

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL**  
**FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA AND**  
**THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**  
**ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH PROMOTION,**  
**WELL-BEING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**  
**IN THE ARAL SEA BASIN**

The Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS) and the World Health Organization (WHO), hereinafter referred to as the "Parties",

**RECOGNIZING** that the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea is an intergovernmental organization established by the Heads of State of Central Asia to promote cooperation in the areas of water resources management, environmental protection, and sustainable development in the Aral Sea basin, and to coordinate efforts aimed at improving the environmental, social, and economic situation in the region;

**RECOGNIZING** that the World Health Organization, as a specialized agency of the United Nations, provides leadership and coordination in international public health, sets the global health agenda, establishes scientific and normative standards, develops recommendations, and provides technical support to Member States;

**RECOGNIZING** that the Action Program for Assistance to the Countries of the Aral Sea basin (ASBP-4) for 2021-2030, as well as the Regional Environmental Program for Sustainable Development in Central Asia (REP4SD CA) for 2020-2030, provide a common framework for improving water management and environmental conditions, strengthening resilience, and advancing public health in the Aral Sea basin;

**RECOGNIZING** that the Parties share a common objective to promote health protection, environmental well-being, and sustainable development in the Aral Sea basin, and express their intention to strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

## **HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

### Article 1. Purpose

1.1. This Memorandum of Understanding establishes a non-binding framework for cooperation between the Parties aimed at promoting health protection, environmental well-being, and sustainability in the Aral Sea basin, in accordance with their respective mandates, priorities, and internal rules and procedures.

1.2. Cooperation under this Memorandum is intended to support voluntary initiatives aimed at improving the health and well-being of populations living in the Aral Sea basin.

### Article 2. Priority areas of cooperation

2.1. The Parties may cooperate, where appropriate and in line with their respective mandates, in broad areas related to strengthening population health, enhancing well-being, and promoting environmental sustainability in the Aral Sea basin.

2.2. Cooperation under this Memorandum may include, inter alia:

a) facilitating the exchange of information and technical dialogue on the interlinkages between environmental degradation, climate change, and population health in the Aral Sea basin, including the exchange of analytical, methodological, or normative materials;

b) jointly organizing consultations, workshops, conferences, and other events to promote knowledge exchange, strengthen regional cooperation, and advance a multisectoral approach to environmental and health-related issues;

c) mobilizing and coordinating efforts and partnerships, where feasible, in support of high-level voluntary initiatives related to the Healthy Future in the Aral Sea Region Initiative and the priorities of ASBP-4 and REP4SD CA, including activities highlighting the health impacts of environmental factors;

d) exploring opportunities for capacity-building and professional exchange, including joint trainings, workshops, and education programs for professionals, institutions, and stakeholders in the Aral Sea basin;

e) promoting joint communication and visibility, where appropriate, to raise awareness of environmental risks and health issues and to attract additional partners, with the understanding that any specific cooperation will be determined on a bilateral basis.

2.3. Specific joint activities shall be determined by the Parties through separate arrangements, exchanges of letters, or other mutually agreed mechanisms, subject to the availability of resources and in accordance with the rules and procedures of each Party.

### Article 3. Modalities and coordination of cooperation

3.1. Cooperation may take the following forms:

- a) consultations at leadership, expert, and technical levels on matters of mutual interest;
- b) participation in events, meetings, and initiatives organized by either Party;
- c) preparation of voluntary joint analytical, conceptual, or informational materials;
- d) exchange of scientific, normative, methodological, and other materials in accordance with the Parties' respective rules;
- e) facilitating the establishment of contacts between experts, institutions and stakeholders;
- f) other forms of cooperation as agreed by the Parties.

3.2. Cooperation shall be voluntary in nature and implemented in accordance with the mandates, internal rules, and available resources of each Party.

### Article 4. Financial and administrative provisions

4.1. This Memorandum does not create any legal or financial obligations for the Parties.

4.2. Each Party shall bear its own costs related to activities carried out under this Memorandum, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

4.3. Any transfer of funds or conclusion of administrative arrangements shall be governed by separate written agreements in accordance with the procedures of each Party.

4.4. This Memorandum does not establish a joint venture, partnership, or agency relationship between the Parties.

## Article 5. Information exchange, publicity, and intellectual property

5.1. Information exchanged under this Memorandum shall be handled in accordance with the policies, rules, and procedures of each Party.

5.2. Any public communication, press release, or publication relating to joint activities shall be subject to prior mutual agreement between the Parties.

5.3. The Parties may, where appropriate, publicize their cooperation in accordance with their respective rules and requirements.

5.4. Intellectual property arising from jointly agreed activities shall be governed by separate arrangements.

5.5. Each Party shall retain ownership of its respective intellectual property, data, and materials.

## Article 6. Equity and inclusiveness

6.1. The Parties shall endeavor to ensure that all activities under this Memorandum are implemented in accordance with principles of equity, gender sensitivity, and inclusiveness, with particular attention to the needs of vulnerable population groups most affected by the environmental consequences of the Aral Sea crisis.

## Article 7. Use of the Parties' names

7.1. Without the prior written consent of the other Party, neither Party shall, in any statement or material of an advertising or promotional nature, refer to the relationship of the Parties under this Memorandum.

## Article 8. Prevention of Sexual Misconduct

8.1. The Parties have zero tolerance towards any form of sexual misconduct (an all-inclusive term which includes sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and all forms of prohibited sexual behaviour), harassment and other types of abusive conduct. The Parties shall comply with their respective policies dealing with ethics, and professional conduct, anti-bribery, anti-corruption, workplace harassment and violence.

## Article 9. Privileges and Immunities

9.1. Nothing in this Memorandum shall constitute, or be deemed to constitute, a waiver of any of the privileges and immunities enjoyed by the Parties under any source of law, or as a submission to the jurisdiction of any national court or tribunal.

## Article 10. Final provisions

10.1. This Memorandum reflects the shared political will of the Parties to contribute to improved population health and sustainable development in the Aral Sea basin through solidarity, partnership, and scientific excellence.


10.2. Any disputes arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum shall be resolved amicably through consultations between the Parties.

10.3. This Memorandum shall enter into force on the date of its last signature and shall remain valid for a period of five (5) years, with the possibility of extension by written agreement of the Parties.

10.4. Either Party may terminate this Memorandum by providing at least six (6) months' written notice. Termination shall not affect the proper completion of ongoing activities, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.

10.5. This Memorandum is signed in the city of \_\_\_\_\_ on “\_” \_\_\_\_\_ 2026, in two originals in the English and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic. In the event of any divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

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



**A. Orazbay**

Chairman

Executive Committee  
of the IFAS

For the World Health  
Organization



**Mr. Hans Henri P. Kluge**

Regional Director

WHO Regional Office for Europe