the successful and fruitful holding of the United Nations Water Conferences in 2026 and 2028 and overall, for the effective implementation of the International Decade of Action "Water for Sustainable Development".

Dear audience,

I would like to draw your attention to another day-to-day issue, namely the problem of glaciers, which are one of the main sources of fresh water.

Along with the unprecedented increase in the demand for water, which is related to the increase in population and economic development, the rapid melting of glaciers and the reduction of their resources have caused deep concern for the international community.

This process can be clearly observed in the Republic of Tajikistan.

Over the past few decades, 1,000 of the 13,000 glaciers of our country, which are the main source of formation of up to 60% of Central Asia's water resources, have completely melted.

As Tajikistan is not an industrialized country, its share in the total amount of greenhouse waste is insignificant.

It is for this reason that our initiative to declare 2025 as the "International Year of Glacier Preservation" has received full support, and in accordance with the relevant resolution of the General Assembly, starting next year, March 21st will be celebrated annually as "World Day of Glaciers".

In this regard, I would like to mention that Tajikistan, being one of the pioneers, made its financial contribution to the activation of the "International Special Fund for Glaciers Preservation".

We invite partner countries and international organizations to make their contribution to strengthening the financial capacities of this fund.

As per abovementioned resolution, next year, Tajikistan will host a major international conference on glaciers preservation.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to participate and contribute to it.

I would also like to mention that in order to further strengthen this important issue, together with our partners, we have decided to draft a resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the declaration of the Decade of Polar Sciences and Gglaciology.

I believe that this initiative of ours will gain the full support from the members of the UN.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to the United Nations and its institutions, all international and financial organizations, members of the International Advisory Committee to the "Dushanbe Water Process" and all our partners for their help and support in organizing and holding today's conference.

I wish you all, dear participants of the conference, success and a pleasant stay in the capital of Tajikistan!

Thank you for your attention!

## Outcomes of the conference

The outcome of the conference is the Dushanbe Declaration, which calls on UN member states and stakeholders to take action in several areas, including health protection, leadership and cooperation in water and sanitation, obligation to leave no one behind, development of concrete actions for sustainable water supply, and calls for greater cooperation and support for the implementation of the UN system-wide strategy on water and sanitation.



## Final Declaration

The Third High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, met in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 10-13 June 2024, to discuss how to achieve the objectives of the Decade, contained in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 71/222 of 21 December 2016 in order to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Heads of State and Government, ministers and other high-level dignitaries took part in this historical gathering together with representatives of international and regional organizations, local governments, civil society, the private sector and academia. The Conference provided a timely and necessary platform to follow-up on the progress catalyzed by the UN 2023 Water Conference, including the implementation of the Water Action Agenda. Discussions and key messages that resonated with participants will feed into the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and other future upcoming water-related events and conferences.

**We, the Heads of Delegation, high-level representatives of the states, organizations, major groups and other stakeholders having met in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, from 10 to 13 June 2024, contributing to the Dushanbe Water Process in our different roles and responsibilities,**

*Reaffirming* commitment to United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and determination to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” and other water-related goals and targets by 2030,

*Emphasizing* that water is critical for achieving all SDGs, and underlining that water, ecosystems, energy, health, food security and improved nutrition are interlinked, and that water and sanitation are a prerequisite for human development, including the empowerment of women and girls, and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and are indispensable for addressing the interrelated challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution,

*Recalling* United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/292 of 28 July 2010 which introduced the human rights to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation and United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/169 of 17 December 2015 which affirms that the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation as components of the right to an adequate standard of living are essential for the full enjoyment of the right to life and all human rights,



*Concerned* that water-related challenges are expanding, notably that water is a primary medium through which climate change impacts societies and ecosystems, and vice versa, including through droughts, floods, and changing precipitation patterns that pose risks to biodiversity, agriculture, food and energy security, and basic human needs, disproportionately affecting populations and communities facing vulnerable situations, and acknowledging that climate-resilient water and sanitation management is a fundamental part of climate change mitigation and adaptation,

