



# WATER ACTION DECADE

2018 - 2028

## HIGH LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION "WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT" 2018-2028



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DEVELOPMENT  
Mountain Societies Research Institute



Blue Peace  
Central Asia



### PRECONFERENCE FORUM CLIMATE and WATER DIALOGUE

-19 June 2018-

#### CONCEPT PAPER

##### Organizers of the PCE

**UNESCO and UNRCCA** in cooperation with the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, SDC, University of Central Asia, the Mountain Partnership and the Finance Centre for South-South Cooperation

##### Background information and rationale (2-3 paragraphs maximum)

Achieving and maintaining water security is increasingly challenging under current climatic variability and projected climate change, especially in vulnerable areas such as mountainous and arid regions. Global climate change is accelerating glacier melting processes in many regions worldwide, which will have significant effects on the large regional populations. Besides, lack of monitoring and modelling, as well as limited data on key cryospheric and hydrological processes make accurate estimates of climate change impacts extremely challenging. Therefore, there is a need to identify pathways to integrate the science-based understanding of climate impacts on water security into mitigation and adaptation policies, and enhance water and climate dialogue at various levels, while fully exploring upland – lowland linkages for water provision.

This event will support the decade's process through various partner presentations and discussions, to highlight frontiers, opportunities and gaps in research and scientific uncertainties, as well as policy impact on larger populations. It will bring together researchers, practitioners, policy and decision makers, and partners from Central Asia and worldwide, working in the water sector to share knowledge, best practices and ideas for a sustainable water resources management under the impacts

of climate change and in line with the Water Decade. The participants will be engaged in the crucial discussion on water security in contribution to the SDG 6 and sustainable future more broadly, including but not limited to the strengthening the linkages with the SDG 13 and SDG 11.5.

The event will also focus on recommendations on how to better achieve stronger partnerships and actions to address water-related issues, by enhanced cooperation.

#### **Main questions to be discussed (3-4 questions maximum)**

*Question 1: How to build a coherent water data collection and monitoring mechanism for climate services to achieve water related goals?*

*Question 2: What's the role of mountain ecosystems in protecting the water cycle under climate change conditions?*

*Question 3: What role should science-policy-populations interface play in strengthening linkages between SDG 6, 11.5 and 13?*

*Question 4: Which are the links between Agenda 2030, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Action, contributing to a better water security and how to better strengthen them?*

#### **Key messages (4-5 messages maximum)**

- New attitude on water and climate dialogue, that aims to develop a holistic approach considering upland-lowland linkages and inter-disciplinarity, by providing innovative methods and tools, in particular, in areas such as monitoring, and data collection for climate services, including with youth participation.
- Remaining gaps in the science-policy dialogue on water security and climate.
- International networks and their role for communication and better partnership among multi-stakeholders.
- Underlining upland and lowland linkages: how water scarcity will affect the management of natural resources, agriculture, conflicts and migration patterns.
- Showcasing innovative solutions for identifying climate impacts and adaptation strategies to address water security challenges.
- Enhance the dialogue on challenges (incl. scientific) to achieve the water-related SDGs, the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Action, involving visions from all, including young researchers and professionals.

#### **Follow-up actions (1-2 actions minimum)**

- Scientific frontiers, opportunities, gaps in research and scientific uncertainties to be persuaded, education, capacity building and networking enhanced;
- Knowledge and best practices to be shared to address the most pressing water challenges under climate change, highlighting notably the contribution from young researchers and professionals, as well as traditional knowledge of communities;
- Communication between multi-stakeholders further strengthened using a participatory approach and by identifying priorities, capacities and funding needs;
- Cooperation, collaboration and synergies further enhanced among various stakeholders to achieve water related goals.

#### **Draft programme**

The programme will consist of sessions of various formats: official statements, two panel sessions, as well as roundtable discussion, focusing on the cryosphere/water/hazards/communities/partnerships in a changing climate, addressing SDG 6. It will aim at: awareness raising and ongoing activities/challenges/gaps in the region and around the globe; link activities on the ground with a particular focus on Central Asia; exchange of good practices; discussion of gaps/challenges.

The event will be organized in such a way that will facilitate open dialogue and exchange of ideas between institutional and independent actors. It also aims to establish linkages with the high level panel on climate and DRR. The number of panel sessions will depend on the input by partners, which is currently being discussed, thus to be provided to organisers soonest.

**Any other relevant information**

Participants: The Forum aims to gather together about 70-80 participants: government officials, representatives of academia, international and institutions, development agencies, civil society organizations and youth.

