Seventy-eighth session  
Second Committee  
Agenda item 18 (d)  
Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan: draft resolution

Central Asia facing global climate threats: solidarity for common prosperity

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also the Paris Agreement 1 and its early entry into force, encouraging all the parties to the Agreement to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2 that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible, and highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement,

Acknowledging that action on adaptation to climate change is an urgent priority and a global challenge faced by all countries, in particular developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, recognizing that the current need for adaptation is significant and that greater levels of mitigation can reduce the need for additional adaptation efforts, and recognizing also the importance of the adequacy and predictability of adaptation

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1 See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
Recognizing that climate change is a major and growing driver of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ecosystem functions and services, contribute significantly to climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, the resilience of agriculture and food systems, and food security and nutrition,

Reaffirming the importance of the unique ecological and geographical significance of the Aral Sea region, recognizing the catastrophic consequences of the drying up of the Aral Sea, supporting the efforts of the countries of Central Asia aimed at preserving the Aral Sea, including the rational and effective use of the Aral water basin, and acknowledging the urgent need for climate-resilient development in the Aral Sea region, by promoting regional and international cooperation as well as financial and technical support, including, among other initiatives, through the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and the multi-partner human security trust fund for the Aral Sea region,

Recognizing that mountain ecosystems are highly vulnerable to the increasing adverse impacts of climate change, extreme weather events, deforestation, forest fires and forest degradation, land-use change, land degradation and natural disasters, from which they recover slowly, and that mountain glaciers around the world are retreating and getting thinner, with increasing impacts on the environment, sustainable livelihoods and human well-being, while reaffirming the importance of the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions proclaimed for the period 2023–2027 to give new impetus to the international community’s efforts to address the challenges and problems of mountain countries,

Noting that, over the past decades, global warming has led to widespread shrinking of the cryosphere, including in the Central Asian region, with mass loss from ice sheets and glaciers and reductions in snow cover, and stressing the urgent need to raise awareness of and to promote and facilitate actions and sustainable measures towards preserving glaciers, while seizing the opportunities of the International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation in 2025,

Welcoming the offer of the Government of Tajikistan to convene an international conference dedicated to glaciers’ preservation in Tajikistan in 2025, and the offer of the Government of Kyrgyzstan to convene the second Global Mountain Summit in Bishkek in 2027,

Acknowledging the contribution of sustainable, low-emission and energy-efficient modes of transport to climate change mitigation and adaptation and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the importance of long-term strategies and multi-stakeholder partnerships in delivering such sustainable modes of transport, and noting in this regard the importance of World Sustainable Transport Day,

Welcoming the intention of Turkmenistan to host the Regional Centre for Climate Change Mitigating Technologies, affiliated with the Climate Technology Centre and Network, and noting that the modalities of this Centre will be considered during the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recalling its resolution 75/278 of 18 May 2021 on declaring the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies,

Welcoming the adoption, by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-ninth session, of resolution 79/8 of 19 May 2023 on the
modalities for the establishment of the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin,

Recognizing that water is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, that water, ecosystems, energy, food security and nutrition are linked and that water is indispensable for health, well-being and human development, including the empowerment of women, and a vital element of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant goals in the social, environmental and economic fields,

1. Reaffirms that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and among other factors, a serious challenge to the sustainable development of all countries, including Central Asian countries, where temperatures are rising faster than the global average;

2. Emphasizes the importance of strengthening regional and international cooperation in the implementation of joint action to overcome and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change and stabilize the ecological situation in the affected areas, including the Aral Sea region, by promoting socioeconomic development and adaptation measures to climate change;

3. Also emphasizes the importance of the regional programme known as “Green Agenda for Central Asia”, adopted by the Heads of the State of Central Asian countries, in building a low-carbon economy, promoting the use of sustainable, modern and renewable energy and low-emission technologies, and of sustainable transport, and introducing water-saving and energy-efficient technologies in manufacturing, agriculture, transport and other sectors through mutually beneficial bilateral, regional and international cooperation and coordinated joint actions;

4. Welcomes the initiative of Uzbekistan to convene an International Climate Forum in Samarkand in 2024 and the initiative of Kazakhstan to organize a Regional Climate Summit in 2026 under the auspices of the United Nations, dedicated to seeking coordinated approaches and solutions to climate challenges in the region for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. Also welcomes the commitment of the multi-partner human security trust fund for the Aral Sea region to addressing climate change and promoting climate-resilient development in the Aral Sea basin and Aral Sea region in its next cycle, urges Member States and relevant international organizations to contribute to the trust fund, and calls for increased financial resources to support climate-resilient development projects in the Aral Sea basin and Aral Sea region;

6. Encourages the multi-partner human security trust fund for the Aral Sea region to prioritize projects and initiatives that are aimed at enhancing the climate resilience of communities in the Aral Sea basin and Aral Sea region, and to support initiatives that are aimed at implementing climate-resilient development projects and achieving climate-related goals in the Aral Sea basin and Aral Sea region, including those related to water management, agriculture and disaster risk reduction;

7. Recognizes the importance of new and innovative technologies and best practices in combating desertification, drought, air pollution and biodiversity loss, and in achieving land degradation neutrality and drought resilience, the conservation of mountain ecosystems and the preservation of glaciers in Central Asia as an essential pathway to accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the region and beyond;

8. Encourages the strengthening of the scientific and technological capacities of Central Asian countries to promote sustainable agriculture, sustainable patterns of consumption and production, afforestation and reforestation, the sustainable use of
freshwater resources, the recycling of waste, sustainable tourism, smart cities and sustainable transport, which will contribute significantly to climate change adaptation and mitigation in the region and in the world;

9. Encourages the United Nations system, multilateral development banks and other relevant stakeholders, donors, other financial institutions, the private sector and investors to continue to mobilize resources and provide capacity-building and technical assistance for combating the negative impacts of climate change in Central Asia, and to support national and regional adaptation and mitigation strategies;

10. Stresses that the costs of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions, and that such activities would be subject to the availability and provision of voluntary contributions.