

Moscow City  
February 8, 1992

## **Agreement on cooperation in the sphere of ecology and environment protection**

Participants of the Agreement, called hereinafter High Contracting Parties,

- Recognizing the right of each person for environment and ecological security favorable for life;
- Realizing responsibility for favorable conditions for living and well-being before their nation, nations of other states, and future population;
- Based on the right of each state to establish rules for land, depth, forests, water, fauna and flora and other nature resources use;
- Understanding of integrity and indivisibility of environment, common interest of all states to its conservation and sustainable development;
- Knowing that borders between states do not coincide with natural ecologic and air borders and being aware of economic and other activity of one country should not cause harm to environment, quality of life of population and economic activities of other states;
- Guided by the necessity to adopt coordinated legal acts in the sphere of ecology and environment protection, as well as coordinated standards and ecological regulations providing ecological security and well-being of each person;
- Being aware of necessity of holding coordinated fundamental and applied ecologic researches;
- Willing to coordinate actions in the sphere of nature use and ecological problems solutions;
- Giving high importance to the role of public consciousness and solving ecological problems;

Reached agreement on following:

### Article 1.

High Contracting Parties shall develop and implement coordinated policy in the sphere of ecology and environment protection (protection and use of land, depths, forests, water, air, fauna and flora, natural resources of continental shelf, economic zone and open sea outside of national jurisdiction). Considering international agreements signed earlier by Unions of SSR (the list is attached).

### Article 2.

High Contracting Parties responsible on their territory:

- Develop and adopt legal acts, ecological regulations and standards in the sphere of nature use and environment protection;
- Keep record of nature resources and their use based on quantity and quality indicators and carrying out ecological monitoring;
- Carry out effective state control on conditions and changes of environment and its resources;
- Take measures on restoration of resources, conservation and restoration of biological diversity;
- Develop network of reserves, zakazniks, national parks and other specially protected natural territories and nature complexes, put limitations on economic and other activities at the adjacent territories;
- Comprehensively assess ecologic consequences of economic and other activity carried out at their territory;
- Create and support special forces and means necessary to prevent ecological disasters, accidents and liquidation of their consequences;
- Carry out ecological expertise programs and prognosis of production forces increase, investment and other projects;
- Adopt measures for developing ecological education and upbringing, provide publicity in the ecological issues;

- Establish scientifically justified norms on involvement of nature resources in economic and other activity, as well as limitations on their irreversible withdrawal considering the need for ecological security and well-being;
- Keep state Red books, present materials for keeping interstate Red book;
- Observe obligations, arising from international agreements earlier signed Unions of SSR.

#### Article 3

In order to ensure conduction of coordinated policy in the sphere of ecology and environment protection the High Contracting Parties recognized as necessary to:

- harmonize adopted environmental legal acts, ecological norms and standards;
- jointly develop and implement interstate programs and projects in the sphere of nature use and environment protection, ecological security, including programs on safe extermination and neutralization of chemical and nuclear weapon, highly toxic and radioactive disposals;
- use common approaches, criteria (indicators), methods, procedure of quality assessment and environment conditions control and anthropogenic impact, providing comparable data on environment condition at the international scale;
- use coordinated methods during environment impact assessment of economic and other activity;
- unify regulation methods of anthropogenic impact assessment to environment;
- apply coordinated methods of controlling genetic changes in the community of alive organisms and protection of rare and threatened species, as well as their habitats;
- create and support interstate ecologic system and provide information to other High Contracting Parties;
- develop and implement coordinated scientific and technical policy in the sphere of ecology and environment protection, through conducting coordinated fundamental and applied ecologic research;
- develop and apply general principals of stimulating nature protection activity, sanctions for violating environmental legislation;
- be guided by common methodological requirements in conducting programs on ecological expertise and development prognosis of production forces, investment and other projects;
- work out conditions and rules for using special forces and means to provide mutual assistance in case of emergency situations, liquidation of consequences and participation in relevant international actions.

#### Article 4

In order to carry out regulations stipulated by the Article 3 of this Agreement, Highly Contracting Parties agreed to create Interstate Ecological Board and Interstate Ecological Fund under it for undertaking coordinated Interstate ecological programs directed to liquidation of ecological disaster consequences at the first place.

#### Article 5

Highly Contracting Parties entrusting Interstate Ecological Board:

- coordinate and carry out coordinated policy in the sphere of ecology and environment protection;
- carry out ecological expertise programs and production forces forecasting, investment and other projects with the participation of representatives of interested parties, and implementation of which affecting interests of two or more High Contracting Parties;
- provide assistance in resolving ecological disputes between Highly Contracting Parties;
- keeping record of interstate Red Book, preparation of proposals and materials for International Red Book;

- defining jointly with interested Highly Contracting Parties conditions and procedures of their participation in bearing obligations sequential from earlier accepted by Unions of SSR of international agreements in the sphere of ecology and environment protection;
- Heads of environmental state agencies, which are the participants of the Agreement of independent states, are members of Interstate Ecological Board. The board is formed in the parietal basis and makes decision on the basis of consensus.
- Authority of Interstate Ecological Board and working bodies created by it and financing procedure is determined by protocol, which is the integral part of Agreement.

