

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA
INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR WATER COORDINATION
OF CENTRAL ASIA



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of Central Asia

Interstate Commission For Water Coordination of Central Asia	BULLETIN № 7 (112)	November 2025
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80th session of the United Nations General Assembly

The traditional week of general debates of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly began¹ on 23 September at the UN headquarters in New York.

The session opened under the theme “Working Together: 80 Years of Joint Efforts for Peace, Development and Human Rights, and the Way Forward.”

The High-Level Week began on September 22. It included summits, conferences, and commemorative events, including the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the UN, a special event on the SDGs, and a meeting dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women.

From September 23 to 29, the world's attention is focused on the famous green marble podium in the General Assembly Hall: presidents, prime ministers, and monarchs of UN member states took turns presenting their vision of the world situation, proposals in the areas of development, human rights protection, and collective action in the face of growing global challenges.

Also on the agenda are the Summit on Financing for Sustainable Development, a special event on climate, the launch of the Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance, a meeting on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and the promotion of mental health and well-being, and a high-level conference on the situation of the Rohingya Muslim community and other minorities in Myanmar.

¹ <https://news.un.org/ru/events/unga80>

**Statement of the President of Kazakhstan
Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the General Debate
of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly²**

(extract)



[..]

Kazakhstan has made the Sustainable Development Goals a core pillar of its national agenda, integrating their targets into state planning and budgeting.

With the support of the UN Secretary-General and partner-states, Kazakhstan now hosts the new United Nations Regional Centre for SDGs for Central Asia and Afghanistan in Almaty.

Today, Central Asia is demonstrating a renewed sense of unity and mutual trust. It is emerging as a proactive contributor to international peace and progress.

The “Central Asian Five” are strengthening cooperation, proving that

² Source: <https://akorda.kz/ru/vystuplenie-prezidenta-kazahstana-kasym-zhomarta-tokaeva-na-obshchih-debatah-80-y-sessii-generalnoy-assamblei-on-2481155>

regional solidarity can be a powerful force for development and security.

This has enabled our region to engage key global partners in the unique “Central Asia Plus” dialogue format.

[..]

Last year was the hottest year in human history and Central Asia is warming at twice the global rate.

The melting of glaciers in the Alatau mountains is accelerating, multiplying threats to water and food security for millions.

Kazakhstan has drawn profound lessons from the tragedy of the Aral Sea. Thanks to our consistent efforts, including at the international level, we succeeded in preserving the northern part of the sea.

As the current chair of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, Kazakhstan will continue to play a proactive role in this common priority.

Meanwhile, the Caspian Sea is rapidly shrinking. It is no longer just a regional concern, it is a global warning signal.

Therefore, we call for urgent steps to preserve the Caspian water resources with our partners across the region and the wider international community.

Last year, Kazakhstan co-organized the One Water Summit with France, Saudi Arabia and the World Bank.

Looking forward, stronger coordination, investments, and sustainable solutions are urgently needed to prevent future water crises.

To help advance this agenda, Kazakhstan will host a Regional Ecological Summit in Astana in April next year, to be convened in partnership with the United Nations and other international organizations.

As part of our broader environmental commitment, Kazakhstan is implementing a nationwide “Clean Kazakhstan” campaign.

This national movement mobilizes millions of volunteers in clean-up actions, waste reduction, and eco-education.

At the initiative of Kazakhstan, the UN declared 2026 the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development. We invite all Member States to collaborate on this important endeavor.

In this spirit, I propose that the General Assembly adopt a resolution proclaiming April 22 as the International Day of Greening the Planet.

[..]

Kazakhstan’s energy strategy is based on four pillars: oil and gas, coal,

uranium, and critical minerals. These precious assets are the basis of reliable energy partnerships.

Climate change and the green agenda cannot be accepted by all countries that have huge deposits like coal, which nowadays can be cleaned up by advanced technologies.

That is why we have committed to decarbonize our country in 35 years. Renewable energy is not the single solution to all energy problems

Agriculture is another driver of our development with huge potential for global markets.

Kazakhstan's grain export capacity has amounted to 12 (twelve) million tons, reaching a great number of international markets, creating new opportunities for trade expansion using enhanced transport connectivity.

We will continue our cooperation with all major international partners and regional stakeholders to further diversify our external trade and economy, making it more inclusive and resilient.

[..]

**Statement of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic
Sadyr Japarov at the General Debate
of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly³
(extract)**

[..]

For sustainable development and regional integration, the countries of Central Asia need equal dialogue and active interaction.

Despite the complex historical and geographical background, Kyrgyzstan has peacefully resolved its border issues with neighboring countries, in particular with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

This process was accompanied by lengthy negotiations at a high level, at the expert level, and was resolved taking into account respect for the interests of all parties.

I can confidently say that today the borders between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are the borders of friendship, trade and cooperation.

³ Source: https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/80/kg_en.pdf



This experience confirms: peace is possible where there is political will, respect and dialogue, which allowed us to resolve all existing contradictions and get on the path of development.

Kyrgyzstan is ready to share its experience in resolving complex issues with the world community.

Let's use the more than 3 trillion dollars that are spent annually on weapons around the world to improve people's lives, eliminate hunger, protect our environment and clean the air.

After all, there are no borders for breathing air.

We all breathe the same air

Therefore, I would like to invite you to live with the competition of which country's nature, which country's air is clean, not with the competition of whose weapon is stronger.

Dear friends,

Climate change is a reality that we are witnessing today.

We are facing threats of drought, melting glaciers, ecosystem and biodiversity changes.

Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country that is particularly vulnerable to these changes.

We are already experiencing a decline in water resources, threats to agriculture and biodiversity.

Although Kyrgyzstan is landlocked, it actively participates in international environmental initiatives and can play a significant role in supporting agreements aimed at protecting global ecosystems.

The Kyrgyz Republic has been advocating for the recognition of the interconnectedness of natural systems, which are two poles of one system - “from mountains to oceans”.

After all, the future of the oceans begins at the peaks.

In this context, we ratified the Agreement on Marine Biodiversity (BBNJ) and joined the group of the first 60+ countries that acceded to it.

Rivers that support marine and coastal ecosystems originate in the mountains.

Therefore, the protection of mountain ecosystems and the sustainable management of the seas are interconnected

Now the country is preparing the Second Bishkek+25 Summit, scheduled for 2027, as a central platform for states, international organizations and experts on sustainable development of mountain areas.

We invite all of you to actively participate in this event.

**Statement of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan
Emomali Rahmon at the General Debate
of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly⁴
(extract)**

[..]

Tajikistan's National Development Strategy 2030 is fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, and we support the full and timely implementation of this item of global agenda.

Unfortunately, developing countries, particularly those mountainous and

⁴ Source: <https://www.president.tj/event/news/52884>

landlocked, face multiple challenges and difficulties in achieving these goals.



Particularly vulnerable countries feel the need to take serious measures to ensure sustainable development financing and improve access to financial resources.

Despite significant attempts in this field, the amount of funding for sustainable development offered by the international community continues to be insufficient to address their current need.

This situation necessitates timely response, the allocation of additional funds, and a review of approaches to the international financial system.

Tajikistan advocates for effective and fair reforms of international financial instruments.

At present, we are observing varying degrees of economic progress among nations, and the influence of developed nations and international financial organizations could play a significant role in tackling this issue.

Many developing and least developed countries remain vulnerable to the impacts of economic and financial crises, poverty, infectious diseases, including COVID-19, natural disasters, and food insecurity.

They need to implement effective financial support measures, including debt relief.

In our view, now is the high time to seriously consider this important issue.

Ladies and gentlemen!

Today, climate change-related issues in various countries around the world, including Tajikistan, pose serious obstacles to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our country, with 93% of its land covered by mountains, is deeply concerned of an adverse effect of this situation.

Changes in the hydrological cycle, a series of floods and droughts, and severe dust storms over the past decades have had a direct impact on Tajikistan's water and energy resources and food security.

Every year, we suffer tremendous material and financial losses due to water-related natural disasters.

Regrettably, these phenomena often result in loss of life and the destruction of vital infrastructure.

The impacts of climate change and rising temperatures have led to the accelerated melting of glaciers and the deterioration of marine and ocean ecosystems.

I would like to recall that Tajikistan hosted the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation this summer in Dushanbe.

This meeting brought the international community together to intensely deliberate on issues related to the cryosphere.

It is worth noting that, of Tajikistan's 14,000 glaciers, which are one of the region's main sources of drinking water, more than 1,300 have completely melted, and the rate of melting is accelerating.

This is even though Tajikistan's glaciers and other water sources account for up to 60 percent of Central Asia's water resources.

We must not remain indifferent to matter of addressing issues related to the source of human life – water.

Distinguished delegates,

Tajikistan plays a proactive role in water diplomacy.

Our country is taking practical steps in cooperation with its international partners as part of its latest initiative - the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development, 2018–2028."

I call on Member States and stakeholders to actively participate in the next event within the Dushanbe Water Process – the High-Level International

Conference, which will be held in Tajikistan next year.

This event will undoubtedly give new impetus to our continued joint efforts within the framework of the Water Action Agenda.

We are confident, that it will also serve as a solid foundation for preparations for the 2028 United Nations Water Conference in Dushanbe.

[..]

**Statement of the President of Turkmenistan
Serdar Berdimukhamedov at the General Debate
of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly⁵
(extract)**

[..]

During the 80th session, Turkmenistan will continue to work on environmental and climate issues, seeking their systematic consideration as a fundamental approach to ensuring security and the creation of multilateral mechanisms for monitoring and responding to climate, environmental, and man-made disasters.

