

**RESOLUTION ON ADDRESSING THE MULTIFACETED IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND  
WATER SCARCITY IN THE CENTRAL ASIAN REGION THROUGH ENHANCED REGIONAL CO-  
OPERATION AND PARLIAMENTARY DIALOGUE**

**Adopted at OSCE PA Annual Session  
29 June – 3 July 2024**

1. Recognizing the multifaceted impacts of climate change on the countries of Central Asia and in particular the catastrophic consequences of the drying up of the Aral Sea,
2. Noting the interconnectedness between climate change, water scarcity and various socio-economic as well as governance challenges, understanding that climate variations can amplify competition for access to natural resources, particularly in a region marked by considerable population growth,
3. Welcoming the approval of the Green Agenda regional programme for Central Asia aimed at fostering sustainable development, adopted during the Fourth Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asian States in July 2022, and supporting the upcoming Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia, due to take place in Astana on 9 August 2024, for further deepening regional co-operation, and strengthening the atmosphere of friendship, trust and good-neighbourliness, including in the area of climate change actions and rational use of water and energy resources,
4. Welcoming the stance of the Central Asian nations in addressing critical climate issues on a global scale, embracing a collaborative approach, as seen at the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), and expressing appreciation for their efforts to enhance collective participation in climate policy negotiations, advocating for joint measures to reduce emissions, achieve carbon neutrality, and secure access to climate financing for the Central Asian region,
5. Further welcoming the results of the Meeting of the OSCE Secretary General and Environment Ministers of Central Asian States, held on 4 March 2024, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan,
6. Highlighting the worrying shrinking of the cryosphere of Central Asia due to global warming over recent decades, including the diminishing ice sheets, glaciers and snow cover, and emphasizing the pressing necessity to enhance awareness and encourage sustainable efforts to safeguard glaciers which play a crucial role in the availability of water resources throughout the year,
7. Acknowledging the heightened vulnerability of mountain ecosystems to the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather, deforestation, and land degradation, which hinder their regeneration ability and undermine the livelihoods of local populations,
8. Emphasizing the importance of capitalizing on the opportunities presented by the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation in 2025 to advance initiatives and partnerships aimed at glacier preservation,

9. Welcoming the initiative by the Government of Uzbekistan to organize the Samarkand International Climate Forum in Uzbekistan in 2024, the initiative of the Government of Tajikistan to host an international conference focusing on glacier preservation in Dushanbe in 2025 and the initiative by the Government of Kyrgyzstan to host the second Global Mountain Summit in Bishkek in 2027,
10. Further welcoming the global initiative of France and Kazakhstan to convene the One Water Summit in 2024 to enhance the implementation of innovative methods for measuring, managing and using water to adapt to the new water cycle and conserve resources,
11. Further welcoming Kazakhstan's initiative to host a Regional Climate Summit in 2026 under UN auspices and to launch the Project Office for Central Asia on climate change and green energy in Almaty, with the objective of enhancing the collective regional approach to addressing climate change,
12. Recognizing the need to foster systematic and inclusive scientific research and diplomatic dialogue on climate security matters, to effectively address the challenges posed by climate-induced conflicts and resource competition,
13. Highlighting the significant opportunities and potential which science diplomacy offer in important forward-looking fields, such as renewable technology, green hydrogen, climate-neutral energy provision, nanotechnology and artificial intelligence, to support sustainable innovations for social welfare and prosperity,
14. Welcoming the initiative of Turkmenistan to host the Regional Centre for Climate Technology for Central Asia in Ashgabat,
15. Recognizing the role of the Central Asian University of Environmental Studies and Climate Change, recently established in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, as a catalyst for promoting environmental awareness and action, by serving as a hub for knowledge exchange, capacity-building and advocacy in the field of environmental studies and climate change mitigation,
16. Acknowledging the vital need for diversifying the energy supplies of Central Asian countries and expanding clean energy sources to achieve carbon neutrality, mitigate climate change, and enhance the accessibility, affordability, and resilience of energy systems,
17. Further drawing attention to the growing water crisis in Central Asia, recognizing the interconnectedness of water, ecosystems, energy, food security, and nutrition; understanding that water is essential for health, well-being, and human advancement, and acknowledging the crucial role of water in fostering sustainable development and in efforts to eliminate poverty and hunger,
18. Emphasizing that the human-made Aral Sea crisis is exacerbating the effects of climate change, including by contributing to rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and altered precipitation patterns, which have accelerated water depletion and intensified desertification in the region, rendering remaining water resources unsuitable for sustaining livelihoods and exacerbating socio-economic hardships for local communities,

