

Almaty Declaration

We, Presidents of the brotherly states - Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kirghiz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan,

Movable by aspiration to strengthening independence and the sovereignty of our countries, to increase of a standard of life of our peoples,

Recognizing that ecological safety is one of strategic components of national safety and the major aspect of protection of interests and priorities of the Central Asian states,

Considering, that the problem of ecological disaster in pool of Aral sea has global character and its decision does not suffer dilatory,

Taking into account, that the extreme ecological situation in the Aral region renders negative influence on a natural inhabitancy and conditions of a life of millions inhabitants not only pool of Aral sea, but also other regions of our planet.

Confirming the adherence to regulations of the World Program of the United Nations on an environment (" the Agenda for XXI century "), in every possible way supporting aspiration to develop and to realize uniform strategy on steady development of the Central Asia countries,

Recognizing, that water resources management of transboundary rivers should have ecosystematical approach, be carried out by the fair and reasonable image, is not rendering mutual damage, confirming earlier accepted obligations on full-scale cooperation on international and interstate levels,

Expressing a common opinion of our countries which have signed the Nonproliferation treaty of the nuclear weapon, about necessity of announcing the Central Asia a zone, free from the nuclear weapon,

Proceeding from steady aspiration to make common cause in the name of overcoming consequences of ecological crisis in pool of Aral sea, at a meeting taken place on February, 28, 1997 in the city of Almaty.

Have declared:

To declare 1998 - Year of Protection of an environment in region of the Central Asia under aegis of the United Nations Organization,

Invoke, before the 50th-anniversary of Semipalatinsk range, all interested countries to support idea of the announcement of the Central Asia a denuclearized zone, open for connection to other states of region.

To note efforts of the Central Asian states, which despite of serious economic difficulties, undertake significant efforts on improvement of ecological conditions in pool of Aral sea, areas of Semipalatinsk range and other zones which have appeared under influence of nuclear tests,

To recognize necessary development of the complex program of ecological safety, including problem of Aral, creation of a denuclearized zone in the Central Asia and struggle against outflow of nuclear technologies and raw material,

To call the United Nations Organization and its specialized agencies to pay steadfast attention to a developed crisis situation in pool of Aral sea and to undertake effective measures on protection of an environment in this region, paid special attention to measures on rendering assistance to living in misery population of Pryaralye.

To confirm readiness to render necessary assistance to the international organizations and institutes in their activity on realization of the Program of concrete actions and other regional projects.

To finish joint, with the international organizations development of the project, of the Convention on steady development of pool of Aral sea.

Almaty, February, 28 1997