Turkmenistan is initiating the creation of a Regional Center to Combat Desertification for Central Asian countries. We believe that the creation of such a center will contribute to the consolidation of regional potential, strengthen cooperation in environmental protection, and make a significant contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in combating climate change and preserving terrestrial ecosystems.

Our country will promote the Caspian Environmental Initiative, launched at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, which aims to become an international platform for preserving the Caspian Sea ecosystem. The Caspian Environmental Forum, which we propose holding in 2026, is intended to be an important step in this direction.

[..]

⁵ Source: <https://www.newscentralasia.net/2025/09/25/statement-by-the-president-of-turkmenistan-at-the-general-debate-of-the-80th-session-of-the-un-general-assembly/>



**Statement of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the General Debate
of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly ⁶
(extract)**

[..]

I would also like to draw special attention to the increasingly acute challenges of climate change. For instance, the consequences of the Aral Sea desiccation must remain at the constant focus of the international community.

We consistently continue our work to restore the Aral Sea ecosystem. In recent years, salt-tolerant desert plants have been planted on 2 million hectares of the dried seabed of the Aral Sea. By 2030, the green cover is to reach 80 percent of the whole area.

Another serious issue is the water scarcity. As of now, more than two billion people do not have access to clean drinking water worldwide.

⁶ Source: <https://president.uz/en/lists/view/8525>



We plan to launch a World Forum on Water Saving in our country. Among the outcomes of this Forum will be the global recognition of the water crisis as a serious threat to sustainable development. We intend to adopt a special Roadmap for wider adoption of innovation technologies.

Another adverse consequence of climate change is the growing trend of climate migration. Unfortunately, no concrete international mechanisms and a legal framework in this context are available.

We advocate for the adoption of a Global Pact for a broad international partnership and coordinated policy on this serious issue.

[..]

Activities under umbrella of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea

Meeting of the Board of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea⁷

Meeting of the Board of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) was held under Kazakhstan's chairmanship on 10 October in Astana.



The meeting, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Kanat Bozumbayev, brought together Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Kazakhstan Nurzhan Nurzhigitov; Advisor to the President of Uzbekistan Shukhrat Ganiev; Deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan Sulaimon Ziyozoda; Minister of Agriculture of Turkmenistan Charyar Chetiev.

Abdybai Djailoobaev, Deputy Director of the Water Resources Service at Kyrgyzstan's Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry, took part in the meeting as an observer.

⁷ Source: <https://dknews.kz/ru/ekonomika/371923-kanat-bozumbaev-sudba-arala-chast-globalnoy>



Participants reviewed preparations for the upcoming IFAS Council of Heads of Founding States meeting, scheduled for April 2026, and assessed progress on the EC IFAS Work Plan 2024–2026 under Kazakhstan’s chairmanship.

They also discussed implementation of the Aral Sea Basin Program, the Regional Environmental Program for Sustainable Development in Central Asia, and activities of the Working Group for Institutional and Legal Improvement of IFAS.

Currently, 42 environmental projects are ongoing in the Aral Sea Basin, and two new regional projects are under consideration in cooperation with the World Bank.

Participants also noted the EC IFAS’s proposal to designate March 26 as the International Day of the Aral Sea and the Amu Darya and Syr Darya Rivers. Following the discussions, a ceremony was held to sign the resolutions adopted at the IFAS Board meeting.



Decisions of the Board of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea

I. On preparations for the 2026 meeting of the Council of Heads of IFAS founder-states in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

1. Take into consideration the information provided by the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) on preparation for the meeting of the Council of Heads of IFAS founder-states to be held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan in 2026.

2. The Executive Committee of IFAS, the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination, the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development, and relevant ministries and agencies of the Fund's founder-states shall assist in preparation and organization of the meeting.

Republic of Kazakhstan

Kanat Bozumbayev

Kyrgyz Republic

Republic of Tajikistan

Sulaimon Ziyozoda

Turkmenistan

Charyar Chetiev

Republic of Uzbekistan

Shukhrat Ganiev

II. On progress of implementation of the EC IFAS Work Plan 2024–2026 under Kazakhstan’s chairmanship

1. Take into consideration the information provided by the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS) on progress made on the EC IFAS Work Plan for the reporting period.

2. The Executive Committee of IFAS shall continue implementing the Work Plan and shall regularly report its progress to the IFAS Board.

Republic of Kazakhstan

Kanat Bozumbayev

Kyrgyz Republic

Republic of Tajikistan

Sulaimon Ziyozoda

Turkmenistan

Charyar Chetiev

Republic of Uzbekistan

Shukhrat Ganiev

III. On implementation of the Action Plan to assist the Aral Sea basin countries

1. Take into consideration the information provided by the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) on progress in implementation of the Action Program to assist the Aral Sea Basin countries (ASBP-4).

2. The EC IFAS, the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination, the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development, and relevant ministries and agencies of the Fund's founder-states shall continue working together to ensure implementation of ASBP-4.

3. The EC IFAS shall regularly inform the IFAS Board on progress made under ASBP-4.

Republic of Kazakhstan

Kanat Bozumbayev

Kyrgyz Republic

Republic of Tajikistan

Sulaimon Ziyozoda

Turkmenistan

Charyar Chetiev

Republic of Uzbekistan

Shukhrat Ganiev

IV. On the progress of the Regional Environmental Program for Sustainable Development in Central Asia

1. Take into consideration the information provided by the Executive Committee of IFAS on progress in implementation of the Regional Environmental Program for Sustainable Development in Central Asia (REP4SD CA).

2. The Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) in Central Asia together with relevant ministries and agencies of the Fund's founder-states and the EC IFAS shall intensify joint activities to ensure implementation of REP4SD CA.

3. EC IFAS jointly with ICSD shall regularly provide information to the IFAS Board on progress under REP4SD CA.

Republic of Kazakhstan

Kanat Bozumbayev

Kyrgyz Republic

Republic of Tajikistan

Sulaimon Ziyozoda

Turkmenistan

Charyar Chetiev

Republic of Uzbekistan

Shukhrat Ganiev

V. On activities of the Working Group on institutional and legal improvement of IFAS

1. Take into consideration the information provided by the Executive Committee of IFAS on the activities of the Working Group on institutional and legal improvement of IFAS.

2. The Executive Committee of IFAS together with the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination, the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development and relevant ministries and agencies of the Fund's founder-states shall take measures to accelerate the process of institutional and legal improvement of IFAS.

Republic of Kazakhstan

Kanat Bozumbayev

Kyrgyz Republic

Republic of Tajikistan

Sulaimon Ziyozoda

Turkmenistan

Charyar Chetiev

Republic of Uzbekistan

Shukhrat Ganiev

VI. On declaring March 26 as the International Day of the Aral Sea

1. Take into consideration the submission to the Board of a proposal to declare March 26 as the International Day of the Aral Sea, the Amu Darya River and Syr Darya River.

2. The Executive Committee of IFAS, the Interstate Commission of Water Coordination, the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development and their structural divisions together with relevant ministries and agencies of the Fund's founder-states shall study this matter and submit their findings to the next meeting of the Board.

Republic of Kazakhstan

Kanat Bozumbayev

Kyrgyz Republic

Republic of Tajikistan

Sulaimon Ziyozoda

Turkmenistan

Charyar Chetiev

Republic of Uzbekistan

Shukhrat Ganiev

VII. On the agenda of the next regular meeting of the IFAS Board

At the upcoming meeting of the IFAS Board, the following issues will be addressed:

- Preparation for the meeting of the Council of Heads of IFAS founder-sates to be held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan in 2026.
- Activities of the Executive Committee of IFAS during the reporting period.
- Progress on implementation of the Aral Sea Basin Program (ASBP-4).
- Progress on implementation of the Regional Environmental Program for Sustainable Development in Central Asia (REP4SD CA).
- Activities of the Working Group on Institutional and Legal Improvement of IFAS.
- Agenda for the next regular meeting of the IFAS Board.

Republic of Kazakhstan

Kanat Bozumbayev

Kyrgyz Republic

Republic of Tajikistan

Sulaimon Ziyozoda

Turkmenistan

Charyar Chetiev

Republic of Uzbekistan

Shukhrat Ganiev

Water cooperation between Central Asian countries

First meeting of the Kyrgyz-Tajik Water Coordination Commission⁸

On 9 October, the first meeting of the Kyrgyz-Tajik Water Coordination Commission was held in Dushanbe. This was reported by the press-service of the Ministry of Agriculture.



During the event, the parties discussed the Regulations of the Kyrgyz-Tajik Water Coordination Commission, as well as issues related to attracting investment for the modernization and restoration of hydraulic structures that are critically important for border regions.

The Kyrgyz delegation was led by Almaz Zheenaliyev, Deputy Minister of Water Resources, Agriculture, and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic and Director of the Water Resources Service.

The Tajik delegation was led by Z. Davlatzoda, Director of the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation under the Government of Tajikistan.

⁸ Source: <http://www.tazabek.kg/news:2344043>



According to the Regulations, the Commission will become a bilateral body for the development of water cooperation and will be responsible for:

- coordination of water allocation schedules at hydraulic structures;
- exchange of hydrological data;
- coordination of actions in emergency situations;
- attracting investment for modernization of hydraulic engineering facilities;
- other issues related to water management.

