

Ashgabat Declaration

On the threshold of XXI century the mankind came into collision with serious ecological problems, impeding its sustainable development. Degradation of environment- that is the result of irrational usage of nature resources.

The Aral crisis consequences had negative effect on the standard of living of population in Central Asia. The problems of social protection and provision with pure drinking water became aggravated.

The States of Central Asia give unceasing consideration for improvement of situation in the region, for attraction the world community to settle these problems. In common with international organizations and funds, under the GEF support, the «Water Resources and Environment Control» Project is implemented. This Project is directed to radical improvement of the water and other resources usage, enhancement of efficiency and culture of the nature use within the region, and normalization of ecological situation as a whole.

In the same time, the efforts, undertaken to settle the Aral Sea basin problems, are insufficient.

We are, the Presidents of fraternal States of Central Asia - Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan,

prompted by aspiration for provision our peoples with prosperity and belief in future,

realizing the necessity to elaborate joint measures on implementation of regional strategy and specific actions for rational use of water resources of the region, based on ecosystem and integral principles of water economy activity,

taking in mind, that the water resources of Aral Sea basin are to be used in the interests of all parties, observing the principles of good neighbor relations and mutual interests,

emphasizing the significance of the States - founders' efforts, undertaken for strengthening the cooperation on the problems of water resources and nature protection control, water ecosystems rehabilitation, prevention the border transit waters from pollution,

confirming the decisions have being made on joint implementation of Specific Actions Program on the problems of Aral Sea,

admitting, that the public being in the know is an important condition of concerted actions in ecological and social-economic policy within the region,

proceeding from steadfast aspiration to overcome jointly the crisis consequences, and to normalize the ecological situation within Aral Sea basin,

declaring:

admit the importance of comprehensive solution of the problems, connected with normalization of social- ecological situation in Aral Sea basin,

strengthen both in the CAS and in their representations abroad the activity to attract the attention of international community, means and abilities of donor-countries, funds and organizations for implementation the programs and projects related to the Aral Sea basin problems,

provide every kind of assistance and support for implementation of « Control on Water resources and Environment in Aral Sea basin » Project, being realized under the aegis of World Bank and GEF,

give more consideration to the problems of mountain territories - zone of the rivers flow formation within Aral Sea basin,

realize a number of all-round measures and priority projects on social protection of population living in Aral Sea basin,

brisk up the works against desertification and pollution the border transiting water objects,

assist to international organizations and institutions in their activity on implementation of the programs and projects related to the Aral Sea basin problems,

promote (through educational and other programs) rising of the population being in the know about urgent problems of nature protection, rational nature use and improvement the social dwelling environment for present and future generations.

Ashgabat, April, 9 1999