#### Article 6

The present Agreement shall not concern mutual rights and obligations of Highly Contracting Parties on the existing international agreements, related to the issues covered by the present Agreement or on issues covered by the present Agreement, which can be concluded in accordance with objectives and subjects of the present Agreement.

#### Article 7

Highly Contracting Parties jointly develop procedures, rules concerning responsibilities for violations of present Agreements regulations.

#### Article 8

The present Agreement enters into force from the moment of signing.

#### Article 9

The present Agreement is open for any other state interested for achieving objectives and tasks of this Agreement.

#### Article 10

Upon expiration of five years from the entering into force the present Agreement any Highly Contracting Parties can refuse to be party of present Agreement through written notification of the Depository. Rejection from participation enters into force on December 31 of this year, after one year of depository notification.

#### Article 11

Completed in the city of Moscow on February 8, 1992 in one copy in Azerbaijani, Armenian, Byelorussian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Moldavian, Russian, Tajik, Turkmen, Uzbek and Ukrainian languages. All the texts have the equal power. The original copy is kept in the archive of the Government of Republic of Byelorussia, which will be sent to the states – participants the attested copy of present Agreement.

(Signatures)

Note: The delegation of Turkmenistan has written special view: “Exclusion of sentence on creation of ecological fund and working bodies of Interstate Ecological Board”. Under the Agreement there is no signature of Ukrainian delegation.

Tashkent  
as of May 28, 1993

**Protocol  
to the agreement on cooperation in the sphere of ecology and environment protection**

Highly Contracting Parties of the Agreement on cooperation in the sphere ecology and environment protection signed in the city of Moscow on February 8, 1992 called hereinafter as the parties of agreement have agreed on the following:

Article 1

In order to implement regulations stipulated by the Agreement the participants of the Agreement are responsible to:

- bring to the notice of interested bodies and organizations of their states the decisions of Interstate ecological board;
- provide execution of decisions of Intergovernmental Ecological Council at their territory;
- timely pay agreed sums of fee established by the decision of Intergovernmental Ecological Council to ensure activities of its working bodies in the council secretariat;
- provide necessary working conditions for the delegations, arriving to the meeting of Intergovernmental Ecological Council, as well as representatives of working bodies;
- receive on its territory observers, representative of Intergovernmental Ecological Council or interested participants of Agreement to introduce on the basis of agreed conditions with ecological situation representing interstate interest;
- provide gratis information on the condition of environment on their territory on the request of Secretariat and other working bodies of Intergovernmental Ecological Council (except information of state secret);
- not allow use of information to their detriment, received by the participants of Agreement;
- without consent of Agreement participants to transfer to the third parties methods and technologies which were developed as the result of cooperation, as well as confidential information received by Agreement participants;
- resolve conflicts risen in the process of cooperation in applying and interpretation of Agreement regulations, as well as conflicts between participants of Agreement on the issues of environment protection by means of mutual consultations or by specially convened meetings of Intergovernmental Ecological Council;
- assist in cooperation in the sphere of ecology and environment protection between government bodies and administrations of different levels, enterprises, institutions, organizations and non-governmental organizations of the participants of the Agreement;
- invite of the Agreement participants to national and interstate congresses, symposiums and conference on the problems of ecology and environment protection;
- provide to the interested participants of Agreement the results of the expert environment impact assessment developed, reconstructed, liquidated or designed objects considering transboundary transfer of pollution;
- agree with the participants of Agreement on the environment activities developed and carried out at the bordering territories;

Article 2

Parties of the Agreement have a right:

- To propose issues for discussion at the Intergovernmental Ecological Council related to the execution of this Agreement;
- To receive any information without indemnity related to the activity of the Intergovernmental Ecological Council;

- To use methodology, developed during joint programs financed by Intergovernmental Ecological Council;
- To assign observers with the consent of the Agreement participants for evaluation of current situation and determination of establishments impact degree to the state of environment and transboundary pollution.

#### Article 3

Parties of the Agreement are in charge of observance of obligations taken on this Agreement and reliability of given information to the Intergovernmental Ecological Council.

Sanctions, defined by the decision of the Intergovernmental Ecological Council, can be applied to Parties of this Agreement, which do not meet its commitment.

#### Article 4

Amendments to the text of this Protocol, proposed by the parties of the agreement, should be discussed at the next session of the Intergovernmental Ecological Council. Amendments adopted at the Intergovernmental Ecological Council meeting by the majority of parties of the agreement, should be delivered by Depository for all parties of the agreement in one month.

The existing Protocol will come into force after signing.

Signed in Tashkent city as of 28 of May, 1993 in one copy in Russian language. The original Agreement is to be kept in archive of Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Ecological Council and to be sent attested copy to Parties of the Agreement

On behalf of the Republic of Armenia

On behalf of the Republic of Byelorussia

On behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan

On behalf of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan

On behalf of the Republic of Moldova

On behalf of the Russian Federation

On behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan

On behalf of the Republic of Uzbekistan

On behalf of the Republic of Azerbaijan