*Noting with concern* that the world is not on track to achieve SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets at the global level by 2030 at the current rate of progress, which has a negative impact on human well-being and on the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental, acknowledging that achieving universal coverage by 2030 will require a sixfold increase in current global rates of progress on drinking water, a fivefold increase for sanitation and a threefold increase for hygiene<sup>16</sup> and taking note of the key findings and recommendations from the latest UN-Water SDG 6 synthesis report on water and sanitation 2023,<sup>17</sup>

*Recalling* United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/222 of 21 December 2016, by which it proclaimed the period from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development” and United Nations Secretary-General’s Plan: Water Action Decade 2018–2028 that formulated the objectives of the Decade (a) to advance sustainable development; (b) to energize implementation of existing programmes and projects; and (c) to mobilize action to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and also recalling United Nations General Assembly resolutions 73/226<sup>18</sup> and 75/212<sup>19</sup>,

*Taking note* of the Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 report<sup>20</sup> of the United Nations Secretary-General that highlights what was accomplished from 2018 to 2022 and pinpoints best practices and lessons learned to identify obstacles and propose actions and initiatives needed to overcome them,

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<sup>16</sup> United Nations, *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: towards a rescue plan for people and planet: report of the Secretary-General (special edition)* (New York, 2023). A/78/80-E/2023/64, para. 34.

<sup>17</sup> UN-Water, *Blueprint for Acceleration: Sustainable Development Goal 6: Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2023* (Geneva, United Nations, 2023).

<sup>18</sup> United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/226, “Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028”

<sup>19</sup> United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/212, “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.”

<sup>20</sup> United Nations, *Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development: report of the Secretary-General, 2018–2028*, (New York, 2022). A/77/249

*Noting with satisfaction* the important progress made and follow-up efforts to implement actions and commitments contained in the Declaration of the Second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 (Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference) that took place 6-9 June 2022,

*Appreciating* the convening 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 (UN 2023 Water Conference), from 22 to 24 March 2023, which generated significant momentum towards enhancing water action and political commitment at all levels, including through the Water Action Agenda, to address water-related challenges,

*Recalling* United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/334 of 1 September 2023 on the “Follow-up to 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” and the important decisions by Member States contained therein, including to convene the United Nations 2026 Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and also to convene, in 2028, the United Nations Conference on the Final Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028,

*Reaffirming* the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly (2023 SDG Summit) resolution 78/1 of 29 September 2023 that commits “to address water scarcity and stress and drive transformation from a global water crisis to a world where water is a sustainable resource, ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”,

*Expressing appreciation* to the Republic of Senegal and the United Arab Emirates for their leadership as candidates to co-host the UN 2026 Water Conference, and the Government of Tajikistan for the generous offer to host the 2028 United Nations Conference on the Final Comprehensive Review of the Water Action Decade in Dushanbe, and committing full support for the preparation of these forthcoming United Nations conferences on water,

*Noting* the action that was taken by the United Nations Secretary-General to develop a UN system-wide strategy for water and sanitation in consultation with Member States, as requested by United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/334, in order to enhance coordination and delivery of water-related priorities across the United Nations system,

*Also noting* the substantive progress made at the 27th and 28th meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) through the Global Stocktake, including recognition of the critical role of protecting, conserving and restoring water systems and water-related ecosystems in delivering climate adaptation benefits and co-benefits while ensuring social and environmental safeguards,

*Further noting* the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience to guide the achievement of the global goal on adaptation and welcoming the inclusion of water and sanitation as a vital element for the adaptation goal and its targets,

*Recalling* the water-relevant intergovernmentally agreed outcomes of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in May 2022, 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in December 2022, Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework in May 2023, sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in March 2024 and *looking forward* to their implementation,

*Taking note* of outcomes from other meetings, including the 10th World Water Forum with the Bandung Spirit Water Summit in May 2024,

*Recognizing* that glaciers are a critical component of the hydrological cycle and calling for support for the implementation and widespread celebration of the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation in 2025 and the annual celebration of the World Day for Glaciers on 21 March, in addition to *welcoming* the focus of World Water Day 2025 on glaciers, as well as *looking forward* to the International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation in Dushanbe in 2025,

