



## **REPORT**

### **United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)**

#### **25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment**

**15 November 2022, Almaty and online**

#### **Organization**

The 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group (WG) on Water, Energy and Environment of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) (hereinafter referred to as SPECA WG or WG) was held in the hybrid format on 15 November 2022 and hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan at the Kazakh-British Technical University. The session was organized in the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Almaty Energy Forum (14-16 November 2022).

56 participants attended the meeting, including representatives of the SPECA member countries, United Nations organizations, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the German Society for International cooperation (GIZ), the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) of the Asian Development Bank, the Scientific Information Centre of Inter-State Commission for Water Coordination (SIC ICWC), Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS), the USAID's Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment project, United Nations Development Programme in Uzbekistan (UNDP), and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

**Mr Akzan Shiranov**, Director of the Department for Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, chaired the session.

**Ms Dinara Ziganshina**, Director of the SIC ICWC provided the keynote speech, in which she demonstrate that in the recent 20 years the flow of the main Central Asia rivers have not significantly changed though the withdrawal has increased in the Ili, Ural and Irtysh rivers, mineralization of underground waters has increased to the levels which make it inappropriate for use. Meanwhile the planned water use is unproportionally higher than the water availability, particularly under conditions of climate change. Ms Ziganshina also stressed on an issue of undernutrition as an element of food security. All energy systems of the United Energy System of Central Asia have been producing energy excess in the recent years, which is a prerequisite for development of the energy market; while there are still issues with balancing the peak hours aggravated with instalment of the renewables. Overall Ms Ziganshina emphasized that despite various risks and challenges in the region, the countries may still maintain water, food and energy security, under condition of well-coordinated intersectoral cooperation.

#### **Background and Expectations**

In 2015, the UN member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to address crucial issues facing the global community. It became clear that regional cooperation was necessary to achieve the SDGs in the SPECA region. To this end, at the 10th session of the SPECA Governing Council (Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 11 November 2015) representatives of SPECA participating countries adopted a Declaration reiterating their

commitment to the Programme as a platform for promoting cooperation in the SPECA subregion and achieving sustainable development.

Climate change poses increasingly severe risks for ecosystems, human health and the economy of the SPECA region. Cross-sectoral and regional cooperation on the energy, water, and natural resources has the potential to provide economic gains, enhance climate resilience, improve the environment and increase the wellbeing of citizens. To this end, the main objective of this Session of the Working Group was to discuss progress in understanding and managing the relations between coherent development of energy and water sectors, and address natural resources, energy and environmental challenges in the region.

### **Meeting proceedings**

#### **➤ Working Group programme implementation in 2021-2022**

Representatives of the UNECE and the UNESCAP reported on activities implemented during since the last Working Group session under the aegis of the SPECA. The **UNECE secretariat** informed the participants about progress in National Policy Dialogues (NPD) processes in Central Asia, in particular work related to preventing pollution of the Syr Darya, especially pollution from tailing storage facilities, water balance calculations, the signing of the Chu and Talas Strategic Action Programme, the start of the NPD process in Uzbekistan and an inception meeting of the nexus project funded by the IKI (see below). The **UNESCAP secretariat**, informed on the progress in implementation of the activities on: the UN Decade for Water Action and SDG6, supporting countries to meet the commitments of the Paris Agreement, supporting countries to address the food-energy-water nexus and the environment-health nexus, and a regional e-learning courses on GHG inventory, carbon pricing, integrated approach in biodiversity/health /climate.

#### **➤ Transboundary and regional cooperation in the SPECA sub-region: integrated water, energy and environment management**

**Mr Robert Brudzynski**, Project Manager in the Cooperation Section in the EU Delegation Kazakhstan Team Europe Initiative (TEI) "Water, energy and climate change in Central Asia". The programme is established to develop complementarities with ongoing projects and boost the blue and green transition in 2021-27. Its strategic objectives are: 1) improved regional cooperation and governance to support sustainable development in Central Asia, which includes increased water cooperation, accelerated transition to renewable energy, and improved climate and environmental governance, and 2) increased investment in a regionally integrated blue and green transition in Central Asia, which would include targets on more efficient and effective drinking water supply and sanitation, greener and more integrated energy sector, and more action on climate change and the environment. TEI includes EU initiatives as well as activities by the EU Member States and initiatives by the development banks, which make up in total around EUR 700 mln, including guarantees. The projects list included but not limited to: energy connectivity and national energy sector reform, National Policy Dialogues on IWRM, dam safety, water and sanitation, forest plantation on the Aral Seabed and hydropower development.

