

Speech
by Mr. Badriddin Abidov,
Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade
of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Launch Event of the 3rd Environmental Performance Review
of Uzbekistan
(July 15, 2021)

Your Excellences Ms. Algaerova, Mr. Abdukhakimov
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to speak at this Launch Event of the 3rd Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Uzbekistan.

The drying up of the Aral Sea is among the greatest modern human-made global environmental disasters.

The UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan was established in 2018 as a unified response to address the negative consequences of this catastrophe.

Since its establishment total 238.6 million US dollars were mobilized within the strategic framework of the Trust fund.

Today under the grant contributions of partner countries amounted almost 14.0 million US dollars 5 projects are being implemented within the framework of the Trust Fund.

As a result, the people in rural communities has an access to clean drinking water, mothers and newborns have benefited from improved quality of care in renovated perinatal facilities.

In the dried bed of the Aral Sea were identified more than 30 plant species for planting in the 1,500 different points. The forestry department in the region is enabled to expand its capacity of planting of drought-resistant plants in larger areas.

At the same time, the ongoing activities within the projects will provide opportunities for application of new agricultural practices, facilitation of women in home-based entrepreneurship, ensuring access to clean drinking water and electricity in schools and medical facilities, equipping medical institutions' labs for transmitted diseases diagnostics, deworming children and prevention of girls from anemia and others.

The last year within the framework of the Trust Fund the Advisory Committee for Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea Region has been established.

Today it has more than 70 members from donor countries, international organizations, financial institutions, government bodies and NGOs. Taking this opportunity, we kindly invite UNECE to become a member of Advisory Committee.

As a result of the joint work of all members of the Advisory Committee the Integrated Road Map – a program of interventions for the sustainable development in the Aral Sea region has been developed.

The document articulates an integrated approach for transition from a region in crisis into a region of opportunities.

Dear Ms. Algaerova,

It is our great pleasure to mention the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly the resolution declaring the Aral Sea region “A zone of ecological innovations and technologies” in its 75th session on May 18, 2021.

The main idea of the resolution is to create favorable conditions for attracting investments in the development and implementation of high-tech innovations, environmentally friendly energy- and water-saving technologies, integrated application of green economy principles, prevention of further land degradation, desertification and environmental migration, development of ecotourism and implementation of other related tasks.

All these efforts demonstrate once again the determination of Uzbekistan to create opportunities for an effective international cooperation to overcome the consequences of the Aral Sea catastrophe and support sustainable development in the region.

We look forward for contribution and active participation of the UNECE and its member countries in these initiatives addressed to provide a decent life for the population of the entire Aral Sea region.

In conclusion, let me once again thank You Ms. Algaerova for your support and continuous cooperation.

I hope that today's meeting and our joint efforts will significantly contribute to the sustainable development of the Aral Sea region.

Thank you for your attention.