

ПАРТНЕРСТВО ДЛЯ УСТОЙЧИВОГО БУДУЩЕГО ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ
 PARTNERSHIP FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN CENTRAL ASIA



ЦЕНТРАЛЬНО-АЗИАТСКАЯ КОНФЕРЕНЦИЯ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ИЗМЕНЕНИЯ КЛИМАТА
 Климатическое лидерство Центральной Азии: партнерство Государства и Бизнеса

CENTRAL ASIA CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
 Climate leadership in Central Asia: a partnership between Government and Business

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Introduction and Context

The Central Asia Climate Change Conference (CACCC) serves as a key regional platform for dialogue, coordination, and the development of joint solutions on climate policy, adaptation, climate change mitigation, and climate finance in Central Asia. Since 2018, the conference, organized by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) in cooperation with the governments of the region and international partners, has consistently strengthened regional cooperation and promoted the integration of the global climate agenda into national and regional processes.

By 2025, Central Asian countries have completed the update of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs 3.0) under the Paris Agreement and entered the phase of active implementation of new climate commitments. In parallel, efforts to develop and implement national adaptation plans, carbon neutrality strategies, and sectoral programs aimed at enhancing the climate resilience of regional economies and communities have intensified.

A significant impetus to this agenda was provided by the outcomes of the 30th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP30), held in Belem (Brazil) in November 2025. COP30 placed special emphasis on scaling up climate finance for developing countries, including the advancement of the “Baku–Belem Roadmap” to mobilize approximately USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035 to support climate action. An important step was the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund and the launch of its first call for proposals, translating political agreements into practical mechanisms for supporting the most vulnerable countries and communities.

In Belem, discussions also focused on the implementation of updated NDCs 3.0, strengthening adaptation, climate risk management, and the role of innovative financial mechanisms, including approaches related to natural capital and the reduction of emissions of short-lived climate pollutants such as methane. These areas are of direct relevance to Central Asia, where climate change exacerbates existing socio-economic and environmental challenges, from land and water resource degradation to threats to food, energy, and public health security.

In this context, the 8th Central Asia Climate Change Conference (CACCC-2026) is positioned as the first major regional climate platform after COP30, designed to “translate” global agreements and political signals into the Central Asian context and transform them into practical actions, investments, and regional cooperation mechanisms.

2. Climate Leadership of Central Asia in 2026

In 2026, the concept of “climate leadership of Central Asia” acquires an applied and practical dimension. It is not only about the formal fulfillment of international commitments, but also about the ability of the countries of the region to jointly shape and implement solutions commensurate with the scale of climate challenges.

Within the framework of CACCC-2026, climate leadership of Central Asia is understood as:

- a transition from fragmented national initiatives to coordinated regional approaches and mechanisms;
- the formation of joint regional positions and initiatives for participation in global climate processes, including COP31;
- the launch and development of regional investment platforms and project portfolios aimed at attracting climate finance and engaging the private sector;
- strengthening the role of the region as a reliable partner for international financial institutions, donors, and businesses in implementing large-scale climate solutions;
- demonstrating practical examples of how climate policy can contribute to sustainable economic development, job creation, and improved public welfare.

CACCC-2026 is intended to become a space where the climate leadership of Central Asia is expressed through concrete agreements, roadmaps, and investment initiatives.

3. Goals and Objectives of the Conference

The overarching goal of CACCC 2026 is to facilitate the transition of Central Asian countries from updated climate commitments (NDCs 3.0) to the practical implementation of climate action through regional cooperation, mobilization of climate finance, and active engagement of the private sector.

To achieve this goal, CACCC-2026 sets the following objectives:

- to discuss priorities and challenges in implementing updated NDCs 3.0, national adaptation plans, and decarbonization strategies in Central Asian countries;
- to analyze the key outcomes of COP30 and determine their significance for the regional climate agenda;
- to promote regional cooperation in adaptation, climate risk management, and landscape restoration;
- to advance practical solutions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including methane initiatives and the development of renewable energy;
- to stimulate the participation of the private sector and financial institutions in mobilizing climate finance;
- to strengthen the institutional readiness of countries in the region to utilize new global climate finance mechanisms, including the Loss and Damage Fund;
- to lay the foundation for coordinated regional approaches and positions of Central Asian countries in the lead-up to COP31.

4. Key Thematic Priorities of CACCC-2026

The CACCC-2026 programme is focused on four interconnected thematic priorities:

- *Climate Policy and Regional Cooperation*: Implementation of updated NDCs 3.0, coordination of regional efforts after COP30, and joint preparation of Central Asian countries for COP31.
- *Adaptation and Climate Resilience*: Landscape restoration, climate risk management, the “One Health” approach, and strengthening the resilience of ecosystems and communities, implementation of the Regional Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation in Central Asia.
- *Climate Change Mitigation*: Decarbonization, methane initiatives, and emission reductions in key sectors of the economy.
- *Climate Finance and Business Partnership*: Mobilization of private capital, carbon markets, development of green financial instruments, blended finance, and formation of regional investment platforms.