**Matthew Griffiths**, Senior Programme Manager, OECD, recalled that in accordance with the Tashkent Statement from the 2021 SPECA Economic Forum, SPECA should be one of the regional platforms for the project “Regional mechanism for the low-carbon, climate-resilient transformation of the energy-water-land Nexus in Central Asia”, funded by the Germany’s International Climate Initiative (IKI). This regional project aims to evidence the business case for cooperation on energy, water and land use issues at the cross-sectoral and regional level and will support national and regional policy dialogues and introduce opportunities for mainstreaming “nexus thinking” into strategies and planning processes. A pilot-financing mechanism will bring nexus opportunities to reality, creating momentum for change. He informed that the project was slightly delayed but is expected to start in early 2023. He informed about the focus of work for 2023-2024, namely a regional “hotspot” analysis of climate, energy, water

and land use risks and opportunities in Central Asia; a modelling framework for quantifying benefits of cooperation on energy, water & land-use nexus; an assessment of the feasibility of a financing mechanism for water-energy coordination; a regional database on climate, water and energy related information; an assessment of Inter-sectoral governance on nexus planning and the development of the design of a Regional Nexus Financing Mechanism.

**Mr Kazuhiro Yoshida**, Senior Water Resources Specialist, ADB - Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Water Pillar, informed on progress in identifying Water Pillar activities in the region. The identified projects will fall under one of the three blocks: 1) climate resilient and productive water systems, 2) sustainable water resources and water services, and 3) nexus solutions and cross-sector learning. It is expected that the short-listing the projects will take place in late November while the project concept notes will be finalized by the end of 2023.

**Ms Caroline Milow**, Programme Manager, Green Central Asia, GIZ presented progress of the programme “Green Central Asia: Enhancing regional dialogue on climate, environment and security”. The initiative is aimed at mitigating risks that potentially may emanate from the negative impact of the climate change and focused on supporting a dialogue on climate change and its risks for the Central Asian countries and strengthen transboundary cooperation to prevent conflicts. Green Central Asia portfolio includes 6 projects worth 52 mln EUR (as part of the Teams Europe Initiative). It was recommended to the WEE WG under SPECA to: seek complementarity and coordination in all planned actions with existing activities and policy documents at the national level, build on already existing achievements, exchange more information on both national and regional activities in a respective sector and consider a cross-sectoral approach, and provides more tailor-made capacity building.

Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) nexus activities by the USAID were presented by **Ms Gulzada Azhetova**, USAID/Central Asia Regional Water and Environment Specialist. The programme is focused on four technical interventions: Increase regional networking on education, capacity building, research, connecting small basin organizations to higher levels, promote adoption of WEAP/LEAP modeling for better decision making, and improve bilateral regional cooperation.

According to **Mr Murat Bekniyazov**, Member of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving Aral Sea (EC IFAS) from the Republic of Kazakhstan, informed about the IFAS reform, which started in 2018. The aim of the reform is to promote regional cooperation in water, energy (new sector for the IFAS), environmental and socio-economic areas. The five stages of the reform include 1) revising the aims of the Fund, 2) understanding gaps in implementation of the functions and tasks, 3) recommending improving the structure, 4) recommending financing mechanisms (current stage), and 5) recommending on advancing the legal basis. It was suggested that the IFAS experts establish communication with the members of the WEE WG under SPECA to search for synergies on the nexus, and improving the IFAS organization and legal basis. .

**Mr Zaal Lomtadze**, Senior Environmental Officer, Environment Division, UNECE shared the outcomes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, 5-7 October). One of the key outcomes of the conference was the Ministerial Declaration, which makes a clear reference to an urgent need to transboundary water cooperation and prevention of water pollution.