The commission will function on a parity basis, under the leadership of

two co-chairs, with equal representation of the parties and decision-making based on consensus. Meetings are planned to be held at least twice a year — at the beginning of the growing season and non-growing seasons — alternately in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

International and Regional Events

Workshop “Sustainable and Resilient Water Security in Central Asia”

On 21 September, a workshop “Sustainable and Resilient Water Security in Central Asia” was held in Almaty. The workshop was organized by the Kazakh National Agrarian Research University (KazNARU) together with the Kazakh-German University (DKU) and supported by the Hanns Seidel Foundation. The event brought together representatives of academic and educational institutions, international organizations, as well as independent experts from Central Asia and Europe. Expert Alexander Dolidudko represented SIC ICWC.



The signing of a Memorandum on the establishment of the Nexus Institute was a key highlight of the workshop. The Nexus Institute will serve as a platform for scientific cooperation and knowledge exchange in the field of water, energy, and food security. The Nexus Institute is envisioned as a research

and training center focused on developing integrated and sustainable solutions for land, water and energy management and biodiversity conservation by combining the scientific expertise of regional and international partners.

“Today’s step symbolizes the joint efforts of countries and organizations for the future of the region. The Nexus Institute will help to find practical solutions to the most pressing water-related challenges,” noted Professor Wolrad Rommel.



The workshop was structured around three morning sessions:

- **Policy session** — addressing water scarcity challenges and possible joint solutions for the Central Asian countries.
- **Digitalization session** — exploring new technologies for water analyses and monitoring.
- **Technical session** — modernization of water infrastructure in the face of climate change.

At the plenary session, Alexander Dolidudko emphasized the importance of applying the Nexus approach in research and project work. He highlighted

that SIC ICWC is conducting studies on “Infrastructure issues, resilience to climate change (Nexus approach)” with the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) under the Green Central Asia initiative. He presented preliminary results of this research to participants, who also provided valuable insights and recommendations to enhance the quality of the final report.

The research team also joined the morning sessions and included national experts from the Republic of Kazakhstan, A.D. Ryabtsev and K.K. Yakhiyayeva, and national expert from the Kyrgyz Republic, Ch.M. Uzakbayev.

Following the plenary sessions, participants jointly drew conclusions and outlined directions for future cooperation, emphasizing the need for an integrated approach and knowledge-sharing among the countries of the region.

The key areas to be addressed included:

Development of regulatory and legal framework for the sustainable management of water and land resources in Central Asia.

Digital solutions for nature monitoring.

Training professionals capable of working in the context of climate change.

Finally, all participants reached a common conclusion that sustainable and resilient water use in Central Asia can be reached only through joint dialogue, exchange, and science-policy interface.

Scientific Consultation Meeting on Strengthening Climate Adaptation in the Water Sector

On 25 September 2025, the National Research University TIAME hosted a scientific consultation meeting on strengthening adaptation to climate change in the water sector. The event was organized by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in collaboration with TIAME, with financial support from the Blue Peace Central Asia initiative.

The meeting brought together representatives of academic and research institutions, as well as international organizations working at the intersection of climate change and water management. Fazilatkhon Abdullaeva participated as an expert from SIC ICWC.



The consultation was held in an interactive format, featuring scientific session, group work, and thematic discussions centered around two key areas: (1) Future research directions for understanding the links between climate change, water scarcity and mobility in rural Central Asia. (2) A void in Central Asian research: climate change.

The primary goal of the event is to bring together representatives from leading scientific centers and think tanks to identify key research gaps and priorities, support the growth of the Community of Practice on Water and Climate Change Adaptation (CoP-WCCA), and increase the Uzbek scientific community's contribution to the regional agenda in the lead-up to the 2026 Regional Environmental Summit.

Women, Water and Cooperation: Central Asian representatives took part in the Study-Tour to a Transboundary River Basin

As part of the OSCE Initiative “Women, Water Management and Conflict Prevention – Phase III”, a study tour to a transboundary river basin was organized on 29 September – 4 October 2025. The study tour brought together

members of the “Women in Water Management in Central Asia and Afghanistan” Network, representatives of the Youth Initiative “Drops of the Future” and the South Caucasus branch of the “Women in Water Diplomacy” Network. Usmanova Oygul, member of the “Women in Water Management in Central Asia and Afghanistan” Network, took part in the study tour on behalf of SIC ICWC.

The aim of the tour was to strengthen the capacity of women experts in the field of water diplomacy, as well as to exchange knowledge and best practices in transboundary water management. The program included visits to international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland and Koblenz, Germany.

Geneva (29 September – 1 October)

UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) – presentation of the legal framework of international water cooperation and participation in a negotiation simulation;

World Meteorological Organization (WMO) – discussing the role of hydrometeorological data in water diplomacy;



Geneva Water Hub – presentation of capacity-building programs, in particular, a short course on legal protection of water in armed conflicts and a newly developed training course on water digitalization;

42nd UN-Water Meeting, which discussed preparation to the 2026 UN Water Conference.

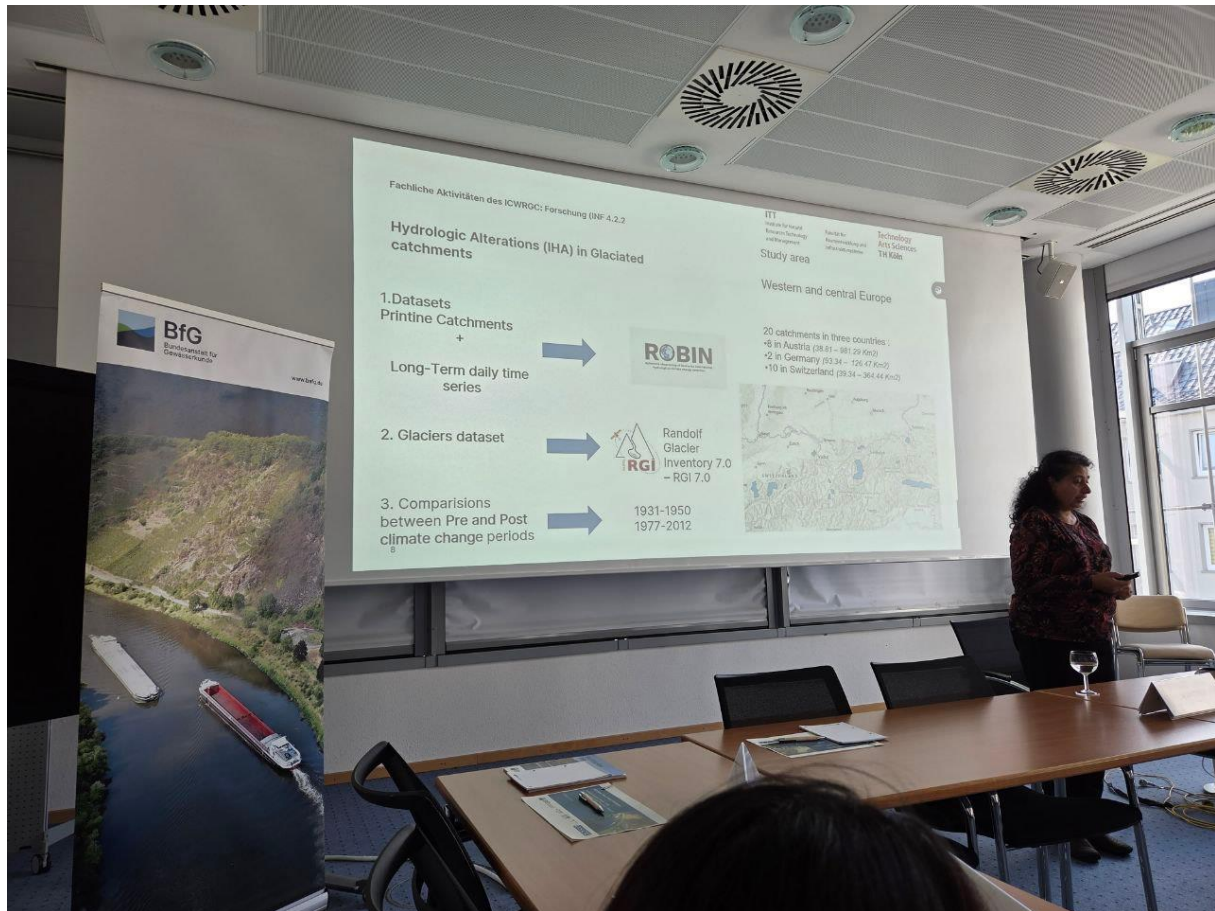


Koblenz (1 – 3 October)

International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR), where participants got to know the management framework of the Rhine River Basin and the mechanisms of interstate cooperation. The Commission of 9 states was established in 1950 since the Netherlands put forward an initiative to improve river water quality in 1948. In the 70-s, the countries declared that the Rhine water quality was improved. It is interesting, that besides the Coordination Committee, the Commission acts through its working groups assigned every 6 years and each having their own mandate. Disputes are resolved at expert level, otherwise are dealt at the next higher level;



