

JOINT STATEMENT

ON THE JOINT SUB-REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME ON THE CRYOSPHERE IN CENTRAL ASIA for 2027–2035

We, official representatives of the Heads of the Government Environmental Authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan,

Reaffirming the importance of the Regional Ecological Summit – 2026 (RES-2026), initiated by the Republic of Kazakhstan, as a platform to consolidate Central Asian countries' efforts in extending common understanding and setting joint approaches to adapt climate change impact in a partnership with international organizations, scientific community, private sector, civil society and youth,

Being fully in-line with objectives of the RES-2026 to generate specific and scientifically based initiatives and tools for joint action, launching environmental research, strengthening interstate cooperation, harmonizing regional approaches to the implementation of environmental solutions,

Building upon the Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly adopted at the initiative of the Republic of Tajikistan, including Resolution 77/158 “2025 – International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation,” Resolution 78/311 on the “Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, 2025–2034,” as well as the outcomes of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly regarding the Dushanbe Glaciers Declaration, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) Resolution on “The Conservation of Glaciers and the Broader Cryosphere, Particularly in Mountain Regions,”

Supporting the efforts of Central Asian countries to fulfill their commitments under the Paris Agreement on climate change, to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, and to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction,

Recognizing the critical role of the cryosphere in forming water resources and ecosystems, and in influencing the socio-economic development of Central Asian countries, and, in this regard, emphasizing the need of deeper understanding climate change impact on the cryosphere to enable timely mitigation and adaptation measures,

Noting the importance of existing platforms, as well as emerging initiatives to establish new subregional mechanisms for the implementation of the Joint Subregional Action Programme on the Cryosphere and the achievement of its objectives,

Acknowledging the pressing need to address key challenges that limit the ability of Central Asian countries to fully understand the scale of ongoing changes and to make informed decisions on adapting relevant economic sectors to the impacts of climate change on the cryosphere, namely:

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- Inadequate quality, limited availability, or absence of cryosphere data
- Insufficient knowledge and awareness of the state of the cryosphere and the impacts of climate change on its degradation
- Shortage of qualified specialists in cryosphere research and observation,

Expressing appreciation to respective Government Agencies, Scientific Institutions, Universities, Civil Society Organizations and their experts who contributed to the analysis of these challenges and to the development of the joint Cryosphere Strategic Vision 2050:

A developed cryosphere monitoring system with sustainable financing, qualified personnel, accessible data, and an informed public, aimed at the adaptation of economic sectors.

And the following five goals for achieving the Cryosphere Vision 2050:

- 1. To adapt and apply unified methodologies for cryosphere monitoring and research*
- 2. To expand, restore, and improve the cryosphere monitoring network*
- 3. To develop joint/partnership-based scientific research*
- 4. To ensure awareness-raising among the public, specialists, and decision-makers in their respective sectors on the impact of the cryosphere on those sectors*
- 5. To improve education and training programmes for specialists,*

As well as those who participated in the development of the Joint Sub-Regional Action Programme (JSAP) and National Action Plans (NAPs) on the Cryosphere through 2035, under the GEF-UNDP-UNESCO project “Strengthening the resilience of Central Asian countries by enabling regional cooperation to assess glacio-nival systems to develop integrated methods for sustainable development and adaptation to climate change,”

Emphasizing the important role of the UNESCO Regional Office in Almaty, the University of Fribourg, and international consultants in facilitating the development of the above-mentioned documents,

Intending to create conditions for the mobilization of advanced international experience, practice and for the mobilization of additional resources, including:

- GEF financing to support high-priority measures and actions with global, subregional, and national benefits, as set out in the JSAP on the cryosphere for 2027–2035 and aligned with GEF-9 priorities.
- Potential contributions from countries and other multilateral and bilateral partners

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We endorse the Joint Sub-Regional Action Programme on the Cryosphere in Central Asia for 2027–2035 and express readiness to support its implementation, taking into account national approaches,

Call upon donors, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), international financial institutions, and development partners to join efforts in providing financial and technical support for this Programme as a contribution to the global climate agenda.

Read out on 23 April 2026 at the High-Level Regional Ecological Summit of Central Asian countries in Astana, Kazakhstan,

on behalf of the heads of the State Bodies on environmental protection in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan.