

# Foreign cooperation of the Republic of Karakalpakstan in the field of environmental protection

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**Abstract:** The article highlights the implementation of international strategic goals for the restoration and the process of overcoming the natural and socio-economic crisis of the Aral Sea district regions.

**Key words:** International relations, socio-economic relations, Aral Sea, environmental crisis, integrate organizational programs, strategies, the Muynak region, humanitarian organization, region.

The article highlights the implementation of international strategic goals for the restoration and the process of overcoming the natural and socio-economic crisis of the Aral Sea district regions.

On October 2-5, 1990 in Nukus an international symposium «Aral Sea Crisis: Causes and Conclusions» was organized [1]. More than 200 experts and scientists from the USA, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, Germany, Spain, China took part in it. International organizations such as UN, UNICEF, World Health Organization and UNEP [2] appealed to the world community with an appeal «to provide emergency assistance to save the lives of children in the Aral Sea region and to declare this region an ecological disaster zone. »

In 1996, a mission of the World Health Organization headed by Dr. Joe Eirik Asvall visited the Muynak region of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. As a result, a project was developed to strengthen primary health care for the population located in the immediate vicinity of the drying up water basin of the Aral Sea. A donor contribution of \$ 1 million from the Norwegian government was important for the implementation of this project [3].

In June 1997, in the Muynak region of Karakalpakstan, a World Health Organization project was launched to improve the quality of primary health care for the population. In 1998, the international humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, implemented a DOTS program against tuberculosis and provided free medical consultations. The studies were carried out in 4 regions (Kungrad, Muynak, Chimbay and Nukus) and identified patients who were in dire need of treatment.

In accordance with the special UNICEF program to assist the population of the Aral Sea, the project «Aral Sea: Regional Protection and Environmental Protection» worth 3 million US dollars was completed[4].

On March 11-12, 2008 in Tashkent, with the active participation of representatives of Uzbekistan and the UN, an international conference was held «The problem of the Aral Sea, the gene pool of the population, its impact on flora and fauna and measures of international cooperation to mitigate its consequences.»

In April 2010, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon visited the Aral Sea region[5]. Pan Gi Moon expressed his readiness to contribute to the solution of the Aral Sea problem and to mobilize all efforts to attract UN expert potential, financial and other resources to overcome the consequences of this environmental tragedy[6].

Thanks to the assistance of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev receive solutions to complex issues of mitigating the consequences of the environmental crisis, which are resolved at the international level[7]. In particular, on October 16, 2018, with the scientific and technical support of the Islamic Development Bank and the International Center for Biological Agriculture in conditions of soil salinity, the International Innovation Center of the Aral Sea region was established under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The main goals of the center are to expand the scope of research and practical work on the saline lands of the arid part of the Aral Sea, to introduce advanced practices and innovations to

improve the ecosystem, turn the desert into a grove, combat drought and develop animal husbandry. In order to increase the tourist potential of the region, it is planned to hold the competition «Rally Muynak» at a distance of 363 km. along the dried-up bottom of the Aral Sea and the Ustyurt plateau[8].

From the first days of independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan, together with the republics of Central Asia and the Republic of Kazakhstan, has implemented work to solve the problem of the Aral Sea. In particular, on February 18, 1992, in Almaty, the Ministry of Water Resources of Kazakhstan formed a group, which included a large number of experts and scientists. Based on the results of their activities and analysis, a joint resolution was adopted to address the problems of collective water management, conservation and rational use of interstate water resources.

On March 26, 1993, an agreement was signed between the states of Central Asia aimed at «Coordination of efforts to improve the ecology of the Aral Sea and the Aral Sea region, as well as the socio-economic development of the Aral Sea region»

In March 1993, in the city of Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan region, a meeting of the leaders of the Central Asian countries was held, where the Interstate Council (ICAS) and the International Society for Saving the Aral Sea (IOSA) were created[9]. On January 11, 1994, at an international conference in Nukus on the problems of the Aral Sea basin, the governments of Central Asia and the Russian Federation approved the Nukus Declaration of Central Asian States and international organizations on sustainable issues[10]. In July 1994, the leaders of the Central Asian countries discussed in the city of Almaty the issues of preventing the ecological crisis in the region, further strengthening and expanding cooperation in the field of environmental protection, and taking additional measures to improve the environmental situation in the Aral Sea region[11].

On the initiative of the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A. Karimov in 1995 in the city of Nukus an international scientific conference was held on the problem of the Aral Sea. The conference adopted a declaration of the countries of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. In September 1995, a meeting of the leaders of the Central Asian states and international organizations took place in Nukus, where the «Declaration on the Development of the Aral Sea Basin» was adopted and the problems of its sustainable development were analyzed.

In February 1997, in the city of Almaty with the participation of the countries of Central Asia, the UN, the World Bank and other international organizations in Kazakhstan, it was decided to “Integrate organizational programs to resolve the problem of the Aral Sea”.

The issues of economic and financial cooperation aimed at improving the situation in the Aral Sea region were discussed in December 1997 at the VII Summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Since 1997, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea has been implementing several projects of the Aral Sea Basin Program. A Regional Environmental Action Plan and a program of measures to combat desertification were developed.

In March 1993, with the support of the World Bank, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) was established. In 1995, the project «Urgent assistance to the population» was organized. Within the framework of the project, during 1996-1997. a complete set of textbooks was purchased for four orphanages, including special equipment for deaf and dumb children, as well as minibuses and in the amount of 561 thousand US dollars[12].

On November 27, 2018, at the UN headquarters in New York, a presentation was held on the launch of the Trust Fund for the Multilateral Human Security of the Aral Sea Region and a UN high-level event on “Development of regional and international cooperation, including large-scale strategies to support sustainable development «Speaking at the meeting, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said that the start of the fund's activities would open a new page in the history of the region suffering from the Aral Sea problem, and highly appreciated the initiative of President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev on the creation of this trust fund and called on the international community to actively participate in financing this fund.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev pays special attention to the Muynak region. On November 15-16, 2018, during his visit to Karakalpakstan, the head of state also visited the Muynak region, where he met with the residents of the region and outlined a number of tasks for the socio-economic development of the region. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a corresponding resolution on the integrated development of the Muynak region. As a result of the special

attention paid to the population of the Aral Sea region, in particular the Muynak region, unprecedented good deeds are being carried out[13].

Despite the environmental problems in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the city of Nukus, this became a turning point in the history of the renewal of Karakalpakstan. The republic is developing rapidly, and the multinational people of Karakalpakstan are confidently looking into the future.

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