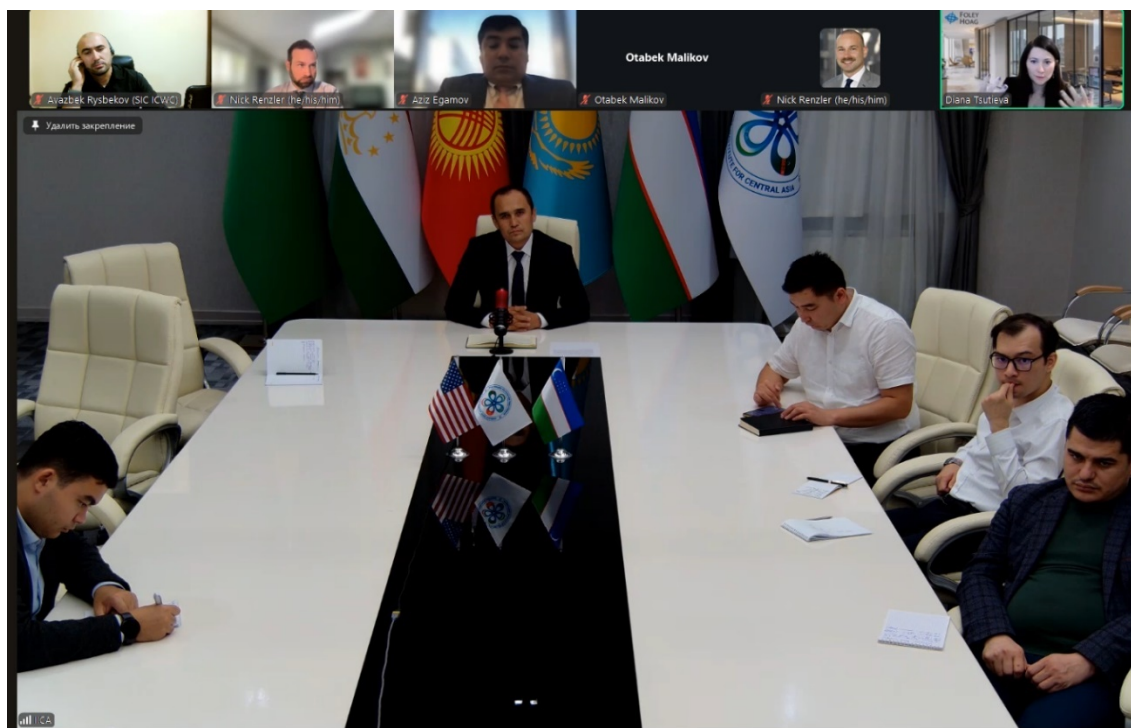
Federal Institute of Hydrology presented the Institute's activities, global water data centers, and its water analysis laboratory. This federal institution conducts applied research and development and provides science-based recommendations for policy and practice. The Institute hosts both national and global water data centers and specializes in hydrology, water use, water quality, ecology, and water conservation;



As a result of the study tour, participants from Central Asia gained a deeper understanding of how science and policy interact in practice at transboundary water level. The tour also served as a platform for intercultural dialogue and strengthened cooperation, promoting the role of women in decision-making processes related to water diplomacy and sustainable development.

International online training on international water law and transboundary water

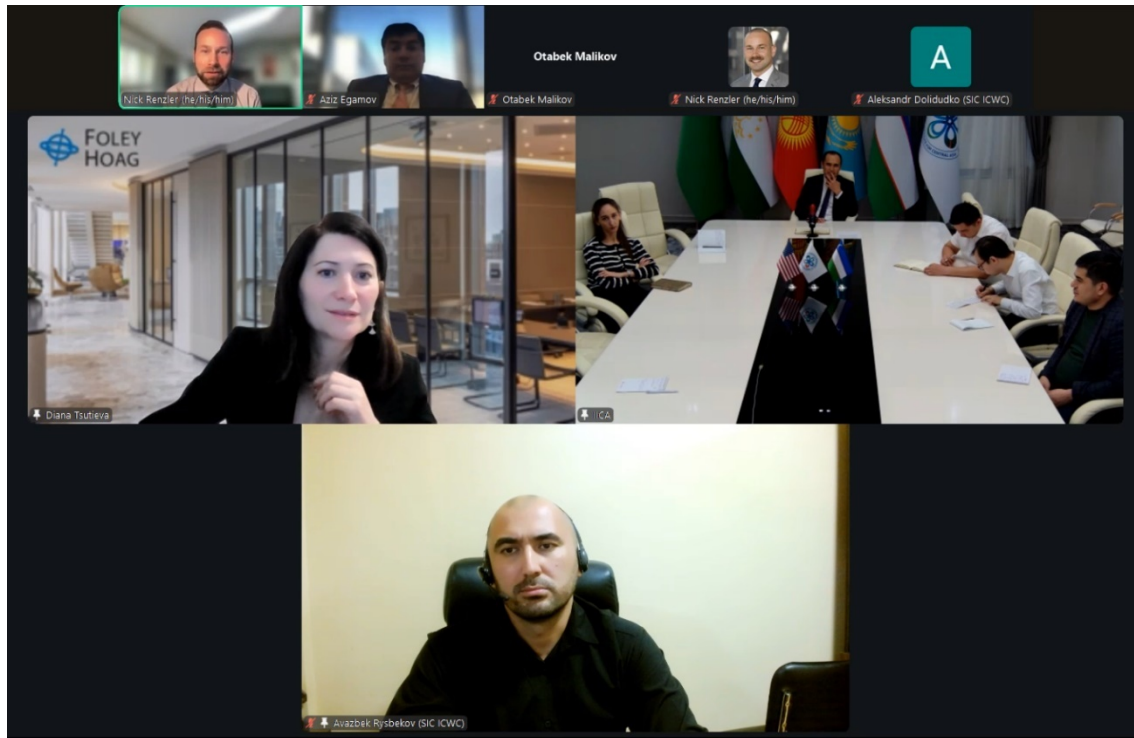
On 10 October 2025, SIC ICWC took part in an online training session on international water law and transboundary water management.



The training was organized by Foley Hoag LLP (US), an international law firm specializing in public international law and interstate dispute resolution.

The two-hour training program covered key topics related to basics of international water law, fundamental principles of interstate cooperation, mechanisms for resolving water-related disputes, and practical examples from the work of regional water commissions.

Participation in the training enhanced the professional expertise of SIC ICWC experts in international water law and provided an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience with leading experts in the field.



The event was particularly important for Central Asia, where transboundary water sharing remains vital for sustainable development, regional stability, and mutually beneficial cooperation among the countries. The insights and practical approaches gained through the training will help strengthen SIC ICWC's efforts to promote the principles of international water law and to foster water dialogue across the region.

6th Joint Meeting of the Working Group on UN Water Convention

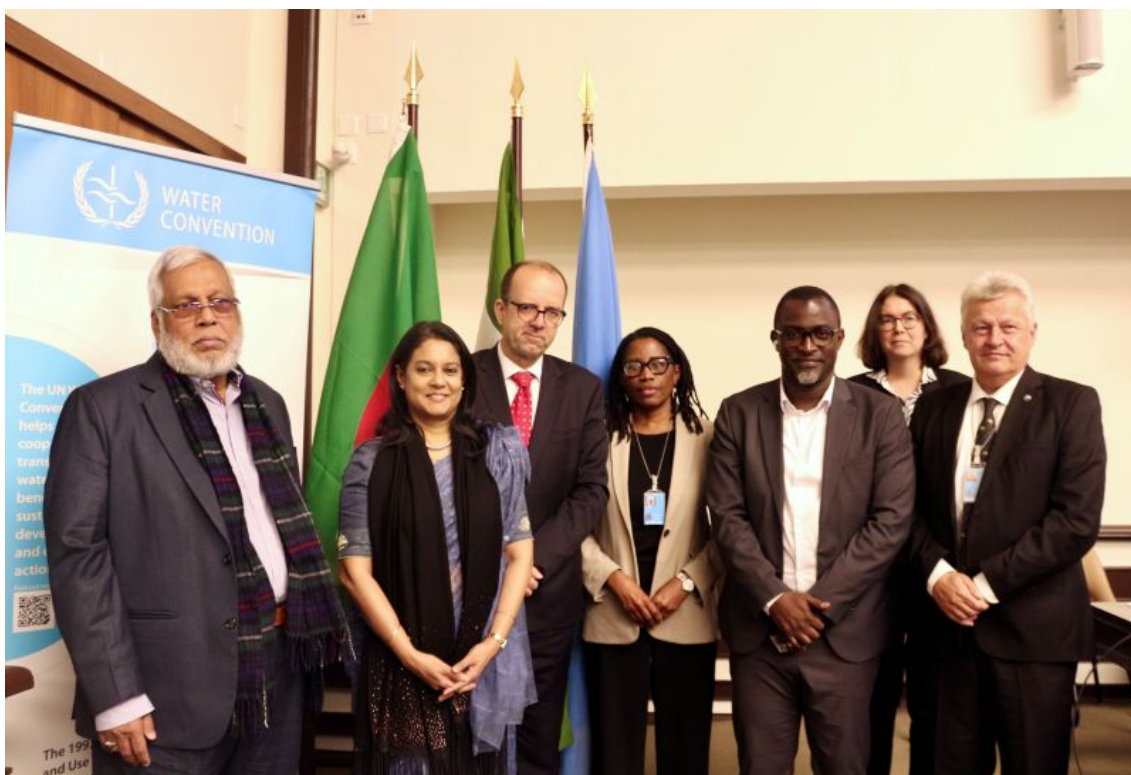
6th joint meeting of the Working Group on IWRM and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) has concluded in Geneva. In the course of three days, from 13 to 15 October 2025, at the Palais des Nations, delegates of the Parties and partner organizations reviewed implementation of the programme of work for 2025–2027 and discussed key challenges in water sharing.

The key discussion topics were as follows:

Ratification status and global opening: The secretariat presented an update on the status of the Convention's ratification. New Parties that joined

after the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties — notably Bangladesh (which acceded on 20 June 2025) — were officially welcomed. Countries currently in the process of accession reported on their progress. Discussions also focused on capacity-building measures and the development of national implementation plans for new Parties.