In the project “Towards to low-carbon and socially oriented economy: Effects of alternative “green” projects in energy, agriculture and water sectors” **Ms Janna Fattakhova**, UNDP Uzbekistan National Expert, shared results of a case study from Uzbekistan. The project objective was to search for a national low-carbon and socially-oriented development model, and it demonstrated clear examples of cost-benefit analysis for various methods for decarbonization.

**Mr Serikzhan Atanov**, Senior Project Assistant, UNESCO Almaty Office, informed about results of the project on Kazakh-Uzbek Pretashkent aquifer (modelling, a roadmap for future actions), and an upcoming GEF-UNDP-UNESCO project, which will *inter alia* be devoted to glaciers management in Central Asia, which is important for water and energy security at national and regional level.

**Ms Gulnara Roll**, UNECE Regional Advisor in Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE stressed on a need to build urban economic resilience during and after COVID-19”, which inter alia includes future investment projects on water management and energy efficiency.

**Mr Bo Libert**, UNECE Consultant, spoke about the potential to optimize water and energy resources through sustainable trade, based on an analytical paper developed for the SPECA’s Trade Working Group. Recommendations of the analysis include application of the principles for sustainable trade; raise awareness of a connection between trade, sustainable development and circular economy; development of a policy for efficiency of water and energy use; work on transboundary water agreements.

**Talaibek Makeev**, Economic Affairs Officer in the Environment Division / UNECE presented results of UNECE activities on dam safety in Central Asia. The deliverables range from drafting and further application of a model national law on dam safety, draft regional agreement, and the regional SPECA platform, to capacity building and support to technical maintenance of selected dams.

#### ➤ **SPECA countries perspectives**

Country representatives provided brief information on national priorities for water, energy and environmental challenges and opportunities for cross-sectoral and regional cooperation.

**Ms Farida Alakbarova**, Head of Integrated Water Resources Management subdivision, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, stressed importance of SPECA as a platform for the exchange of the experience and lessons learned on water, energy and environment. She stressed that climate change pushes for higher prioritization of energy and water resilience as a key factor for socio-economic wellbeing of the country. She also informed that the National Strategy on SDGs “**Azerbaijan – 2030**” prioritizes green growth with considerable attention to energy and water efficiency, and considers development of green energy, green agriculture, smart cities, and number of large projects on resilient water management supply and use. Azerbaijan is looking forward to cooperation with the UNECE and UN ESCATO in achieving of the above.

**Gulmira Satymkulova**, Lead Expert of the Board for Water Resources Management, State Water Service of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, stressed importance of the SPECA WEE WG for continuous dialogue and facilitates regional cooperation. Ms Satymkulova informed about implementation of the sectoral policies via cooperation with the IFIs. She also spoke about further successful development of the bilateral cooperation on the Chu and the Talas rivers, cooperation with Uzbekistan on use of Orto-Tokoy reservoir (Uzbekistan provided financial support for its maintenance) and signing ab bilateral agreement on joint use of Kampirabad reservoir. On behalf of the energy sector she expressed hope that the downstream countries understand the need of Kyrgyzstan in hydropower and a need for financing flood protection facilities located on its territory. She also informed about a recently established National Council on Water and Land Resources, update of the National Water Strategy till 2040, and openness of the Republic to resume cooperation between the CA countries on water-energy resources (ref. 1998 Agreement).

**Mr Daniyar Sagadiyev**, **Head of Transboundary Rivers Section of the Transboundary Water Resources Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Geology, Kazakhstan** stressed that limited energy and water resources in Central Asia restrain socio-economic development in the region. To address this, the countries support and develop e.g. transboundary water cooperation. In the meantime, the climate change requires additional efforts to increase water efficiency which can be reached e.g. via strengthening legal basis of the IFAS, decrease water loss in transportation and end use, increase water productivity, apply water recycling, improve water accounting and monitoring. Kazakhstan counts on support from the SPECA Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment as a platform to discuss these issues.

