



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**between the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the**  
**Aral Sea and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**  
**GmbH**

The Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH represented by the GIZ Regional Programme "Green Central Asia: Transboundary Dialogue on Climate, Environment and Security in Central Asia and Afghanistan" hereinafter referred to as "Parties",

**acknowledging the importance** of the Joint Declaration of the Berlin International Conference "Green Central Asia" held on 28 January 2020, which focused on climate and security cooperation in Central Asia and Afghanistan,

**realizing the need**, within the framework of the initiative "Green Central Asia", to implement projects in the field of climate change, environment protection, combating the negative consequences of the Aral Sea crisis, water resources, renewable energy and energy efficiency, protection of glaciers, biodiversity, afforestation, combating desertification, land use and sustainable agriculture,

**basing their joint actions on the principles** of mutual understanding and respect,

**considering the importance** of regional climate and security cooperation in Central Asia and joint organization of various activities to improve the socio-economic and environmental situation in the Aral Sea Basin,

**relying on** efficient cooperation and information exchange,

have achieved the following understanding:

**Article 1**

The Parties shall, within their competencies, rules and regulations, cooperate in the following areas:

a) *Providing mutual support in strengthening water-energy, environmental and climate cooperation in Central Asia.* The Parties shall cooperate within this area by means of cooperating in the frame of the 'Green Central Asia' Initiative, strengthening institutional capacities of IFAS and its



bodies and supporting the priorities of Kazakhstan's chairmanship in IFAS in consultation with all IFAS member states;

b) *Developing and implementing activities and projects.* Where possible, GIZ will seek to provide expert and technical support for the implementation of the Aral

Sea Basin Program (ASBP-4), as well as to other - jointly with all 'Green Central Asia' partner countries decided - actions;

c) *Fundraising activities.* Within the available opportunities, GIZ will seek to assist EC IFAS in fundraising for implementation of ASBP-4 projects and other tasks assigned to IFAS through different financial institutions and the donor community;

d) *Organising and conducting of events.* The Parties organize and conduct events where possible, including joint events. These activities may include the Summit Heads of IFAS, meetings of the IFAS Board, working groups meetings on improving the organizational structure and legal framework of IFAS, conferences, workshops, round tables and other activities at the national and regional levels;

e) *International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development".* EC IFAS and GIZ will collaborate on the International Decade of Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, to promote the Sustainable Development Goal No.6: Ensure Water Availability and Sustainable Use and Sanitation for All;

f) *Supporting participation of EC IFAS in international events.* If possible, GIZ will support the participation of EC IFAS in international and regional events such as the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change, the World Water Forum, the Asia-Pacific Water Summit, etc;

g) *Consultations.* The Parties will have regular consultations to evaluate joint activities and discuss further areas of cooperation.

## **Article 2**

To assure result-oriented implementation of this Memorandum, within the framework of cooperation, the EC IFAS Chairman shall provide assistance in



organizing regular information exchange between EC IFAS and representatives of the GIZ Programme Office in Kazakhstan.

### **Article 3**

With a view to effective and timely implementation of this Memorandum, the Parties shall submit their proposals for further cooperation in advance and reflect them in the work plan and/or in other executive documents.

### **Article 4**

If there are strong grounds that prevent the implementation of activities under this Memorandum, the Parties may terminate it unilaterally. In this case, the initiating Party shall notify the other Party not later than two weeks before the termination of the Memorandum.

### **Article 5**

By mutual agreement of the Parties, modifications and amendments may be made to this Memorandum by formalizing separate protocols that are an integral part of this Memorandum.

### **Article 6**

In case of divergence in interpretations of the provisions of the Memorandum, the Parties shall resolve them through consultations and negotiations.

### **Article 7**

This Memorandum shall enter into force on the date of its signature by both Parties.



The Memorandum shall be effective in the course of the current phase of the Green Central Asia Programme, which will last until 30 June 2028.

Signed in Astana on 18 September 2024 in two original copies each of them is executed in Russian and English languages, which have equal legal force.

On behalf of

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit  
(GIZ) in Kazakhstan**

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Mr. Joachim Fritz

On behalf of

**Executive Committee of  
International Fund for Saving  
the Aral Sea**

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Mr. Askhat Orazbay

On behalf of

'Green Central Asia' Programme

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit  
(GIZ)**

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Dr. Caroline Milow