Compliance: The Chair of the Implementation Committee, Dinara Ziganshina, presented a report summarizing the Committee's work, which highlighted its efforts to support countries in fulfilling their obligations and promoting compliance with the provisions of the Convention. The report included information on the ongoing advisory procedure between Albania and Montenegro, as well as on the Committee's legal and technical support to drafting transboundary agreement on the Senegal–Mauritanian aquifer basin.



Integrated and intersectoral approach (nexus): Working groups endorsed the Guidance Note for the Implementation of Source-to-Sea Management in Transboundary Basins. Progress on the Policy guidance on conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater was presented; the participants reviewed a draft annotated outline of the publication. Supporting intersectoral dialogues through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach was discussed. UNECE staff also highlighted joint work under the IKI Nexus project in Central Asia, emphasizing the importance

of supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through a nexus approach to promote the sustainable development of transboundary basins.



Combatting plastic pollution: A separate thematic session was devoted to prevention and mitigation of plastic pollution in transboundary basins. The crucial role of transboundary cooperation in addressing this complex issue - affecting ecosystems from source to sea - was underscored. The discussion also highlighted the link between this topic and the programme areas on “source-to-sea” management and ecosystem conservation.



Preparations for the United Nations 2026 Water Conference: Delegates discussed ways to advance the transboundary water cooperation agenda in the lead-up to the upcoming Conference, aiming to ensure that this aspect is reflected in global decisions related to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6.

Adaptation to climate change: The outcomes of the Global Workshop (March 2025) were presented, along with a review of progress in mainstreaming water management into national adaptation plans and preparations for the 30th session of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP30), including contributions to the development of indicators for the global goal on adaptation.

Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention: Information was presented on the planning of the fourth reporting cycle (with a deadline of 30 June 2026). The progress in developing a new online reporting system - designed to streamline the process for countries and co-custodian institutions (UNECE and UNESCO) - was also discussed.

Financing the Convention's work: The information on the impact of the United Nations financial and liquidity crisis on the Convention secretariat and the Water Convention programme of work was reported. Progress of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Sustainable Financing on development of a proposal on a mandatory contribution scheme was discussed. This scheme is to be reviewed at the 11th session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2027. Progress in the approval of the decision on multilingualism under the Water Convention (X/3) was reported. This decision will have budget implications and shall be endorsed by ECOSOS. Parties were called upon to advocate through their respective UN missions so that the funding of UNECE is not reduced.

Conclusion and SIC's contribution

The meeting successfully reviewed ongoing activities and engaged in strategic planning. Key challenges remain ensuring financial sustainability and effectively integrating the Convention's agenda into global climate and sustainable development processes. The report of the Implementation Committee reaffirmed the Convention's effectiveness — not only as a declarative framework, but as a practical instrument for supporting the fulfillment of commitments.

The topics discussed — including plastic pollution, the Nexus approach, and financing — are highly relevant and call for continued active engagement of Central Asian countries in this work. The focus on joint efforts under the IKI Nexus project creates additional opportunities for synergy and for showcasing tangible results from regional activities at the international level. Participation in

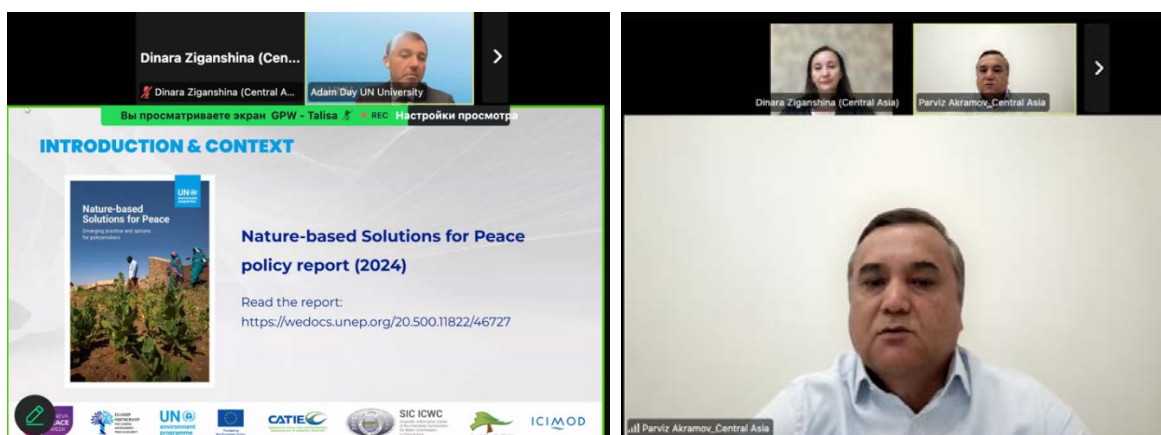
the event provided up-to-date insights into current priorities, helped strengthen partnerships, and contributed to discussions on the next steps for implementing the Convention.

Local actions on water and climate in the heart of discussion during 2025 Geneva Peace Week: the case study of the Fergana Valley demonstrates the power of regional cooperation

An online session dedicated to the critical role of local communities in addressing challenges at the interface of water, climate and security was held as part of 2025 Geneva Peace Week. The workshop “Locally led action on climate, peace, and stability experiences from Latin America, the Middle East, Central and South Asia” organized by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) jointly with partners showed that while climate change is a global issue, effective solutions must be grounded in local contexts.

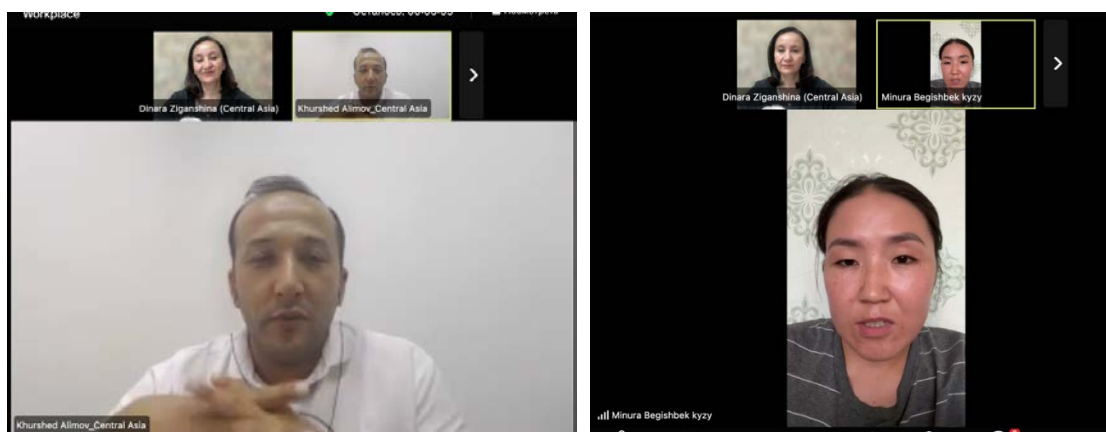
Fittingly, this discussion took place in parallel with the inaugural meeting of the Fergana Peace Forum — a new platform for dialogue and joint initiatives in the heart of Central Asia. The coincidence underscored the growing momentum of regional cooperation between Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan amid shared climate challenges.

The workshop was organized in the form of interactive exchanges in four regional groups: Latin America, Middle East, Central and South Asia. The participants from these regions shared their unique experience and lessons learned in addressing climate-related threats to peace and stability at the local level.



During the session on Central Asia, particular attention was paid to the situation in the Fergana Valley — a densely populated region home to more than 17 million people. Here, climate change and water scarcity are compounded by a complex system of borders and a shared network of irrigation canals. Glacial melt and population growth pose serious challenges to agriculture and livelihoods, potentially intensifying local competition over resources.

However, as noted during the discussion, these challenges are increasingly being met with deeper cross-border cooperation grounded in trust and good neighborliness. Initiatives such as the Fergana Peace Forum and its “Unity Day” clearly demonstrate the countries’ commitment to jointly managing shared resources, fostering trade, and strengthening peacebuilding at the local level.



In this context, the EU, UNEP, and SIC ICWC partnership on climate, environment, peace, and security aims to enhance the capacity of local actors. The project’s approach focuses on supporting civil society, youth groups, and local authorities in conducting climate–security risk assessments and implementing adaptation plans through nature-based solutions.

The key takeaway from the Fergana Valley is that investing in local capacity, water-saving technologies, nature-based solutions, and inclusive participation offers the most effective path toward a climate-resilient and peaceful future. Participants of the session agreed that strengthening regional cooperation — as seen among Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan — and supporting community initiatives are essential to addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change and peace.

The workshop concluded with a joint session where moderators from the regional groups presented the key insights from their discussions. This allowed participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of both global and regional

dimensions of the issue and to identify ways to scale up successful practices. The event marked an important step in reinforcing global cooperation and supporting local communities on the front lines of the climate crisis.

First Fergana Peace Forum

The First Fergana Peace Forum “Fergana Valley: Joining Forces for Peace and Progress” took place on 15-16 October. These days, Fergana became a hub for international dialogue and cooperation. The Forum was organized by the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan (ISRS) in collaboration with the Center for Progressive Reforms, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the International Water Management Institute, and the Peacebuilding Hub – a platform bringing together leading international organizations specializing in strengthening peace and social cohesion.

Over 300 people from Central Asia, CIS, Asia, Europe, and America attended the two-day forum. Among the guests of honor were UNRCCA Head Kakha Immadze, EU Special Representative for Central Asia Eduards Stiprais, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Center Kate Firon, CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay, Deputy Secretary General of the SCO Khan Soheil, and UN Resident Coordinators in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

A key feature of the forum was its inclusive nature, with representatives from civil society, youth and women’s associations, as well as expert and academic circles, actively participating.