**Mr Bairam Khaidorov**, **Ministry of Agriculture and Environment**, **Mr. Annamurat Turyaev**, **Committee of Water Resources, Turkmenistan**, informed that Turkmenistan currently focuses on the structural reform of its economy achieve the SDGs. This is done via implementation of the Programme

of the President on socio-economic development for 2022-2028, programmes on inclusive development, green economy nature protection, combating desertification, climate change mitigation and adaptation. To address desertification, 30 mln trees are planted annually in the country, and there is continuous work on improving landscape management. Turkmenistan actively implements ASBP-4 and supports activities by the IFAS.

**Mr Isfandiyor Shukurov**, Head of Board for Monitoring, Environmental Policy, Hydrometeorology and Cadastre of the State Committee on the Environmental Protection of Tajikistan informed about eight Tajik initiatives which have been adopted by the UN General Assembly in the recent 20 years, the latest one is on the international decade “Water for Sustainable Development” for 2018-2028. Tajikistan adopted the National Strategy for climate change adaptation as well as it aims at further development of hydropower to ensure carbon neutrality of the state by 2050. Tajikistan, as a co-chair of the UN 2023 Water Conference, suggested water-energy nexus topic as one of the Conference’s key topics.

### **Next steps and decisions**

Based on discussions under the agenda items, the WG agreed on decisions of its 25<sup>th</sup> session (Annex II).

**ESCAP**  
**United Nations Economic and Social**  
**Commission for Asia and the Pacific**



**UNECE**  
**United Nations Economic**  
**Commission for Europe**

**UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)**

25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment

15 November 2022, 10:00 to 13:00

in the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Almaty Energy Forum” Innovating and Modernizing Energy Infrastructure in Central Asia” (a hybrid meeting)

**PROGRAMME**

PROGRAMME	
<b>Time</b>	9:00 - Tashkent; 11:00 - Bangkok; 5:00 - Geneva; 8:00 - Baku; 10:00 – Astana; 10:00 - Bishkek; 9:00 – Ashgabat; 9:00 – Dushanbe
<b>15 min</b>	Opening and introduction to the session – Kazakhstan (Chair) - Akzan Shiranov, Director of the Department for Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources  Keynote speech - Water, energy, food and environmental security in Central Asia: benefits of intersectoral solutions – Dinara Ziganshina, Director, SIC ICWC (online)
<b>30 min</b>	<b>1. Promoting regional and intersectoral cooperation in the framework of the SPECA Working Group on Water, Energy, and Environment</b>  <i>Brief introduction on the WEE WG and its role to facilitate advancements in sustainable energy and water systems in the SPECA region.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Presentation of the SPECA WEE WG Program for 2022-2023 and UNECE activities –Tamara Kutonova, Manager National Policy Dialogue Programme, Environment Division, UNECE</li><li>- “Regional mechanisms for the low-carbon, climate-resilient transformation of the energy-water-land Nexus in Central Asia” – Matthew Griffiths, Senior Programme Manager, OECD and Tamara Kutonova, Manager National Policy Dialogue Programme, Environment Division, UNECE</li><li>- Presentation of ESCAP activities – Sergey Tulinov, Economic Affairs Officer, Energy Division, ESCAP</li><li>- UNECE work on urban economic resilience building and promoting recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, natural and man-made disasters - Gulnara Roll, Regional Advisor, Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE</li></ul>

