

REGIONAL STATEMENT
by the Central Asian States “The Voice of Central Asia”
at the 27th Conference of the Parties
of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
(Sham el-Sheikh, Egypt, November 09, 2022)

The States of Central Asia – the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan,

Noting that the geographic location of the Central Asian (hereinafter “CA”) States away from oceans and the territory’s aridity predetermine the Subregion’s extreme vulnerability to global climate changes resulting in serious adverse impacts on people’s lives and health, as well as countries’ economies and ecosystems;

Considering that the CA territory is exposed to a much more severe negative impact of the global climate change relative to other regions of the world, which exacerbates water scarcity and desertification processes;

Emphasizing that global climate change presses for immediate and coordinated actions at the national, regional, and global levels;

Reaffirming their commitment to the goals of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Hereby declare the following:

1. The CA territory is highly vulnerable to climate change. The average annual temperature increase here is twice as high compared to the global average, and the negative impact of global warming on public health and the environment is much more severe than in other regions of the world.

Due to the rising average annual ambient temperatures and longer periods of extreme hot days, the glacier area in the mountains of the region, the main source of fresh water, has reduced by more than 30% over the last 40 years. This has led to an increase in a number of devastating mud and landslides, reduced mountain river runoffs, and increased water scarcity throughout the entire Central Asian Region.

2. Climate change in the region is exacerbated by the impact of the drying Aral Sea and the formation of a new salt desert on the dried seabed, the so-called “Aralkum”, occupying over 5.5 million hectares, from where regular dust storms spread up to 100 million tons of dust, sand, and salt over significant distances; this has resulted in the UN General Assembly recognizing the Aral Sea catastrophe a global ecological problem of the present.

3. Following global trends, the CA countries have developed strategies and programs for ‘green’ economy transition, accelerated development of renewable energy (including the use of ‘green’ hydrogen), and a significant increase of its share in the countries’ energy balance.

4. The CA countries are strongly committed to strengthening the international cooperation in combating climate change, seek to use ‘green’ development best practices and experiences aimed at reducing energy and raw material consumption, limiting greenhouse gas emissions, minimizing levels of pollution and waste generation, preserving, and restoring ecosystems, adapting sectors and territories to climate change.

5. The CA States are ready to contribute to improving the mechanisms for achieving the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

6. The CA States will consistently introduce modern environmentally safe agro-, bio- and water preserving technologies and innovative agricultural methods and ensure food security.

7. The CA States will continuously work to improve national legislations on public health, environmental protection, and rational use of natural resources, as well as develop and implement environmental service systems, and new types of services and entrepreneurship.

At the same time, the resources and capacities available in the CA States are insufficient to tackle deteriorating climate and environmental problems.

We call on the UN, other international organizations and financial institutions, donor countries, climate funds and environmental organizations to support the efforts of the CA States in combating climate change including by means of climate finance, capacity building of state and public organizations, transfer of innovative approaches and technologies.

The States of Central Asia require enhanced international support to implement urgent measures and long-term programs on preventing the negative impact of climate change, which will allow the CA countries to make a worthy contribution to the world community's efforts to combat global warming.