The main goal of the Forum was to create a permanent platform for strengthening dialogue, fostering mutual trust and good neighborliness, and developing a common strategy for the sustainable development of the Fergana Valley.

The agenda included discussions on ensuring stability and sustainable development in the Fergana Valley, unlocking its economic potential, strengthening cultural and humanitarian ties, and expanding the role of the private sector, youth, and civil society.

Under the auspices of the Forum, the first “Yntymak Day” (Unity Day) was organized with the support of Kyrgyz partners and the Peacebuilding Hub.

Among the outcomes of the forum was the adoption of a communiqué calling for the creation of a unified space of friendship, good neighborliness, and



On the second day of the Ferghana Forum, along with the topic of unity and harmony of nations, discussions also focused on climate change and water use.

Deputy Director Sherzod Muminov participated as a speaker on behalf of SIC ICWC.



In his speech, Mr. Muminov stated that the quantity of water in the Ferghana Valley has decreased over the past ten years. This value has declined by an average of 3% per year as a result of climate change.

“Today, water-saving technologies such as drip and sprinkling irrigation, etc. have been adopted on more than 75,000 ha of irrigated land in the valley. This helped to reduce inputs of water by an average of 45–50%, mineral fertilizers by 25–30%, fuel and lubricants by 30–35%, and labor by 20%. At the same time, crop yields have increased by an average of 30%,” told Sherzod Muminov.

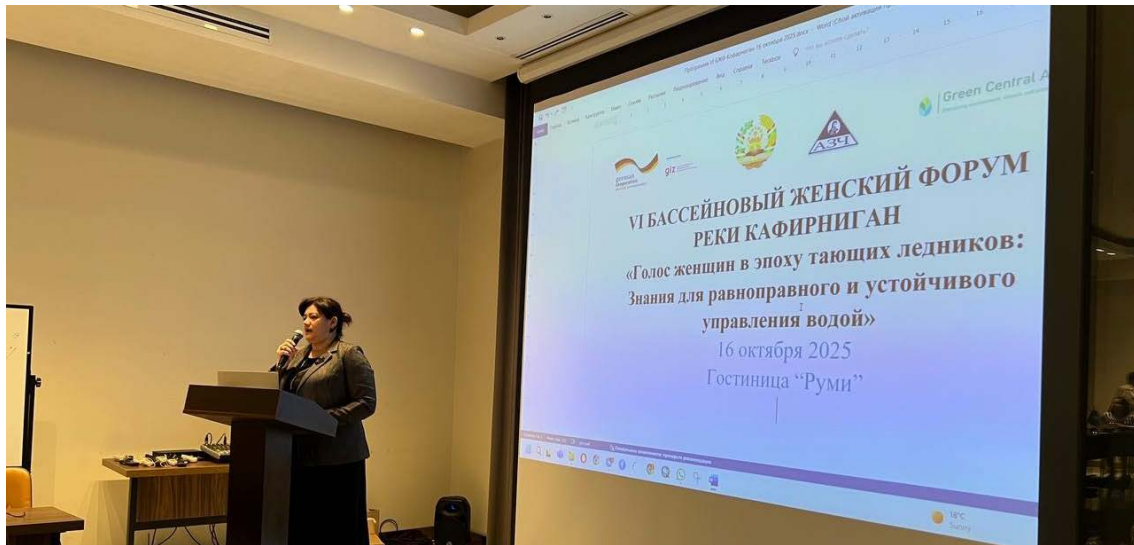
Dr. Muminov noted that SIC ICWC is implementing a number of projects in the territory of the Ferghana Valley, such as EU–UNEP Climate and Environment Partnership Project “Facilitating Region-Specific Approaches to Addressing Climate and Environment-Related Risks for Socio-Economic Stability in Central Asia” and the Project “Correction of hydromodule zoning of the Syr Darya River Basin using remote sensing data and satellite mapping technologies for correction of water consumption and irrigation regimes for agricultural crops cultivated in the region,” implemented under an agreement with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS) with financial support from the French Development Agency (AFD).



6th Kafirnigan River Basin Women's Forum: Women's Voices in the Era of Melting Glaciers – Knowledge for Equitable and Sustainable Water Management

On 16 October 2025, SIC ICWC participated in the Sixth Kafirnigan River Basin Women's Forum titled “Women's Voices in the Era of Melting Glaciers: Knowledge for Equitable and Sustainable Water Management”, which took place in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan. The event was organized by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, with the support of the GIZ Green Central Asia Initiative.

The forum brought together representatives of government agencies of Tajikistan, international organizations, research institutes, as well as active women leaders from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Iran. Matluba Rakhimova, researcher, participated on behalf of SIC ICWC.



During the sessions, participants discussed pressing issues related to climate change, glacier retreat, sound use of water resources, and the enhanced role of women in decision-making processes in the water sector. The three thematic sessions in smaller groups were as follows:

- Contribution of the Basin Women's Forum to the Kafirngan River Basin Plan;
- Cooperation with media to raise youth's interest in the water sector;
- Proposals on the improvement of activities of the Basin Women's Forum

During one of the thematic sessions, Ms. Rakhimova shared examples of cooperation with the media to increase the engagement of women and youth in the water sector, and suggested organizing similar events at the regional level. In the course of the discussion, she noted that SIC ICWC is implementing the "Joint work to preserve ecosystems of the Amu Darya River Basin, including zones of flow formation and dispersion" with the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) as part of the Green Central Asia initiative. This work involves a significant number of women researchers.

The Forum participants exchanged best practices in involving women in water management at both national and regional levels. They discussed prospects for strengthening transboundary cooperation and explored ways to further enhance women's participation in adaptation efforts.



At the end, the participants reaffirmed their commitment to continue active cooperation within basin initiatives and to further develop platforms for dialogue, capacity building, and exchange among women from the countries of Central Asia.

7th Meeting of Kafirnigan River Basin Council

On 17 October 2025, SIC ICWC's representative attended the Seventh Meeting of the Kafirnigan River Basin Council. The event was organized by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, with the support of the GIZ project "Climate-Sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia." SIC ICWC was represented by expert Mrs. Matluba Rahimova.

The meeting offered an important platform for dialogue among stakeholders on sustainable water management in the context of climate change.

The meeting brought together 69 experts, including 25 women representing the water sectors of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Iran. The broad international representation underscored the importance of transboundary cooperation and the coordination of efforts under basin water management.

A key item on the agenda was the presentation of the draft Basin Water Management Plan for the Kafirnigan River Basin for 2026–2030. The document, prepared by national experts from Tajikistan, aims to ensure the rational, sustainable, and balanced use of water resources, taking into account environmental, economic, and social factors. The plan outlines specific measures to improve the condition of aquatic ecosystems, enhance water use

efficiency, and support adaptation to the impacts of climate change.



SIC ICWC proposed including water experts from Uzbekistan in the composition of the Kafirnigan River Basin Council and holding the Council meetings at the regional level. It was also suggested that, during the review of the Council's activities, the analysis should include the allocated water limits and actual water withdrawals in the Kafirnigan River.



Following the discussion, the draft Basin Plan was submitted to the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan for review and subsequent approval. The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of the region's countries to jointly address water challenges and to further strengthen cooperation based on the principles of integrated water resource management.



Kick-off Workshop on Rural Community Resilience in Central Asia

On 17 October 2025, SIC ICWC participated in the Kick-off workshop of stakeholders on the project “Researching Adaptive Resilience of Rural Communities in Central Asia” (CARE) led by the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO, Germany) in cooperation with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), with the support of the Volkswagen Foundation (VolkswagenStiftung).

The workshop addressed the matters related to resilience of rural communities in Central Asia and their adaptation to climate, economic and social challenges. The workshop discussed the key research objectives of the project, the region’s climate vulnerability, and the role of partnerships in developing solutions for sustainable development.

The main goal of the workshop was to present and discuss the project’s research issues, methods, and expected outcomes.

The event featured brief presentations by members of the project team from IAMO and CAREC, followed by interactive group work and an open discussion.

During the group work, participants discussed the factors determining the resilience of rural communities in Central Asia, as well as the transformational processes influencing their vulnerability to climate change.



During the thematic group discussion, A. Dolidudko from SIC ICWC noted that within the framework of the EU–UNEP Climate and Environment Partnership, SIC ICWC is implementing the project “Facilitating Region-Specific Approaches to Addressing Climate and Environment-Related Risks for Socio-Economic Stability in Central Asia”. He shared experience in conducting research aimed at helping local communities to achieve and maintain sustainable development by addressing climate and environmental risks through nature-based solutions.

In conclusion, a shared understanding was reached to help define the project’s direction and promote long-term cooperation. The main findings were summarized, and the next steps were set.

Blue Peace Central Asia Project Component 2: “Benefit Sharing at the Basin Level”

On 22 October, a National Workshop was held to align the Roadmap for the Blue Peace Central Asia (BPCA) Project, Component 2: “Benefit Sharing at the Basin Level.”

The main focus of the BPCA project is to support sustainable water management and water diplomacy in transboundary river basins. The project is scheduled for implementation during the period 2025–2029.

The event was organized by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in Central Asia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan, within the framework of the BPCA project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The workshop brought together representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources and its territorial branches (Amu-Kashkadarya, Naryn-Syr Darya, Naryn-Karadarya, Sokh-Syr Darya, and Zarafshan Basin Irrigation System Authorities), the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, research institutes of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as international organizations (SDC, GIZ). The Scientific Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC ICWC) was represented by Ms. Zulfiya Yarullina.