*Taking note* of the Mapping and Progress of the UN 2023 Water Conference Water Action Agenda report<sup>21</sup> by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *highlighting* the major hurdles in particular financial constraints, lack of expertise, difficulties in fostering an enabling environment and cooperation issues that emerge as significant barriers to progress towards the fulfillment of these voluntary commitments and *acknowledging* that the Dushanbe Water Process aims to address these challenges and seek solutions,

*Emphasizing* that the Dushanbe Water Process, culminating in the Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference, has enhanced common efforts and

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<sup>21</sup> UN DESA, *Mapping and Progress of the UN 2023 Water Conference Water Action Agenda report*, advance version, (New York, 2024).

support for the implementation of and synergy between voluntary commitments registered in the Water Action Agenda of the UN 2023 Water Conference,

### **Forward looking key messages**

***We, invite and urge all decision-makers and stakeholders to take action in order to:***

*Protect* human health and well-being by accelerating progress in the provision of safely managed water and sanitation services and the promotion of better hygiene and through improved water management, including the protection of all freshwater resources (including surface and groundwater) from pollution, because prevention is more just, more environmentally sound, and more cost-effective than addressing health and pollution issues once they arise,

*Strengthen* leadership and collaboration on drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene to introduce and sustain transformative changes through policy reforms, regulatory and economic instruments, as well as to improve coordination between water-related sectors and alignment of development partners in support of government initiatives,

*Deliver* on the promise to leave no one behind, including through establishing evidence-based policies and strategies to prioritize universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene as critical for the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation for all without discrimination, whilst prioritizing those most in need notably the poor, children, women, Indigenous Peoples and those in vulnerable situations and *emphasizing*, in this regard, the role of governments, local authorities, parliamentarians, private sector, youth and other stakeholders as part of the solution,

*Build* on concrete action being taken to accelerate progress on sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services in health care facilities as an entry point for water and health sector collaboration, including through data sharing and strengthened mechanisms for intersectoral coordination, as well as for preventing infections,

*Encourage* resource efficiency and reuse as the norm for economic sectors, which includes, as a priority: improving agricultural water use efficiency and increasing reuse, addressing sources of pollution, and reducing industrial wastewater emissions, water leakage and loss from water networks, as well as increasing water reuse in urban areas in line with the principles of the circular economy,

*Address* increasing water needs for sustainable urban development by implementing integrated urban and territorial planning, where appropriate, with nature-based solutions through the protection, sustainable management and restoration of ecosystems, as well as promoting information and communication technologies such as smart city technologies,

*Ensure* investment strategies take into account their impact on water, especially energy, industry and agriculture, and are backed by strategic environmental assessments and sustainable, inclusive finance policy and allocation,

*Strengthen* implementation of integrated water resources management from source to sea and at all levels, build climate resilience through integrated and inclusive planning and policymaking across sectors and increase cooperation on the ground through the participation of stakeholders,

*Protect and restore* ecosystems, including rivers, forests, peatlands, wetlands, lakes and aquifers to ensure human health, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, reverse biodiversity loss and desertification, tackle pollution, sustain agriculture, reduce disaster risks, and provide safe drinking water and sanitation and *prioritize*, where applicable, nature-based solutions that are indispensable to ensure a water resilient world,

*Enhance* actions for disaster risk reduction by urging political leadership, supporting science-evidenced decision making, promoting open science policy, and connecting scientific data and knowledge with policy formulation,

*Support* integration of water- and sanitation-related climate adaptation and mitigation measures in the context of formulating Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans where appropriate, in order to significantly reduce climate-induced water scarcity and enhance climate resilience to water-related hazards based on climate-resilient water management, water supply and sanitation approaches and *request* Member States to translate such measures into policies,

*Further strengthen* the recognition of the interconnections between sustainable water and sanitation management and the protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable management of ecosystems with sustainable development, climate action, biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, the environment, and desertification,

*Emphasize* the need to mainstream water issues within relevant intergovernmental processes, as appropriate, including meetings of the respective Conferences of the Parties to the UNFCCC, CBD, Ramsar Convention, and UNCCD,

*Strengthen* inclusive water cooperation, including at transboundary level as a prerequisite for addressing water-related challenges and ensuring sustainable development, regional integration, stability and prosperity, and promoting cooperation in other areas,

