

Agreement on joint actions to solve the problem of the Aral Sea and the Aral Sea region, environmental rehabilitation and ensuring the socio-economic development of the Aral region

The Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, hereinafter referred to as the participating States,

taking into account the global nature of the drying up of the Aral Sea and the related phenomena of degradation of the natural environment in the Aral Sea zone, as well as the current general ecological crisis situation due to the shortage of water resources in this basin;

aware of the danger of the ongoing processes for the health and well-being of the population living here, as well as their negative impact on the ecological situation in other regions, the balance of the air basin, the development of the economy and the livelihoods of the states located in the Aral Sea region;

noting the need and urgency to pool material and financial resources to overcome the crisis and create a system of environmental security in the region, and primarily in the Aral Sea zone;

reaffirming their commitment to the principles of international water law, respecting the mutual interests of each of the sovereign states parties to this Agreement in matters of the use and protection of the water resources of the basin, based on the need to preserve the sea,

agreed on the following:

Article 1

The participating States recognize as common tasks:

- rational use of the limited land and water resources of the Aral Sea basin in order to ensure the necessary socio-economic development and well-being of their peoples;
- maintaining the proper quality of water in rivers, reservoirs and underground sources by reducing and further preventing the discharge of

untreated industrial, domestic, polluted and mineralized collector and drainage water into them;

- guaranteed provision of water supply to the Aral Sea in volumes that allow maintaining its reduced but stable water area at an environmentally acceptable level and thus preserving the sea as a natural object;
- restoration of the balance of disturbed ecosystems in the region, and above all - in the territory of the deltas of the Amudarya, Syrdarya and adjacent areas of the dried seabed, the creation of artificial sustainable landscape complexes here;
- streamlining the system and improving the discipline of water use in the basin, the development of appropriate interstate legal and regulatory acts that provide for the application of principles common to the region for compensation for losses and damages;
- improvement of sanitary and hygienic standards and medical and biological living conditions of the population, especially in the regions of the Aral Sea region, and an urgent solution to the problem of providing the inhabitants of the basin with good-quality drinking water;
- development and implementation of a coordinated strategy for socio-economic development that meets the requirements of the environmental safety of the peoples living in the region;
- implementation of measures for the protection of migratory animals, including those living in the territories adjacent to the participating states, the organization of protected areas;
- resumption, on the basis of the developed new mutually acceptable conditions, of work on supplying additional water resources to the Aral Sea basin;
- maximum assistance to scientific research, as well as design and other types of development aimed at solving the above problems;
- creation of most favorable conditions, preferential and protectionist measures for investors investing their funds in programs and works aimed at environmental improvement and socio-economic development of the region.

Article 2

The participating States consider it necessary:

- to form on a parity basis the Interstate Council on the problems of the Aral Sea basin and under it:
 - a permanent Executive Committee with a seat in the city of Tashkent;
 - Commission on socio-economic development, scientific, technical and environmental cooperation;

- The Coordinating Water Commission, acting in accordance with the Agreement signed on February 18, 1992 in Almaty.

The Regulations on the Interstate Council are approved by the heads of the member states.

The participating states agreed to develop a draft joint concept for solving the problem of saving the Aral Sea and ecological rehabilitation of the Aral Sea region and to prepare a coordinated program for a complex of scientific research and development, as well as to create a unified information system for monitoring the state of the natural environment and organize the publication of the Bulletin on the problems of the Aral Sea basin.

Article 3

The Russian Federation takes part in the work of the Interstate Council as an observer in solving the problem of the Aral Sea and the Aral Sea, provides the necessary material and technical assistance in terms of water purification, the creation of systems for domestic and drinking water supply to the population of the region, the fight against desertification, participates in scientific and technical cooperation, the development of major regional projects, the creation of an environmental monitoring system, provides expert services and facilitates the training of qualified specialists.

Article 4

This Agreement is open for accession to it by any other state interested in achieving the goals and objectives contained in it.

This Agreement is concluded for 10 years and is considered extended for the same period, if none of the participating States declares its denunciation.

A State Party may withdraw from this Agreement by notifying the Depositary and other States Parties thereof in advance, at least six months prior to withdrawal from the Agreement.

Article 5

This Agreement shall enter into force upon its signing.

Done in Kzyl-Orda on March 26, 1993 in one original copy in Russian. The original copy is stored in the archives of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which will send a certified copy to the states that have signed this Agreement.

For the Republic of Kazakhstan	N. Nazarbaev
For the Kyrgyz Republic	A. Akaev
For the Republic of Tajikistan	S. Niyazov
For Turkmenistan	E. Rakhmonov
For the Republic of Uzbekistan	I. Karimov