Component 2 of the BPCA focuses on small transboundary rivers (STRs), which are considered as practical pilot cases where local-level cooperation can help develop climate-resilient solutions, build trust, and lay the groundwork for the future investment under Component 3 of the BPCA.



In this context, the main objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- Preliminary selection of pilot basins based on agreed methodologies and stakeholder participation; local assessment of needs in the selected pilot basins;
- Assessment and strengthening of management systems at the transboundary basin level;
- Presentation of basin management and investment plans;
- Agreement on the criteria for selecting small transboundary rivers (STRs) and the preparation of a shortlist of candidate basins through group discussions.

Participants proposed several small transboundary watercourses in the Fergana Valley and Surkhandarya province and formulated a priority list.

Priority ranking was based on the following criteria:

- Data availability and quality;
- Experience of cooperation between countries;
- Synergy with ongoing projects;
- Geographical representation;
- Climate resilience and adaptive potential;
- Support from key stakeholders.

The group discussions also addressed issues related to benefit sharing and the need for improved water management of small rivers of interstate importance. The key thematic areas considered included ecosystem, economic, indirect, socio-cultural, and political-institutional aspects.

Given that in recent years the countries of Central Asia have been taking measures to improve their water legislation and adopt new approaches to water management, it was proposed to primarily support the establishment of relevant Water Councils and the development of corresponding regulations (for example, Article 16 of the Water Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan).

As a result of the workshop, the selection criteria and shortlist of pilot water bodies were agreed upon, and a preliminary roadmap for needs assessment and institutional analysis was prepared.

Roundtable “Rural Women and Resilient Future” on the Occasion of the International Rural Women’s Day

On 23 October, a roundtable dedicated to International Rural Women’s Day, which is celebrated annually on 15 October, was held in Tashkent.



The event was organized by FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Committee on Family and Women’s Affairs at the Cabinet of Ministers and brought together representatives of the national Parliament, government institutions, international organizations, academia, and the media.

The roundtable was held under the theme “Rural Women Rising: Shaping a Resilient Future within the Framework of Beijing+30.” Participants discussed the role of women in ensuring food security, promoting sustainable rural development, and advancing gender equality.

Particular attention was paid to the updated Country Gender Assessment (CGA) of agriculture and rural areas in Uzbekistan, prepared by FAO in 2025. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the current situation, identifies key challenges and opportunities, and offers strategic recommendations for promoting equal opportunities in the agricultural sector.

The opening session was moderated by Dono Abdurazzakova, Senior Gender and Social Protection Advisor at the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. Welcoming remarks were delivered by Orzigul Qozikhonova, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Youth, Women, Culture, and Sports; Mukarram Akhmedova from the Committee on Family and Women's Affairs; and Nuriddin Dzhumabayev from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The CGA report was presented by FAO International Consultant Elizabeth Duban and Dono Abdurazzakova.

During discussions, participants exchanged views on measures to enhance women's participation in decision-making, improve access to resources and education, and expand economic opportunities in rural areas.

The dialogue brought together representatives of government agencies, international organizations, and academic and research institutions. Among the participants was a representative of the Scientific Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC ICWC), who highlighted the importance of an intersectoral and regional approach to gender equality and sustainable rural development.



Participants expressed their commitment to continued cooperation among government institutions, international partners, and civil society to put the CGA recommendations into practice. FAO reaffirmed its commitment to supporting national efforts aimed at promoting gender equality, fostering sustainable rural development, and improving the well-being of rural women.

SIC ICWC Presented a Hybrid Model of Water-Energy Coordination in Central Asia at the International Forum in Skopje

On 30 October, at the 14th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, “From Goals to Action: Securing a Sustainable Energy Future,” held in a hybrid format in Skopje, North Macedonia, a session focused on strengthening the interconnection between food, water, and energy. The event brought together leading international experts, policymakers and private sector representatives to share experiences and explore effective solutions in the field of sustainable resource management.

Speaking at the session, Dinara Ziganshina, SIC ICWC Director presented a hybrid coordination model that includes elements of hierarchy (clear rules and intergovernmental agreements), network interaction (partnerships, dialogue, and shared digital platforms), and economic mechanisms (tariff reforms and joint investments) to promote sustainable cross-sectoral cooperation both within countries and across the region.



The presentation was based on the results of research conducted as part of the IKI project “Regional Mechanisms for a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Transformation of the Energy-Water-Land Nexus in Central Asia”.

The Kambarata-1 project, which is the result of trilateral agreements between Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan, was presented as a promising

example of implementing this model at the regional level.

Research carried out under the IKI project enabled the development and validation of a practical coordination model. “Experience shows that effective management of interrelated resources is not a choice between government control and economic incentives, but rather their synergy. A hybrid model combining the power of hierarchy, trust in networks, and economic efficiency is our path to low-carbon and climate-resilient transformation, that will ensure energy and water security for future generations in Central Asia,” emphasized Dinara Ziganshina in her speech.

The 14th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development was held in Skopje on 28–30 October 2025. The forum serves as a global platform for promoting sustainable energy and brought together around 400 representatives from more than 60 countries to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Project Activities

Facilitating Region-Specific Approaches to Addressing Climate and Environmental-related Risks for Socio-Economic Stability in Central Asia”

Tailored Training of Trainers of the Selected Grantees in the Kyrgyz Republic

On 11-12 September, SIC ICWC held tailored Training of Trainers (TOT) for selected grantees on the adapted UNEP training package for environmental action planning at the community level.

The training took place in the city of Osh, Kyrgyz Republic. This training was organized as part of the project “Facilitating Region-Specific Approaches to Addressing Climate and Environment-Related Risks for Socio-Economic Stability in Central Asia”.

The aim of the training was to disseminate the adapted UNEP tools and approaches in the analysis of climate-related risks and work with local communities in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Trainers included Boris Gojenko and Alexandr Dolidudko from SIC ICWC, national project coordinator from the Kyrgyz Republic Mirzali Asatov, and gender and environmental expert from the Kyrgyz Republic Nurgul Sydykova.

Trainees were represented by three grantees who will implement sub-projects in the Kyrgyz Republic:

- LLC “Central Asia Alliance for Water and Environment” (CAAWWE)
- LLC “New Rhyme”
- Consortium including LLC “Ortchun” and LLC “Independent environmental expertise”

The training was organized in the form of interactive discussions given that the UNEP approaches should be tailored to conditions of the Kyrgyz Republic.



This training included both theory and practical exercises.

The first day was dedicated to understanding of key concepts and terminology on climate change, social stability, and climate and stability linkages. Trainers presented the Strata platform developed jointly with FAO (unepstrata.org), showed cases of nature-based solutions from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The participants discussed how to mobilize local communities in adaptation planning and decision making and implement participative approaches.

During interactive discussions of the first day, all the participants stressed the project's importance for socio-economic stability in the region and that environmental actions should be promoted through cooperation in environmental, water and adaptation spheres.

The second day was dedicated to practical exercises on joint problem analysis and brainstorming. The participants became aware of problem analysis tools, such as: connectors and dividers, problem and solution trees, seasonal calendar and linkage charts.

Besides problem analysis tools, the participants also were familiarized with decision making tools, such as feasibility matrix, prioritization matrix and analysis of scenarios.

In the course of practical exercises, adaptation methods were tested at the level of target regions in the Kyrgyz Republic, including:

- Developing approaches and methodologies for gathering community-level perspectives on climate adaptation and its impacts.
- Conducting practical exercises focused on collecting and analyzing local-level data and information.

During the training, participants actively discussed close linkage between climate, environment and socio-economic stability and approaches to identifying climate-related risks, adaptation, and nature-based solutions in priority regions and project areas.

By the end of the training, they had acquired the technical skills and knowledge needed to effectively implement and scale up project activities at the community level.

Tailored Training of Trainers of the Selected Grantees in the Republic of Tajikistan

On 24–25 September 2025, a final Training of Trainers (TOT) was held in the city of Guliston, Republic of Tajikistan, for selected grantees on the adapted UNEP training package for environmental action planning at the community level in the Fergana Valley. The training was organized as part of the project “Facilitating Region-Specific Approaches to Addressing Climate and Environment-Related Risks for Socio-Economic Stability in Central Asia.”

The aim of the training was to share UNEP’s adapted methods and tools for climate risk analysis and community engagement in the Republic of Tajikistan.

Trainers included Sherzod Muminov, Boris Gojenko, and Alexandr Dolidudko from SIC ICWC, along with Moser Rafael, Program Manager of the EU-UNEP Partnership, and Latif Sultonov, National Project Coordinator for Tajikistan.



The training was attended by representatives from three grant recipient organizations selected to implement sub-projects in Tajikistan:

- Youth Group for Environmental Protection (YGPE)
- Consortium of NGO Safi and NGO Subhi Tandurusti
- Rural Communities Development Agency

The training was designed as an interactive discussion, with a focus on adapting UNEP's approaches to the specific conditions of the Republic of Tajikistan. This session consisted of two comprehensive components: theoretical and practical.

On the first day, participants explored fundamental concepts and terminology related to climate change, social stability, and the interlinkages between climate and socio-economic resilience. The session also introduced the Strata platform (developed in collaboration with FAO – unepstrata.org), and showcased a range of nature-based solutions implemented in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Key topics included the engagement of local communities in climate adaptation planning and decision-making, with an emphasis on applying participatory approaches.

During the interactive discussion at the end of the first day, participants highlighted the importance of the project for enhancing socio-economic stability in the region. They also underscored the critical role of environmental cooperation in areas such as ecology, water resource management, and climate adaptation.

The second day was dedicated to practical exercises focused on joint problem analysis and collaborative brainstorming. Participants were introduced to a set of analytical tools, including: Connectors and dividers; Problem trees and solution trees; Seasonal calendars and Relationship maps.

In addition to problem analysis tools, participants were also introduced to decision-making tools such as feasibility matrix, prioritization matrix and analysis of scenarios.

During interactive sessions, participants collaboratively developed methods for climate adaptation tailored to the target areas of the Republic of Tajikistan. These included:

- Developing approaches and methodologies for gathering community-level perspectives on climate adaptation and its impacts.
- Conducting practical exercises focused on collecting and analyzing local-level data and information.



Throughout the training, participants engaged in active discussions on the strong interlinkages between climate, environment, and socio-economic stability, and explored various approaches for identifying climate-related risks, as well as developing adaptation strategies and environmental solutions in priority project areas.

By the end of the training, participants had acquired the technical skills and knowledge necessary to effectively implement and scale project activities at the community level.

Project “Correction of Hydromodule Zoning of the Syr Darya River Basin Using Remote Sensing Data and Satellite Mapping Technologies for Correction of Water Consumption and Irrigation Regimes for Agricultural Crops Cultivated in the Region”

Field Visits to Select Pilot Sites for Irrigation Norm and Hydromodule Zoning Studies in the Fergana Valley

From 13 to 17 October 2025, as part of the project “Correction of hydromodule zoning of the Syr Darya River Basin using remote sensing data and satellite mapping technologies for correction of water consumption and irrigation regimes for agricultural crops cultivated in the region,” a series of field visits was conducted in three provinces of the Fergana Valley, such as Andizhan, Namangan, and Fergana.

Project implementers in collaboration with representatives of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as water management specialists and farmers from the three provinces took part in these visits.

The main purpose of the visits was to select pilot fields under winter wheat to conduct studies of irrigation regimes in different hydromodule zones across the Valley. By collecting the required data, it is planned to revisit crop water requirements using modern satellite technologies and remote sensing methods.

During the field visits, participants studied crop areas, held meetings with farmers, and discussed the efficiency of current irrigation practices as well as opportunities for adopting innovative water use approaches based on RS and field measurements.

Project “Studies on priority issues in the field of water, energy and environment in the Amu Darya and Syr Darya basins”

Experts studied climate resilience of water infrastructure in the Uzbek Territory of the Syr Darya River basin

A large-scale modernization of hydrotechnical constructions in the Syr Darya River basin is an important but not the only step toward water security. This conclusion was made by experts from SIC ICWC following a two-day field visit to key sites in the middle reaches of the Syr Darya River in Uzbekistan. The main outcome of the visit was a clear understanding that without coordinated management, close transboundary cooperation, and the widespread adoption of water-saving technologies, the effect of multimillion-dollar infrastructure investments will be incomplete.

The field visit was organized as part of a GIZ project on 27-28 October 2025 and facilitated by BWO Syr Darya, Ministry of Water Management of Uzbekistan, and territorial branches in Tashkent and Syrdarya provinces.

The trip was led by D. Ziganshina, SIC ICWC Director. The participants included water management experts A. Galustyan, A. Dolidudko, A. Gazaryan and media representative N. Shulepina

The aim was to assess the status of water infrastructure in the Syr Darya River Basin in terms of climate resilience and its role in transboundary water management. Particular attention was paid to the assessment of technical condition of structures and their climate resilience.

Key structures visited:

The Upper Chirchik Hydroscheme (UCHS) is a strategic facility located on the Chirchik River, which is both a transboundary river and the main artery providing drinking and irrigation water to the city of Tashkent and Tashkent province.

During the visit, participants familiarized themselves with the operation of the Hydroscheme, water distribution between the Chirchik River and the Left-Bank Karasu Canal, the results of modernization, and the automation of the structure’s control system.



The participants also visited the Zakh and Khanym Canals located along the Diversion Canal of the Chirchik HPS, which is part of the Chirchik–Bozsu water tract. These transboundary canals, constructed in 1949, deliver water for irrigation and drinking purposes to the territories and population of both Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.



The Tuyabuguz Reservoir (also known as the Tashkent Sea) is a strategic facility located in the middle reaches of the Akhangaran River. It feeds the Tuyabuguz Left-Bank Canal and the Left-Bank Karasu Canal. The reservoir provides water to 122,000 ha of irrigated land across four districts of Tashkent province.





The participants also examined operation of the reservoir and the repair and rehabilitation work in the upstream section of the dam. In particular, sealing the joints between the concrete slabs with modern anti-filtration materials has significantly reduced seepage losses.

The Dustlik (Dostyk) Canal is an interstate irrigation canal that runs through Syrdarya province of Uzbekistan and Turkistan province of Kazakhstan. Originating from the spillway canal of Farhad HPS, it plays an important role in the water management system of the Syr Darya River basin.



The participants also examined the hydroscheme, as well as the results of

reconstruction and modernization of the Dustlik Canal head structure. Completed in 2024, this work has ensured full automation of the entire hydroscheme.



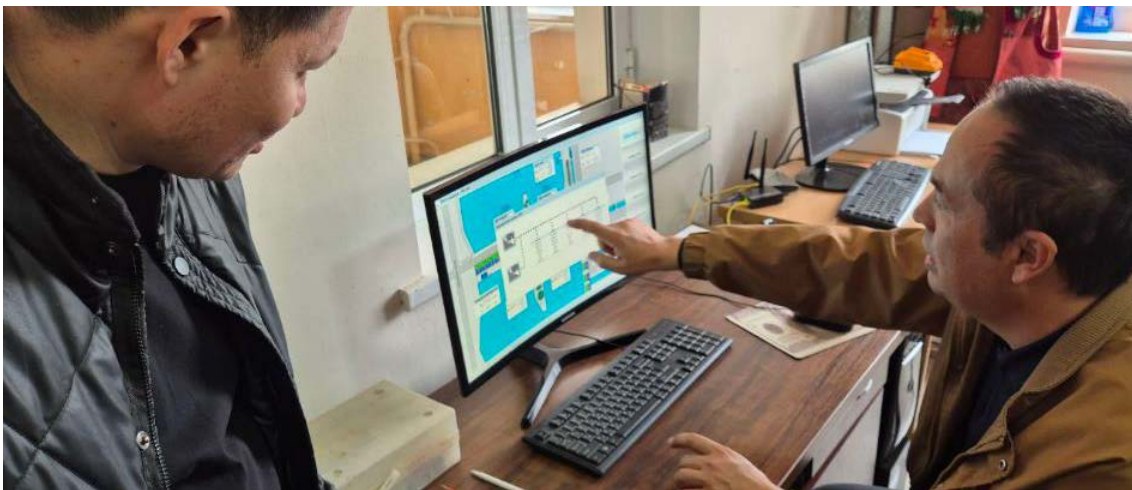
In addition, the participants visited a canal's section within the city of Gulistan, where, between 2016 and 2019, the canal's slopes and bed over a length of 4,750 meters have been concreted. These measures helped reduce seepage losses and prevent waterlogging of residential areas.



The South Hunger Steppe Canal (SGC) is an irrigation canal that originates from the upstream pool of Farhad HPS on the Syr Darya River. It is designed to irrigate 370,000 ha of land in Syrdarya and Jizzakh provinces.



The participants were informed on the operation of the structure, as well as the results of reconstruction and modernization of the headwork at PK145-00 of the South Hunger Steppe Canal done in 2020–2021. As a result, the structure is now equipped with four gauging stations and a fully automated gate control system.



Visits to major water management facilities allowed the participants to clearly assess the scale of the ongoing reconstruction and modernization efforts. However, along with infrastructure upgrades, it is equally important to focus on water conservation at the field level. Without efficient agricultural water use,

even the most advanced hydraulic structures cannot ensure sustainable water management.

In this context, together with a delegation from Kazakhstan — visiting Uzbekistan at the same time to study the current state of water management facilities and to exchange experience in reducing seepage losses in irrigation networks — the participants examined the results of canal lining works and the use of innovative anti-filtration materials.



Modernization of water infrastructure is an important step for more reliable water supply. However, without the adoption of water-saving technologies in the field, the impact of such investments will remain limited. Thus, the visit concluded with a field trip where participants could directly observe the operation of drip and sprinkling irrigation systems.



Key conclusions:

- **Modernization works:** Reconstruction and automation of key hydroschemes — Upper Chirchik, Dustlik and the South Hunger Steppe Canals — have already significantly improved flow management and reduced water losses.

- **Seepage issues can be solved:** The use of modern materials at the Tuyabuguz Reservoir and the concrete lining of canals have proven effective in reducing water losses and preventing waterlogging.
- **transboundary dimension matters:** The Zakh, Khanym, and Dustlik Canals are not only pieces of infrastructure but also vital arteries of cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.
- **The main challenge lies in the field:** The visit to a field with drip irrigation demonstrated that the future of water sector depends on an integrated approach combining large-scale infrastructure modernization with technologies adopted at the end-user level.

Editorial Board:

D. Ziganshina

I. Beglov

Sh. Muminov

A. Nazariy

A. Galystyan

Translation:

O. Usmanova, G. Yuldasheva

Layout and design:

I. Beglov, A. Degtyareva

Editorial office:

SIC ICWC Karasu-4, B 11-A, Tashkent 100 187, Republic of Uzbekistan

sic.icwc-aral.uz