

Concept Note
Central Asian International Environmental Forum on the theme
"Strengthening Cooperation on Environment and Sustainable Development in
Central Asia"

(June 5-8, 2018, Tashkent, Uzbekistan)

Background:

Central Asia (CA) is a region with a total population of more than 60 million people facing serious challenges to the environmental sustainability and public health. Given the high degree of vulnerability of the region due to the effects of climate change, as well as the growing challenges associated with the growth of population, including urbanization and changes in consumption habits - environmental problems pose serious threats on the environment and the population of CA countries. The growth in energy consumption, accumulation of large quantities of domestic solid wastes intimidating rates of accumulation of volumes of solid domestic waste, reduction of biological diversity, intensifying desertification processes are one of the challenges of today.

The political and economic rate of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the past year demonstrates the commitment and support of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Strategy of Action for the five priority development areas of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021 clearly outlines the tasks for:

- reduction of energy intensity and resource intensity of the economy, wider introduction of energy-saving technologies into production, expansion of the use of renewable energy sources, increase of labor productivity in the sectors of the economy;
- maintenance of ecological safety in the life of the people, construction and modernization of municipal waste processing facilities, strengthening their material and technical (input) base, providing the population with modern facilities for waste disposal;
- prevention of environmental problems, which cause damage to the condition of the environment, including the health and the gene pool of the population.

At the same time, the environmental challenges of the Central Asian region are becoming increasingly complex and the search for solutions is beyond the capabilities of one country or the organization of the region. Therefore, international cooperation and joining efforts are vital for solving environmental problems. The open and constructive dialogue among stakeholders with different views and concepts shall be the key tool in establishing long-term and productive cooperation on environmental issues.

In this regard, at the initiative of the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia, the countries of the region agreed to hold annually the Central Asian International Environmental Forum. In 2018, the theme of the Central Asian International Environmental Forum shall be "Strengthening Cooperation on Environment and Sustainable Development in Central Asia".

The forum will serve as a high-level platform that will bring together all interested partners in strengthening cooperation and developing joint measures aimed at implementing common goals in the field of sustainable development, discussing mutually beneficial solutions for protecting ecosystems and promoting "green" technologies.

Goal:

The Forum seeks to contribute to strengthening the dialogue among the government agencies, academia, the international community for development, civil society and business structures in Central Asia on environmental **issues and the formation of joint solutions for sustainable development of the region.**

Thematic areas:

- Conservation of biodiversity and development of a network of protected natural areas
- Renewable energy sources and energy efficiency;
- Integrated management of solid domestic waste;

Format: Plenary sessions, parallel sessions for each of the thematic areas, a specialized exhibition of clean technologies, a donor meeting, a business forum B2B will be held during the CAIEF-2018

Participants:

The Forum will convene members of parliaments, high-level officials from the Ministries of environment and water management of the Central Asian countries, senior representatives of UN agencies and international organizations, financial institutions, eminent researchers and practitioners. Leaders of nature protection authorities from Europe and Asia, representatives of scientific and public circles are also invited for participation.

Organizers:

Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan together with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia.

Expected outcomes:

- to intensify joint efforts of Central Asian countries in solving global and regional environmental problems;
- to formulate and agree on joint actions to be taken on the basis of discussions;
- to link the joint actions with the global environmental agenda;
- to identify priority and possible investment solutions for the development of renewable energy, waste processing and nature conservation in general.