**Venue: National Library of Tajikistan, Room 307**

Working languages: Russian, English

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**PROGRAMME**

08.30-09.00	Registration
<b>WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS</b>	
Master of Ceremony: <b>Ms Blanca Jimenes-Cisneros</b> , UNESCO IHP Secretary	
09.00-09.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms Natalia Gherman</b>, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Asia and Head of the United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)</li> <li>- <b>Ms Krista Pikkat</b>, Director of the UNESCO Almaty Office and UNESCO Representative to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan</li> <li>- <b>Mr Khayrullo Ibodzoda</b>, Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan</li> <li>- <b>Mr Michel Mordasini</b>, Swiss Special Envoy on Water</li> </ul>
<b>Session 1. SETTING THE SCENE FOR WATER DECADE: CLIMATE AND WATER CHALLENGES IN CENTRAL ASIA</b>	
Format: Plenary – 09.30-11.10	
<u>Session description:</u> To present the work of national institutions and agencies to address the most pressing water challenges under climate change: glaciers melting, water resources management, water-related risks and other, based on national commitments to international frameworks	
<u>Moderators:</u> - <b>Ms Krista Pikkat</b> , UNESCO - <b>Mr Philipp Saprykin</b> , UNRCCA	
09:30-09:45	<u>Key speech:</u> Water Decade and Major Water Milestones for Achieving SDG 6
<u>Presenter:</u>	

		<b>Ms Blanca Jimenes-Cisneros</b> , UNESCO IHP Secretary, Director of Water Division
09:45-10.45	Statements by national government entities from Central Asia and Afghanistan (10 min each): - Kazakhstan - Kyrgyzstan - Tajikistan - Turkmenistan - Uzbekistan - Afghanistan	<u>Presenters:</u> Central Asia and Afghanistan government agencies on behalf of their delegation/country
10:45-11:00	Central Asian Glaciers in a Changing Climate: Policy Brief	<u>Presenter:</u> <b>Mr Alfred Diebold</b> , international expert
11.00-11.10	Q&A, Discussion, Wrap-up	
11.10-11.30	Group photo & Coffee-break	
<b>Session 2. CLIMATE AND WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT</b>		
Format: Panel Discussion - 11.30-13.00 <u>Session description:</u> To share experiences and best practices, and showcase innovative solutions for identifying climate impacts and adaptation strategies to address water security challenges from glaciers to downstream water users, and showcase partnerships		<u>Moderators:</u> - <b>Mr Andre Wehrli</b> , SDC - <b>Ms Christina Leb</b> , World Bank
11.30-11.50	<u>Key speech:</u> Cryospheric Climate Services for Water Resources Management: From Global Perspective to Central Asia	<u>Presenter:</u> <b>Mr Martin Hoelzle</b> , WGMS, Fribourg University, Switzerland
11.50-12.05	Water Resources Assessment and Climate Change Impact in Central Asia	<b>Mr Abror Gafurov</b> , CAWA, Germany
12.05-12.20	Climate Services for Ecosystem-based Adaptation	<b>Ms Marhabo Yodalieva</b> , GIZ
12.20-12.35	Water Resource Management in the Context of Climate Change: Case Study from Lower Amu Darya Basin	<b>Mr Zafar Gafurov</b> , IWMI, Uzbekistan
12.35-12.50	Enhanced Partnerships for Water and Climate Communities (tbc)	<b>Ms Maggie White</b> , SIWI, Sweden
12.50-13.00	Q&A, Discussion, Wrap-up	
13.00-14.00	Lunch	
<b>Session 3. CLIMATE AND WATER-RELATED HAZARDS and RISKS</b>		
Format: Panel Discussion - 14.00-15.30 <u>Session description:</u> To share experiences and best practices and discuss innovative methods and tools, in particular, in areas such as monitoring, risk assessment, and data collection for climate services and risk management		<u>Moderators:</u> - <b>Mr Olcay Unver</b> , FAO - <b>Mr Abdulkhamid Kayumov</b> , Glaciology centre, Academy of Sciences, Tajikistan
14.00-14.20	<u>Key speech:</u> Data Gaps in Glacier Melting Related Hazard Assessment in Central Asia	<u>Presenter:</u> <b>Mr Dmitry Petrakov</b> , Moscow State University, Russia
14:20-14:35	Water and DRR in Mountainous Communities in Tajikistan	<b>Mr Yusuf Raimbekov</b> , Aga Khan Agency for Habitat