19. Recalling the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its 75th session on 18 May 2021, which declared the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies, underscoring the imperative to address the environmental challenges facing the region through innovation and collaboration, and supporting the activities of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea as a regional organization and the action programme to assist the countries of the Aral Sea basin as well as the Regional Environmental Programme for Sustainable Development in Central Asia,
20. Further recalling resolutions on Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its 72nd and 73rd Sessions on 12 April 2018 and 29 May 2019, as well as the resolution on consideration of the modalities for the establishment of the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its 79th session in Bangkok, Thailand,
21. Appreciating the role played by regional organizations and mechanisms such as the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, and the Executive Committee operating within its framework, the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination and the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development, in facilitating multilateral co-operation and technical expertise exchange among Central Asian states, including the implementation of the fourth Aral Sea Basin Programme and the Regional Environmental Protection Programme for Sustainable Development in Central Asia,
22. Appreciating the work of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and OSCE field operations in Central Asia in strengthening national and regional capacities to address the challenges caused by climate change, and ensure good environmental governance, disaster risk reduction, and effective water management, as well as to address vulnerabilities and improve resilience in communities in the Central Asian border regions with Afghanistan in the field of water resource management and energy security implemented in the framework of the OSCE Response to the Implications of Afghanistan for the OSCE Region,
23. Acknowledging the importance of the reasonable and sustainable use of transboundary water resources by all riparian states to achieve sustainable development and to address their socio-economic needs,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

24. Recognizes the urgent need for comprehensive action to address and mitigate both the direct and indirect impacts of the climate crisis;
25. Expresses its determination to co-operatively and coherently address the security challenges in Central Asia posed by climate change, in line with the OSCE PA Parliamentary Plea for Resolute Climate Action adopted in 2021, focusing, inter alia, on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, developing effective adaptation strategies, mobilizing the necessary financial resources, and fostering international collaboration;

26. Urges OSCE participating States to maintain a focus on Central Asia and to recognize the impacts that the climate crisis has on local communities and the planet, with consequences for the wider political and socio-economic situation in the region;
27. Highlights the significance of recent milestones, including the reaffirmation of shared goals during the fifth Consultative Meeting of Heads of State of Central Asia in Dushanbe in September 2023, which emphasized the expansion of economic relations and strengthened co-operation on environmental issues among all nations;
28. Exhorts Central Asian participating States to further develop ambitious strategies for the clean energy transition, while keeping in mind the needs of less privileged people and other local circumstances in order to ensure a more equitable, just, inclusive, effective and affordable transition to cleaner energy sources;
29. Stresses the importance of enhancing regional co-operation, including in the parliamentary dimension, and establishing robust regional mechanisms to effectively address climate change, water issues, and environmental degradation in the Central Asian region;
30. Emphasizes the importance of raising awareness and promoting education at all levels, including through formal and informal channels, to foster a deeper understanding among the populations of the region of the causes and consequences of climate change and their responsibility towards future generations, and to encourage sustainable practices among individuals, communities, and institutions;
31. Urges Central Asian States to ensure that independent civil society can freely conduct research on environmental issues, can participate in relevant decision-making processes, and can advocate to hold governments accountable for their domestic and international commitments related to environmental standards;
32. Encourages Central Asian States to support a community-based approach in adapting to climate change, which should be focused on local communities' priorities, needs, knowledge and capacities, including the differentiated needs of women and men as well as the elderly and children, low-income groups, minority communities and people with disabilities, thus empowering people to better plan for and cope with the impact of climate change;
33. Encourages the enhancement of exchange programmes focused on best practices in water-saving technologies, advocating for a robust dialogue both within Central Asia and more broadly across the OSCE region, in particular through the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia in Almaty, Kazakhstan;
34. Welcomes the initiative of Kyrgyzstan to establish a Central Asian regional centre for energy-efficient and resource-saving technologies implementation in Bishkek, aiming to promote the efficient use of water and energy resources in the Central Asian region as a whole;
35. Emphasizes the crucial role of OSCE parliamentarians in spearheading initiatives to mitigate the impacts of climate change and address water scarcity, through legislative development, policy implementation, parliamentary oversight and fostering international co-operation;

36. Calls on OSCE participating States to support governments of Central Asian countries in enhancing their early warning systems, improving hazard mapping, increasing capacity for disaster preparedness and response, and setting up contingency funding plans to prepare for the increased frequency of climate-related shocks;
37. Recognizes the need to enhance the participation of women and youth in decision-making and conflict prevention, and encourages initiatives such as the OSCE network for women in water management in Central Asia and Afghanistan, which underscores the value of including diverse perspectives in water-related diplomacy;
38. Encourages local governments, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to collaborate in developing and implementing comprehensive education, including in primary and secondary schools, and transparency initiatives tailored to the specific needs and challenges of the Central Asian region, with a focus on building capacity, fostering innovation, and promoting long-term sustainability;
39. Calls for urgent and concerted action to address the water issues exemplified by the Aral Sea crises, including comprehensive mitigation and adaptation measures to address the environmental, humanitarian, and socio-economic challenges facing the region, including through supporting the United Nations Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region;
40. Calls for OSCE participating States to support initiatives in Central Asia aiming at the promotion of sustainable water management practices, restoring ecosystems, enhancing disaster preparedness and response mechanisms, and providing support for affected communities to build resilience and secure livelihoods in the face of ongoing environmental changes;
41. Urges the OSCE participating States, international financial institutions, the private sector, investors, donors, and other pertinent stakeholders to sustain efforts in mobilizing resources and offering capacity-building support and assistance to tackle effective, water-saving and climate-resilient infrastructure for the people as well as the environmental challenges in Central Asia.