<p><b>40 min</b></p>	<p><b>2. Relevant initiatives on water, energy and environment in the region</b></p> <p><i>Interventions of 5 minutes.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Team Europe Initiative "Water, energy and climate change in Central Asia" – Johannes Baur, Head of Cooperation EU Delegation Kazakhstan (online)</li> <li>- Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Water Pillar - Kazuhiro Yoshida, Senior Water Resources Specialist, ADB</li> <li>- Green Central Asia: Enhancing regional dialogue on climate, environment and security - Caroline Milow, Programme Manager, Green Central Asia, GIZ (online)</li> <li>- WEF nexus related activities - Gulzada Azhetova, USAID/Central Asia Regional Water and Environment Specialist</li> <li>- EC-IFAS reform to promote regional integration of water and energy development - Murat Bekniyazov, Member of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving Aral Sea (EC IFAS) from the Republic of Kazakhstan</li> <li>- Outcome of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, 5-7 October) - Zaal Lomtadze, Senior Environmental Officer, Environment Division, UNECE (online)</li> <li>- “Towards to low-carbon and socially oriented economy: Effects of alternative “green” projects in energy, agriculture and water sectors” - Janna Fattakhova, UNDP National Expert</li> <li>- UNESCO activities on water in Central Asia – Serikzhan Atanov, Senior Project Assistant, UNESCO Almaty Office</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
<p><b>50 min</b></p>	<p><b>3. SPECA countries perspectives on national and regional work on water, energy and environment</b></p> <p>Interventions from SPECA WEE WG members and other experts on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National developments on water, energy and environment</li> <li>2. Needs at national and regional level and potential support provided under the SPECA framework, in particular from the policy point of view: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farida Alakbarova, Head of sub-division of the Water Resources Management Division, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan</li> <li>- Daniyar Sagadiev, Head of Tranboundary Rivers Section, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Geology of the Republic of Kazakhstan</li> <li>- Gulmira Satymkulova, Lead Expert of the Board for Water Resources Management, State Water Service of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>- Shukhrat Khaydarov, Head of the Information, Analytical and Resource Center Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan</li> <li>- Mr Bairam Khaidorov, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Annamurat Turyaev, Committee of Water Resources, Turkmenistan</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>

<b>30 min</b>	<p><b>4. Optimizing resources for sustainability through regional cooperation, trade and innovation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trade, water management and food security in the SPECA region (study for the SPECA WG on Trade) – Bo Libert, UNECE Consultant (online)</li> <li>- Enhancing dam safety at the regional and national level - Talaibek Makeev, Economic Affairs Officer, Environment Division, UNECE</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
<b>15 min</b>	<p><b>5. Conclusions and inputs to the SPECA Forum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Messages and draft decisions on water, energy and environment to be submitted to the SPECA Forum – Chair</li> </ul>



## Annex II

**ESCAP**  
**United Nations Economic and Social**  
**Commission for Asia and the Pacific**



**UNECE**  
**United Nations Economic**  
**Commission for Europe**

### **UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)**

#### **TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE SPECA WORKING GROUP ON WATER, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**15 November 2022, Almaty and online**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Working Group welcomed the valuable contribution and ongoing initiatives supported by the EU, GIZ, USAID, UNDP, OECD, ADB, UNECE, and UNESCAP, to foster the integration of water, energy, food and environmental sectoral policies and actions in SPECA countries, and encouraged development partners to ensure coordination of their activities.
2. The Working Group recommended the SPECA participating States to:
  - consider the findings of the study “Assessment of the gaps and opportunities for further implementation of the Principles of Sustainable Trade in the SPECA countries”, in particular its recommendation “to promote professional understanding of the relationship between trade, circular economy and sustainable development”,
  - make use of Water Evaluation And Planning System (WEAP) and Learning, Evaluation, and Analysis Project (LEAP) modelling in Central Asia (ref. USAID activities),
  - use the tools for prioritization of "green" projects taking into account climate and social criteria, and the register of "green" projects created by UNDP.
3. The Working Group welcomed the messages by the national authorities on the progress in the development of water, energy and environmental policies and measures and recommended the SPECA participating States together with partner institutions, to:
  - exchange more information on both national and regional activities fostering cross-sectoral approaches – such as national policy dialogues, TEI, and CAREC Water Pillar - and seek complementarity and coordination in planned actions, more actively use SPECA as a collaborative platform to support the implementation of the clean energy and low-carbon development strategies, in particular in relation to the national and regional application of the water-energy-environment nexus approach,
  - more actively use SPECA as a collaborative platform to support the implementation of low-carbon development strategies, in particular in relation to the national and regional application of the water-energy-environment nexus approach.
4. The Working Group welcomed the work conducted by UNECE on preventing pollution in the Syr Darya River basin, in particular the inventory of mine tailings, and is looking forward to getting the final version of the report with recommendations.
5. The Working Group welcomed the results of the inception phase of the IKI-funded project “Regional mechanisms for the low-carbon, climate-resilient transformation of the energy-water-land nexus in Central Asia”. It availed its continuous support to the future project activities, and

requested that the SPECA Forum and the Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment be engaged in the project implementation.