14:35-14:50	Debris Flows in Kyrgyzstan in a Changing Climate: Risk Assessment and Preparedness	<b>Mr Bolot Moldobekov</b> , CAIAG, Kyrgyzstan
14:50-15:05	WOCAT: Lessons from Sustainable Land and Water Management for Disaster Risk Reduction	<b>Mr Christian Hergarten</b> , UCA
15:05-15:20	The Role of Climate services for Water and Risks	<b>Mr Johannes Cullmann</b> , Climate and Water department, WMO
15.20-15.30	Q&A, Discussion, Wrap-up	
15.30-15.50	Coffee break	
<b>Session 4. ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP FOR ACHIEVING SDG 6</b>		
<p>Format: Plenary and Groups Discussion - 15.50-17.30</p> <p><u>Session description:</u> Partners and organizations to discuss cooperation and synergies with a goal to enhance dialogue with existing activities and discuss potential perspectives and needs in light of the High-level conference, including based from panel discussions</p> <p><u>Parallel session on <b>Water-Use Efficiency and Water Environmental Governance</b></u>, led by Finance Center for South-South Cooperation (Room "Banket Hall") (see page 6)</p>		<p><u>Moderators:</u> - <b>Mr Johannes Cullmann</b>, WMO - <b>Mr Zafar Makhmudov</b>, Committee for Environmental Protection, Tajikistan</p>
15.50-16.10	<p><u>Key speech:</u> Mountains: Solid Solutions for a Liquid Threat</p>	<p><u>Presenter:</u> <b>Mr Grammenos Mastrojeni</b>, Coordinator for the Environment and Head of the Science-Policy Interface at the Italian Development Cooperation, MFA, Chair of the Mountain Partnership</p>
16:10-17:10 – <b>Group works (all participants)</b>		
<p><u>Group work 1: Key reflections, and key actions:</u> Focus on <b>partnerships and alliances</b> to strengthen dialogue for SDG 6 (Room 307)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universities and scientific institutes</li> <li>• Hydromet Agencies</li> <li>• Government representatives</li> <li>• International/Regional Organizations</li> <li>• Civil society and Youth</li> <li>• UN, development institutions and donors</li> </ul> <p><u>Moderators:</u> Mr Alfred Diebold Mr Dmitry Petrakov</p>		<p><u>Group work 2: Key reflections, and key actions</u> Focus on <b>pathways and approaches</b> to achieve better partnership for SDG 6 (Room 309)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universities and scientific institutes</li> <li>• Hydromet Agencies</li> <li>• Government representatives</li> <li>• International/Regional Organizations</li> <li>• Civil society and Youth</li> <li>• UN, development institutions and donors</li> </ul> <p><u>Moderators:</u> Mr Christian Hergarten, UCA Mr Murodbek Laljebaev, UCA</p>
<b>SUMMARIES FROM GROUP WORK, THE WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE</b>		
17.10-17.20	Key messages developed by the groups	<b>Moderators of the Groups</b>
17.20-17.25	PCE Outcome document	<b>Rapporteur:</b> <b>Ms Kristine Tovmasyan, UNESCO</b>
17.25-17.35	Closing Ceremony	<b>UNRCAA, UNESCO, Government of Tajikistan</b>

Parallel session on **Water-Use Efficiency and Water Environmental Governance**, led by Finance Center for South-South Cooperation

**16:00 – 17.25**, Room “Banket Hall”

<b>WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS</b>	
<p><b>Mr E-Sheng CAI</b>, President, Finance Center for South-South Cooperation  <b>Mr Khayrullo Ibodzoda</b>, Chair, Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan  <b>Mr Zhenmin LIU</b>, Under-Secretary-General, UN  <b>Mr Mahmamin Mahmaminov</b>, Ambassador of Tajikistan to the United Nations</p>	
<b>Plenary</b>	
<p>Strengthening the management of water resources to maintain the healthy life of Yellow River</p> <p>Applying innovative technologies to improve water quality and increase water supply across the world</p> <p>Building strategic collaboration to better provide water and environmental protection services</p>	<p><b>Jinliang ZHANG</b>, Chairman, Yellow River Conservancy Commission, Ministry of Water Resources of the People’s Republic of China</p> <p><b>Weiguang LAN</b>, Chief Scientist of Xiamen University Institute of Water Technology and Policy &amp; Vice President of Asia Pacific Desalination Association</p> <p><b>Haifeng LI</b>, Executive Director, Beijing Enterprises Water Group Ltd.</p>
<b>Discussion, Recommendations and Closing</b>	