*Encourage* governance arrangements and cooperation mechanisms where they do not exist yet, and strengthen existing ones to meet the growing challenges by taking into consideration principles of international law and the United Nations Water Conventions as appropriate,

*Reinforce and sustain* existing basin organizations and support their efforts towards inclusive, sustainable, and integrated water resources management by promoting the financial sustainability, exchange of information, experience, and good practices, including transboundary aquifers and groundwater,

*Make* effective and targeted use of available funding and *increase* public and private financing, including from International Financial Institutions, by establishing enabling conditions, efficiencies and institutional arrangements needed to attract significant new investment to close the large funding gap in the water sector financial resources,

*Stress* the need for scientific data collection and science-based assessments at national, regional and other levels for improved water management, climate resilience, early warning systems, and risk-informed decision-making, paying attention to the needs of developing countries,

*Strengthen* capacity to improve monitoring of water- and sanitation-related targets, inform sectoral reviews and development planning cycles, and feed into global monitoring of SDG 6 and other water-related targets and indicators,

*Provide* quality and accessible education, from childhood to higher education, training and institutional and human resources capacity-development support that responds to national needs and priorities, contributing to a skilled, diverse water and sanitation workforce,

*Encourage* transfer and sharing of technologies to developing countries in water supply and sanitation by developed countries and through South-South Cooperation,

*Ensure* inclusive, transparent and empowering operational policies and procedures for participation of stakeholders, including women, youth, local communities and Indigenous Peoples in water and sanitation decision-making processes, recognizing the value of traditional and Indigenous Peoples knowledge and, where applicable, local communities, for sustainable water management solutions,

**Hereby, *reiterate* our determination to achieve the objectives of the Water Action Decade and declare our commitment to the following actions, according to our respective capabilities:**

*Reaffirm* the need for water to remain high on the international agenda, including through a high level of ambition at the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, as well as the 2028 United Nations Conference on the Final Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 as mandated by United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/334;

*Stress* the urgency to keep up the momentum of progress through the implementation of the voluntary commitments registered in the Water Action Agenda of the UN 2023 Water Conference and commitments from prior Dushanbe Water Action Decade conferences, and to stimulate new and innovative partnerships and accelerate actions to achieve the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*Emphasize* the compelling need to expand international cooperation and partnerships, including South-South Cooperation to mobilize the necessary means of implementation for SDG 6 and other water-related targets, *urge* all parties to increase efforts at all levels- locally, nationally, regionally, globally, to achieve SDG 6 by 2030 and *address* water-related challenges for current and future generations;

*Pursue* full implementation and achievement of Water Action Agenda voluntary commitments and *look forward* to further dialogue and exchange on the means of implementation during the 2024 United Nations High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) Special Event on SDG 6 and the Water Action Agenda in New York;

*Call* for monitoring and reporting of Water Action Agenda voluntary commitments, and *encourage* feasible new voluntary commitments to be registered in the Water Action Agenda during Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conferences and other upcoming water-related events;

*Call* for putting sustainable management of water and sanitation at the center of the sustainable development agenda through support to upcoming high-level meetings and conferences including the HLPF, United Nations Summit of the Future, UNFCCC COP 29, CBD COP 16, UNCCD COP 16, UN Special Thematic Sessions on Water and Disasters, as well as other meetings organized by Member States, including the One Water Summit;

*Encourage* the United Nations Secretary-General to appoint a Special Envoy on Water;

***Express* our sincere appreciation for the hospitality extended by the Government and People of Tajikistan and the support of the United Nations and of all the partners who contributed to this important conference.**



## SIC ICWC participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dushanbe conference

SIC ICWC actively participated in the work of the conference.

At the *Central Asia Forum on Water and Climate Change* organized by UNDP and the EU with the support of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan on June 10, SIC ICWC Director Dinara Ziganshina presented the key report on “Regional water cooperation and climate resilience in Central Asia.” She presented an approach for joint consideration and application of the UN framework on adaptation and climate resilience and for SDG 5 on implementation of IWRM at all levels by 2030. This approach was developed by SIC ICWC and SIC ICSD for the UNDP/GCF Turkmenistan project “Developing a National Adaptation Planning Process in Turkmenistan”. She also emphasized that regional cooperation on water and climate change resilience should be focused on harmonized policies, smart partnerships and strengthened local experience and capacities. Work in this direction will be undertaken by SIC in partnership with OECD and UNECE.