6. The Working Group also welcomed the technical work conducted by the UNESCAP, particularly on developing national SDG 7 roadmaps, sharing statistical energy information and data through the Asia-Pacific Energy Portal, activities related to supporting implementation of national commitments under the Paris agreement on climate change.
7. The Working Group recalled the importance of the work on dam safety for the sustainable development of the region. It called upon SPECA countries to strengthen action at the national and regional level in this area, building on the work carried out under SPECA with UNECE support, and the vision of the Aral Sea Basin Programme 4 (ASBP-4). It called upon donors and the United Nations to support SPECA countries in these efforts.
8. The Working Group reiterated its commitment for further coordination of SPECA project activities with regional initiatives, in particular the ASBP-4 and the "Regional Environmental Programme for Sustainable Development of Central Asia" (REP4SD) and welcomed the useful exchanges at this session.
9. The Working Group thanked Kazakhstan for chairing the meeting.

## Annex III

**ESCAP**  
**United Nations Economic and Social**  
**Commission for Asia and the Pacific**



**UNECE**  
**United Nations Economic**  
**Commission for Europe**

### **UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)**

25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment

15 November 2022, 10:00 to 13:00

in the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Almaty Energy Forum” Innovating and Modernizing Energy Infrastructure in Central Asia”

#### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

##### **SPECA MEMBER STATES**

##### **AZERBAIJAN**

**Ms. Farida Alakbarova**

Head of sub-division of the Water Resources Management Division  
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

**Mr. Elnur Alakbarov**

Head of Affairs with International Organizations Division of International  
Cooperation Department  
Ministry of Energy

**Mr. Sidqi Alizada**

Adviser of Affairs with International Organizations Division of International  
Cooperation Department  
Ministry of Energy

**Mr. Asaf Rzayev**

Head of the Energy Efficiency Section  
Ministry of Energy

##### **KAZAKHSTAN**

**Mr. Akzan Shiranov**

Director of Environment Policy and Sustainable Development Department  
Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Geology

**Mr. Daniyar Sagadiyev**  
Deputy Head of Transboundary Rivers Department  
Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Geology

**Ms. Alma Zhukenova**  
Head of Energy Efficiency Department  
Ministry of Energy

**Mr. Askar Tazhiyev**  
Deputy Chairman  
Kazakhstan Agency for International Development « KazAID »

**Mr. Zhandos Matayev**  
Expert  
KAZENERGY

## KYRGYZSTAN

**Ms. Asel Raimkulova**  
Head of Water Resources Section  
Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Surveys

**Mr. Adilet Mambetov**  
Chief Specialist of the Department of the Environmental Protection  
Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Surveys

**Mr. Mirbek Esengulov**  
Chief Specialist of the Department of State Policy in Electric Energy  
Ministry of Energy

**Ms. Zhyldyz Makeeva**  
Chief Specialist, External Relations Division  
Ministry of Energy

**Mr. Abdybai Zhailoobaev**  
Deputy Director  
State Water Service

**Ms. Gulmira Satymkulova**  
Chief Specialist of Water Allocation Division  
State Water Service

**Mr. Alaibek Obozov**  
Deputy Dean  
National Technical University, Member of Academy of Science

**Mr. Shamil Dikambaev**  
Director  
Research Institute on Energy and Economics under the Ministry of Energy

## TAJKISTAN

**Mr. Isfandior Shukurov**

Head of the Department of monitoring, environmental policy, hydrometeorology, and cadaster  
Committee of Environmental Protection under the Government

