

## **Nukus Declaration**

### **Preamble.**

From century to century peoples of Central Asian region brought the powerful contribution to development of world culture. Property of all mankind became their achievements in a science, economic activities and art. During ancient times they have learned to build complex irrigational systems and constructions, to create oases in deserts. Their work erects unsurpassed till now samples of architecture. Their genius accomplishes basic opening in mathematics, astronomies, medicine, engineering, however recently before the population of region there were the serious problems connected to ecological disaster and aggravated with political and economic transitional difficulties. The Aral crisis grows out a unreasoned policy in relation to an environment and use of natural resources. The main reason is the excessive expenditure of water for needs of an irrigation from the rivers Amu Darya and Syr Darya. It has led to drying of Aral sea and unprecedented influence on scales on ecology Central Asian region and the neighbor states.

Growing deficiency of water and its worsening quality have caused degradation of lands and a vegetative cover, change in flora and fauna, decline of processing branch, and also decrease in efficiency of irrigated agriculture. Aggravation of an ecological situation renders direct and indirect negative influence on conditions of a life of 35 million inhabitants of pool of Aral sea, on a condition of their health, breaks economic activities, that in aggregate results in strengthening of migratory processes in the given region.

Now regional bodies are created, plans of concrete actions are developed. It has opened new ways for attraction of the international support, in particular, under the program of Aral sea. It is based on the mentioned plan and is aimed at steady development of this region. The scale and complexity of the problems connected to water resources, demand the complex and diversified approach and development of cooperation between the states of region and the international community. Coordination of cooperation is carried out by the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP. Donors render significant support to programs across Aral sea which are directed both on the decision of problems, and on elimination of the reasons of the Aral crisis.

### **Obligations.**

According to higher mentioned and according to results of discussion at the given international conference it is confirmed our obligations on full cooperation at a regional level on the basis of mutual respect, good neighborhood and determination further to work in the name of overcoming consequences of ecological crisis in a zone of pool of Aral sea and its influence on the nature and the person. We also address to the international community, to the governments of the states and people of all world with an appeal to help us with our joint efforts.

## **I. Adherence to principles of steady development.**

We declare about our adherence to principles of steady development and we count, that for this purpose it is necessary to undertake the following:

To develop and realize long-term strategy and programs under the sanction of the Aral crisis to principles of steady development in the way:

- recognitions of great value of water, ground and biological resources as bases for steady development;
- transition to more balanced and scientifically-grounded system rural and a forestry;
- Increases of efficiency of irrigation by means of development of economic methods of use of water resources, application of the perfect technologies in an irrigation and preservation of the environment;
- Stimulations of long-term forms of use of the grounds and water resources.

Do not allow reduction in a standard of living of people, simultaneously having provided prospects of a worthy life for the future generations in the way:

- Assistance to the initiatives aimed at improvement of health of people, increase of a standard of living and preservation of a cultural heritage;
- To improve system of complex management of natural resources of region in the way:
  - Creations of the regional monitoring system behind a condition of an environment, especially water resources;
  - Creations of system of information interchange on monitoring an environment;
  - Harmonization of ecological standards and the legislation connected to them. We agree that Central Asian states recognize earlier signed and agreements in force, contracts and other statutory acts regulating mutual relations between them on water resources in pool Aral and accept them to steady performance.

## **II. Connection to the international conventions and agreements**

We declare about the complete support of the international agreements, in particular, Declarations on steady development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), the World charter of the nature, the international convention on struggle against desertification, about global change of a climate, about preservation of a biological variety and about protection of transboundary waters.

Besides we consider necessary creation of the International convention on steady development of pool of Aral sea. Questions of joint water use and unification of ecological standards and the legislation connected to them should occupy in it priority position. In this connection we address to Agencies of the United Nations, first of all to UNDP, with the request to assist in development of the project of the similar convention.

### **III Adherence to principles of human development**

Remaining true to our obligations in the field of public health services and social security which are an integral part of the concept of steady development, we recognize, that consequences of crisis in a zone of the Aral pool demand urgent and concrete actions.

We promise to direct the efforts and resources to satisfaction of priority needs and we address for the help and support to the international community in this question. We are going to increase awareness of the international community concerning the Aral crisis and are ready to make still the big efforts in preparation and distribution of the information with the purpose of assistance to process of steady development.

As representatives of the young democratic states of the Central Asia and the organizations rendering the help in this region, we undertake to provide participation of our people and NGOs in economic process and the decision of problems facing to them.

### **IV. Assistance to development of regional establishments.**

We confirm readiness to render the all-round help and trust to regional establishments - to Interstate Council on problems of pool of Aral sea, its Executive Committee, the International Fund of Saving Aral and its Executive Management. We undertake to support for strengthening these regional structures and in the future. For this purpose:

- We confirm the intentions and financial obligations concerning maintenance of activity of these regional establishments and giving to their members of the rights and immunity level with employees of representations of the United Nations and agree with offer on necessity to have the constant exempted Chairman of executive Committee (on the expiration of terms of appointment current);
- We recognize value and necessity of further development of the Interstate Commission on Social-economic Development, Scientific-technical and Ecological Cooperation (to the Commission on Steady Development).

It is accepted at the international conference of the United Nations on steady development of the states of pool of Aral sea.

**Nukus, September, 20 1995**