At the *Science and Technology Forum* organized by USAID Central Asia's Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity, IWMI, SDC, and the Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology at the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan (10 June) the Deputy Director of SIC ICWC spoke in the second session with the key report on "Water security outlook of administrative territories (provinces): methodology and assessment". He presented the methodology and assessment of water security in administrative territories on the example of three provinces in Uzbekistan. The methodology was developed by SIC ICWC within the framework of a project supported by UNESCO. He also noted that this methodology will be improved and scaled up to the Aral Sea basin under the IKI-supported project "Regional mechanisms for the low-carbon, climate-resilient transformation of the energy-water-land nexus in Central Asia".



*Side event 6 "Towards the One Water Summit"* was organized by the Governments of Kazakhstan and France on June 11. The Director of SIC ICWC presented the discussion paper "Rethinking institutional and financial mechanisms on water and energy cooperation in Central Asia". She noted that the idea of a consortium is already becoming a reality in the region through the joint construction and operation of Sangtuda HPP-1 (Tajikistan-Russia) and Kambarata 1 (Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan).



*Side event 7 “Finance and Investment for Water, Energy and Land-use Nexus in Central Asia”* was organized by OECD, SIC ICWC and UNECE on June 11. The participants focused on the importance of financing water and energy cooperation and discussed how to get access to increased investments in water and energy sectors jointly with riparian countries. Successful practices of joint maintenance of interstate water infrastructure were cited. The key areas of future activities on financial and economic aspects of water management, including as part of the IKI-Nexus project implemented by OECD, SIC ICWC and UNECE in partnership with the CA countries were outlined.



*Side event 10 “Strengthening Benefit Sharing in Central Asia: Role of Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus Approach”* was organized by the International Water Management Institute and the Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology at the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan on June 12. The Deputy Director Sherzod Muminov presented the key report “Financial and



investment support of cooperation on water and energy in Central Asia: history, current status and world best practices”. The participants emphasized the need to meet more regularly with the experts from relevant national ministries and agencies on financing and mobilization of investments in the water sector at national and transboundary levels, with account of water, energy, food and ecosystem nexus.



*Interactive dialogue 4. Water for Cooperation: Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross-Sectoral Cooperation, including Scientific Cooperation, and Water Across the 2030 Agenda* was organized by Senegal and Switzerland on June 12. The key rapporteurs included the Deputy Executive Secretary of UNECE Dmitriy Mariyasin, the Secretary General of INBO Eric Tardieu, the Director of SIC ICWC Dinara Ziganshina. Ms. Ziganshina focused on the importance of scientific evidence-based water cooperation in the region. The key takeaway from Interactive Dialogue 4 is that everything is important to build transboundary cooperation. One never knows what works out: political will or bottom-up approaches, multilateralism or bilateralism, intersectional interaction or science-policy interface - or all of these together. We all just have to work on our strengths to contribute our part to joint endeavors towards peace and wellbeing of people.

