

**Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Turkey
and the Government of Turkmenistan on Cooperation
in the Field of Environment**

The Government of Republic of Turkey and the Government of Turkmenistan, hereinafter called "the Parties",

considering their climatic and natural similarities and their close bilateral and multilateral relations;

being aware of the fact that the environment must be protected and improved for the health and well being of the present and future generations and that in this context the importance of putting the sustainable development into practice ;

considering the fact that the cooperation between the parties would be mutually beneficial and is important in the fulfillment of their responsibilities for the protection of the regional and global environment;

recognizing the importance of the principles accepted by the United Nations Environment and Development Conference;

stating their belief that the spirit of friendship and solidarity stemming from the common language, culture, traditions and history forms the basis for development of a mutual cooperation;

have agreed, in the field of environmental protection and improvement, as follows:

ARTICLE I

The parties shall cooperate in the field of environment on the basis of equity, reciprocity, and mutual benefit within the framework of relevant legislation of each party and of the funds allocated for this purpose. Each party shall bear the costs of its own participation in this Agreement unless otherwise agreed.

ARTICLE II

The following fields are of particular interest for cooperation to both parties:

1. The protection of the atmosphere from acid rains, transboundary air pollution including the protection of the ozone layer.
2. The protection of water quality including continental water resources and transboundary water ways; and waste water disposal arising from the industrial and agricultural activities and urban infrastructure services.

3. Prohibition of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes; harmonization of legislation to be implemented at national, regional and global levels; and development of early warning and information mechanisms.
4. Determination and implementation of appropriate disposal methods, including solid waste management and recycling of industrial waste.
5. Conservation of biodiversity; protection of endangered species of flora and fauna, and ecologically sensitive areas such as wetlands, specially protected areas within an integrated planning process; and preparation of natural resources management plans within this context.
6. Exchange of information and experience on soil protection and rehabilitation.
7. Exchange of information and experience and assessment of appropriate technologies with a view to avoid and eliminate environmental problems arising from energy production, including cooperation on new and renewable energy resources.
8. Integration of environmental policies and development activities in intersectoral relations, mainly in sectors such as industry, agriculture, transport, energy and tourism, in conformity with the sustainable and balanced development and utilisation of economic instruments and financial mechanisms for this purpose.
9. Administrative, financial and legal arrangements with a view to improve environmental policies and strengthen environmental institutions.
10. Application of monitoring and measurement techniques including the use of environmental information systems.
11. Utilisation and transfer of technologies with minimum waste, no waste and clean technologies.
12. Protection of nonrenewable natural resources.
13. Environmental Impact Assessment.
14. Exchange of information and experience on the "Follow-up" procedure that has been initiated after the United Nations Environment and Development Conference.
15. Harmonisation of International environmental policies and practices; investigation of possible common actions in the activities performed at regional and global levels.

16. Cooperation between the parties to protect Caspian and Aral Seas and to make attempts to provide the necessary financial, scientific and technical support from the international institutions such as World Bank, Global Environment Facility, United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Development Programme.

ARTICLE III

The parties shall cooperate according to the following items on the items stated in Article I of this Agreement:

1. Exchange of information and data in research and development activities, environmental policies, legislation and environmental practices and environmentally sound technologies and where necessary, coordination of research and monitoring activities.
2. Organisation of joint meetings participated by the experts and officials of the Parties on the issues covered by this Agreement.
3. Organisation of technical symposiums, conferences and seminars of mutual benefit to the Parties.
4. Preparation and implementation of joint training programmes in order to train qualified experts in the areas of cooperation and exchange of experts within this framework.
5. To provide assistance to the Party requiring assistance for the realisation of the activities indicated in Article II of this Agreement.

ARTICLE IV

1. The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Nature Use and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan shall be responsible for the coordination and arrangement of the activities to be performed under this Agreement. Each Party shall ensure on its part the appropriate coordination of the activities under this Agreement with the other existing cooperative programmes between the two governments.

2. The Parties shall designate a Joint Commission to be responsible for the management of the activities covered by this Agreement. The Joint Commission shall consist of one member from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of both Parties and representatives to be determined by the institutions stated in the first paragraph of this Article. Each Party shall designate a coordinator to act as "co-chairman" of the Commission. The Parties may assign a new coordinator in lieu of the existing one on prior notice in writing.

The Commission shall convene once a year upon the request of one of the parties to discuss the activities covered by the Agreement or other issues related to the Agreement such as the preparation of future programs.

In the joint Commission, Annual Implementation Documents to be prepared for the execution of this Agreement shall be signed by the coordinators. Annual Implementation Documents shall be annexed to the Agreement and shall constitute an integral part. These documents shall enter into force in compliance with the related provisions of the internal laws of the parties. The coordinators shall agree in writing on the activities to be performed within the scope of the Annual Implementation Document, by exchange of letters describing the activity.

ARTICLE V

The Parties may invite public and academic institutions, private companies and non governmental organisations to participate in the cooperative activities within the framework of this Agreement.

ARTICLE VI

Either party, by mutual agreement, may pass the results of their cooperation on to third parties. During exchange of information the parties shall take into account the provisions of the existing legislation, the rights of the third parties and international commitments. The use of information -either protected or worthy of protection- shall be subject to specific arrangements.

ARTICLE VII

Not provision in this Agreement shall be construed to prejudice other arrangements for cooperation between the parties or with third parties.

ARTICLE VIII

Any dispute that may arise from the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be solved by negotiations between the parties.

ARTICLE IX

This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day following the exchange of notes between the parties informing the completion of their national formalities for the ratification of this Agreement, and shall remain in force for a period of five years.

This agreement may be amended or prolonged upon written approval of the parties at any time.

This Agreement may be terminated by either party upon three months written notice to the other party. The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or duration of the activities agreed upon pursuant to this Agreement and initiated prior to such termination.

Done at Ankara on November 18, 1996 in Turkish, Turkmen, Russian and English languages, in each, four original copies, all texts being equally authentic.

On behalf of the
Government of the
Republic of Turkey

On behalf of the
Government of
Turkmenistan

Ziyattin Tokar
Minister of Environment

Pridjan Kurbanovich Kurbanov
Minister of Nature Use and
Environmental Protection