**Mr. Farhod Bilolzoda**

Chair of the Board of Directors  
Innovation and Industry Development Fund

**Mr. Furugzod Usmonov**

Chief Specialist  
Innovation and Industrial Development Fund

**Ms. Takhminai MAKHMUDOVA**

Head of the Department of Energy Recycling and Oil and Gas Services  
Tajik Technical University named after Academician M.S.Osimi

**TURKMENISTAN**

**Mr. Nazar Bayramov**

Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection

**Mr. Annamurad Turyaev**

Committee of Water Resources

**UZBEKISTAN**

**Mr. Shukhrat Khaydarov**

Head of the Information, Analytical and Resource Center  
Ministry of Water Resources

**Mr. Shokhruh Karabaev**

Chief Specialist of the International Department  
Ministry of Energy

**Ms. Sayora Abdullaeva**

Chief Specialist of the SIC ICSD  
State Committee of Nature Protection and Ecology

**Mr. Shukhrat Talipov**

Director  
LLC “Services monitoring of the safety of hydraulic structures”

**EMBASIES, DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, IFIs**

**EU DELEGATION KAZAKHSTAN**

**Mr. Johannes Baur**

Head of Cooperation

**Mr. Robert Brudzynski**

Project Manager

Cooperation Section

**ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

**Mr. Kazuhiro Yoshida,**  
Senior Water Resources Specialist  
ADB

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING ARAL SEA  
(EC IFAS)**

**Mr. Murat Bekniyazov,**  
Representative from Kazakhstan

**Mr. Marat Narbaev**  
Head of the Department of water resources  
Executive Directorate of IFES in Kazakhstan

**GIZ**

**Ms. Caroline Milow**  
Program Manager, Green Central Asia,

**INTERNATIONAL WATER ASSESSMENT CENTRE**

**Ms. Zhanar Mautanova**  
Deputy Director

**OECD**

**Mr. Matthew Griffiths**  
Senior Program Manager,

**Mr. Takayoshi Kato**  
Environmental Economist

**SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION CENTRE OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON WATER  
COORDINATION**

**Ms. Dinara Ziganshina**  
Director

**USAID**

**Mr. Kevin Adkin**  
Water and Environment Team Leader  
USAID Mission for Central Asia

**Ms. Gulzada Azhetova**  
Central Asia Regional Water and Environment Specialist  
USAID Mission for Central Asian

**Mr. Sergey Yelkin**  
Energy Project Specialist  
USAID Mission for Central Asian

## **UN AGENCIES**

### **UNDP**

**Ms. Louise Chamberlain**  
Resident Representative  
UNDP Kyrgyzstan

**Mr. Azamat Usubaliev**  
Team Leader, Sustainable Economic Growth  
UNDP Kyrgyzstan

**Mr. Kumar Kylychev**  
Program Specialist on Energy and Environment  
UNDP Kazakhstan

**Ms. Janna Fattakhova**  
National Expert  
UNDP Kazakhstan

### **UNDRR**

**Mr. Abdyrahim Muhidov**  
Regional Program Coordinator in Central Asia

### **UNEP**

**Ms. Adai Kurmanova**  
Head of Subregional Office in Central Asia

### **UNESCO**

**Mr. Magnus Magnusson**  
Officer- in-Charge  
UNESCO Almaty Office

**Mr. Serikzhan Atanov**  
Senior Project Assistant  
UNESCO Almaty Office

### **UN ESCAP**

**Mr. Sergey Tulinov**  
Economic Affairs Officer, Energy Division

### **UNECE**

**Ms. Iva Brkic**  
Economic Affairs Office, Sustainable Energy Division

**Mr. Victor Badaker**  
Economic Affairs Office, Sustainable Energy Division

**Ms. Gulnara Roll**  
Regional Advisor, Forests, Land and Housing Division

**Ms. Mia Alibegovic**  
Associate Expert, Forests, Land and Housing Division

**Mr. Zaal Lomtadze**  
Senior Environmental Officer, Environment Division,

**Ms. Tamara Kutonova**  
Manager, National Policy Dialogue Program, Environment Division

**Mr. Talaibek Makeev**  
Economic Affairs Officer, Environment Division

**Mr. Bo Libert**  
Consultant