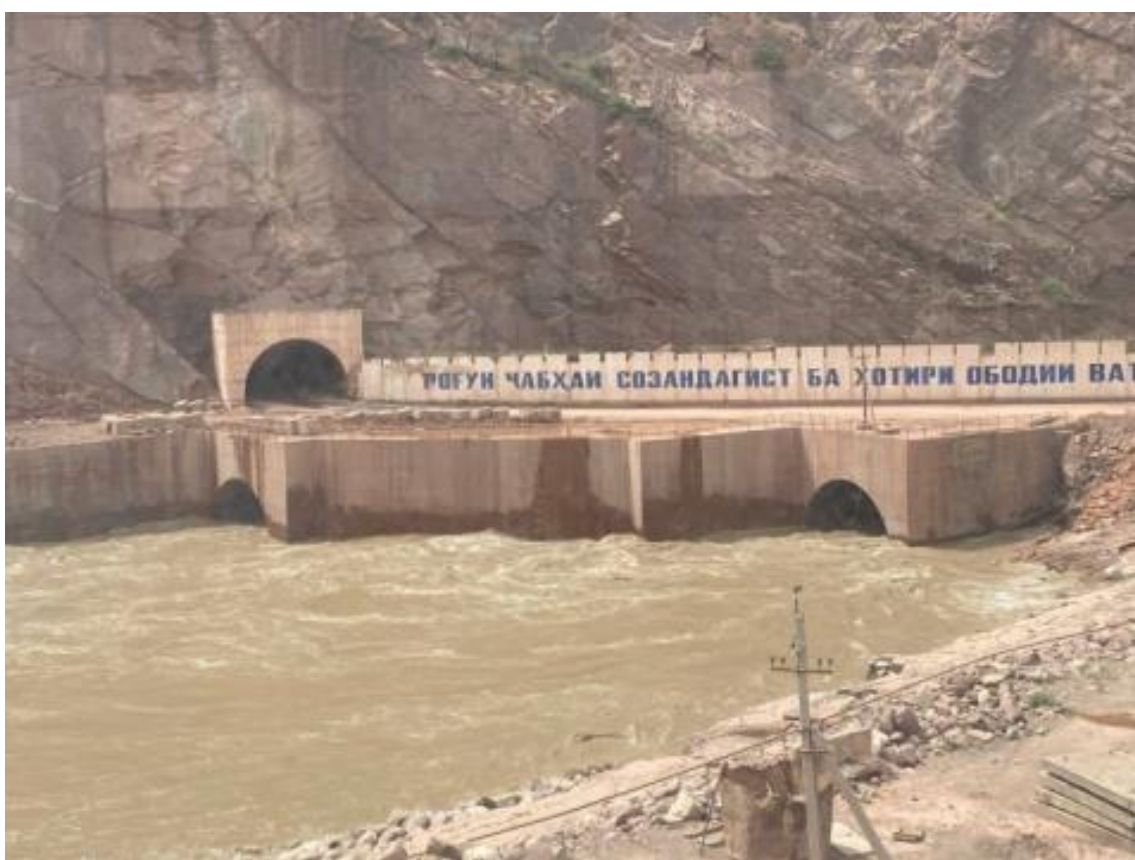


## Field trip

On 13 June, a field trip to the Rogun HPP was organized for the participants of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International High-Level Conference on the International Decade of Action «Water for Sustainable Development», 2018-2028. The Deputy Director of SIC ICWC Sh. Muminov took part in this field trip.







## **Bilateral meeting between Tajikhydromet and SIC ICWC**

The bilateral meeting between the Agency for Hydrometeorology at the Committee of Environmental Protection at the Government of Tajikistan and the SIC ICWC took place on June 10.

D. Ziganshina, Director of SIC ICWC, Sh. Muminov, Deputy Director of SIC ICWC, N. Sheralizoda, Deputy Director of the Agency for Hydrometeorology, D. Baidulloeva, Deputy Director of the Agency for Hydrometeorology, S. Saidov, Head of the Center for Climate Change and Ozone Layer Research, V. Khamidov, Head of the Hydrometeorological Support System Center, S. Sharofiddinov, Head of the Hydrological Forecasts Department, as well as other representatives of the Agency took part in the meeting.



The participants discussed the aspects of information exchange, possibilities for joint work on water monitoring and strengthening of hydrometeorological analysis, organization of joint trainings, as well as the first version of the Memorandum of Cooperation.



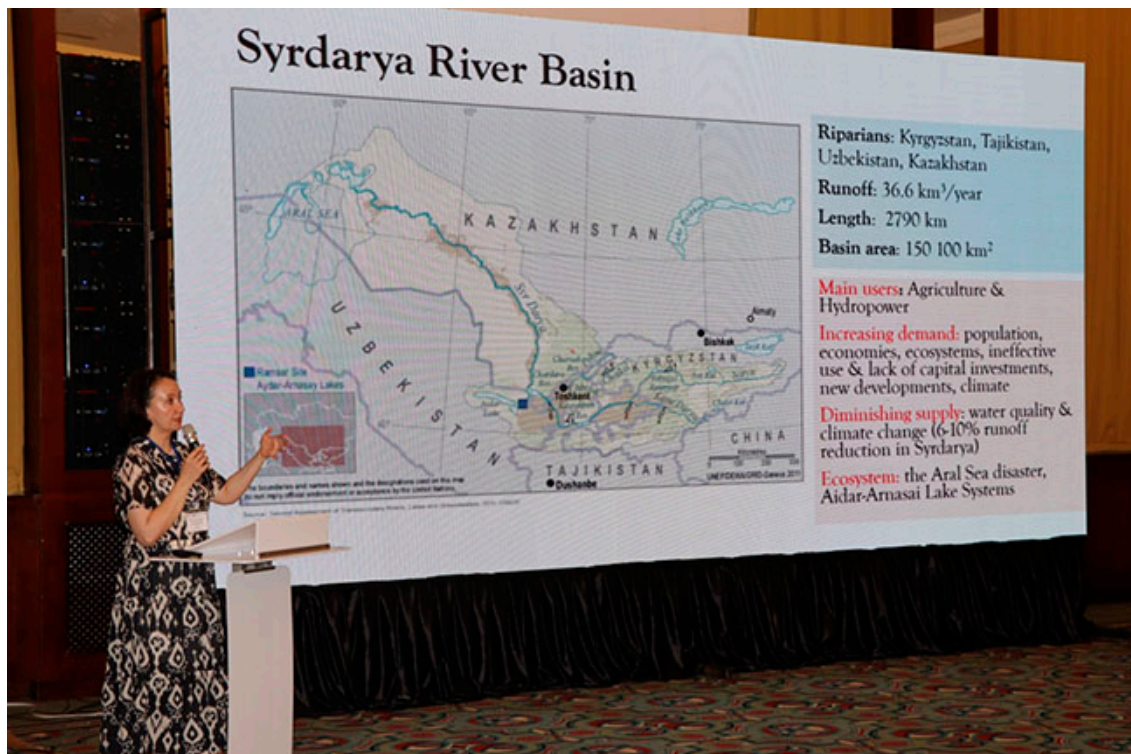


## Study Tour in the Syr Darya River Basin

The study tour organized by IWMI, SIC ICWC and other partners took place on June 24-27. The tour started in Tashkent and continued through Andizhan and Fergana provinces. SIC ICWC actively participated in the study tour.

The purpose of the study tour was to exchange experience and opinions, as well as to familiarize water experts from South Asia (Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Pakistan) with the experience accumulated in the Syr Darya basin. The participants were presented the progress in water cooperation, the challenges the riparian countries face, the gender approaches and technological environmental solutions.

On **June 24**, a dialog on transboundary water management was held in Tashkent. SIC ICWC Director Dinara Ziganshina delivered a keynote speech on "Basin-wide water management of the Syr Darya: status and progress". She presented a general description of the Syr Darya basin, outlined the current status and forecasts of river flow, presented water management mechanisms, water allocation principles, key achievements and problems, multilateral agreements on water infrastructure and basin dialog on the Syr Darya River.



SIC ICWC Deputy Director Sherzod Muminov moderated the first session "From Zero to Dialogue, Data Sharing and Agreements".







On **June 25**, meetings and discussions were organized in Fergana province with representatives of Syrdarya-Sokh BISA and Fergana Valley Main Canal Operation Authority, as well as representatives of the Fergana branch of the "School of Water Workers" and the Polmon hydroscheme along the Isfairamsai River.



*Fergana Valley Main Canal Operation Authority*



*Museum at the Fergana Valley Main Canal Operation Authority*





*Control center of Syrdarya-Sokh*



*School of Water Workers, Fergana branch*



*Polmon hydroscheme along the Isfairamsai River*

**On June 26 in Andizhan province**, the participants met with representatives of Naryn-Karadarya BISA, the Andizhan branch of the "School of Water Workers", as well as the Kamarata hydroscheme along the Akburasai River and the syphon on the Savai Canal.



*Naryn-Karadarya BISA*





*School of Water Workers, Andizhan branch*

**On June 27**, a seminar was held in Fergana to discuss the challenges and prospects of transboundary water management in Central and South Asia. Deputy Director of SIC ICWC Serzod Muminov made a key report on "Researching irrigation water tariffs: Syr Darya River Basin case study". He presented key regulatory documents, basic terminology and calculation methods, analyzed the current irrigation water tariffs in the riparian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan).







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