5. Expected Outcomes of CACCC-2026

The following outcomes are expected as a result of CACCC-2026:

- adoption of a joint political statement/resolution on the implementation of updated NDCs and the strengthening of regional climate cooperation;
- agreement on regional roadmaps and framework documents in priority areas (landscape restoration, climate risk management, methane initiatives);
- launch or strengthening of regional platforms for mobilizing climate finance with the participation of the private sector;
- approval of an updated Implementation Plan for the Regional Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change in Central Asia;
- formation of elements of a coordinated regional position of Central Asian countries ahead of COP31.

6. Format and Key Features of CACCC-2026

CACCC-2026 will take place over three days in Astana as part of the Regional Environmental Summit initiated by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, during the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2023, and will bring together representatives of government authorities, international organizations, financial institutions, business, the scientific community, and civil society.

A distinctive feature of CACCC-2026 will be its strong emphasis on tangible outcomes: following key sessions, participants are expected to agree and sign joint statements, memoranda, roadmaps and other instruments designed to strengthen regional cooperation and support the practical implementation of climate initiatives in Central Asia.

7. Additional information, coordination, and registration for CACCC 2026:

- RES-2026 website: <https://res2026.kz/>
- CACCC-2026 webpage: <https://carececo.org/main/activity/mettings/caccc-2026/>

CACCC 2026 contact points:

- Dilovarsho Dustzoda, Advisor to Executive Director, CAREC
Email: ddustzoda@carececo.org
- Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist, CAREC
Email: cc_specialist@carececo.org
- Azamat Kauazov, Climate change & sustainable energy Program Manager, CAREC
Email: cacip@carececo.org

Coordination of CACCC 2026 organization and delivery:

- Batyr Kurbangeldyevich Mammedov, Executive Director, CAREC
Email: bmammedov@carececo.org

Registration for CACCC 2026 is available via the RES-2026 website: <https://res2026.kz/register>.

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PROGRAM
of the 8th Central Asia Climate Change Conference

Time	<p><i>Congress Center, Plenary Hall "ASTANA"</i></p> <p>up to 300 participants, theatre-style seating</p>	<p><i>Congress Center, 1st Floor, Hall No. 2 "TURKESTAN"</i></p> <p>up to 200 participants, theatre-style seating</p>	<p><i>Hilton Astana, 1st Floor, Hall No. 9 "IRTYSH"</i></p> <p>up to 80 participants, theatre-style seating</p>
Day 1, April 22, 2026			
13:00-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-15:45	<p>Session 1.1. Opening of CACCC-2026. "NDC 3.0: From Commitments to Action"</p> <p>Description: High-Level Introductory Plenary Session (<i>high-level segment, ministers, heads of international organizations</i>). This session sets the overall political and strategic tone of CACCC-2026 and focuses on the implementation of the updated NDCs of Central Asian countries. Heads of relevant government agencies and international organizations will discuss key climate policy priorities, financing needs, and opportunities to strengthen NDC 3.0 implementation.</p> <p>Moderator: Dilovarsho Dustzoda, Advisor to Executive Director, CAREC</p> <p>Contact persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist, CAREC ● Azamat Kauazov, CCSE Programme Manager, CAREC <p>Key partners: CAREC, NDCP, OSCE, World Bank, GIZ</p>	RES Session	RES Session

Time	<p align="center">Congress Center, Plenary Hall "ASTANA" up to 300 participants, theatre-style seating</p>	<p align="center">Congress Center, 1st Floor, Hall No. 2 "TURKESTAN" up to 200 participants, theatre-style seating</p>	<p align="center">Hilton Astana, 1st Floor, Hall No. 9 "IRTYSH" up to 80 participants, theatre-style seating</p>
15:45-16:15	Coffee Break		
16:15-18:00	<p>Session 1.2. Central Asia: Regional Cooperation and the COP30 Outcomes</p> <p>Description: <i>This session is dedicated to analyzing the key decisions and political signals of COP30 and their significance for Central Asian countries. Participants will discuss new opportunities in climate finance, adaptation, loss and damage, as well as ways to "land" global agreements into action through regional initiatives and joint project portfolios. The outcomes of the session will serve as a basis for defining regional priorities and preparing for COP31.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist, CAREC</p> <p>Contact persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist, CAREC ● Azamat Kauazov, CCSE Programme Manager, CAREC <p>Key partners: CAREC, NDCP, OSCE, World Bank, GIZ</p>	RES Sessions	RES Sessions
19:00-20:00	Official Summit Dinner (by invitation)		

Time	Congress Center, Plenary Hall "ASTANA" up to 300 participants, theatre-style seating	Congress Center, 1st Floor, Hall No. 2 "TURKESTAN" up to 200 participants, theatre-style seating	Hilton Astana, 1st Floor, Hall No. 9 "IRTYSH" up to 80 participants, theatre-style seating
Day 2, April 23, 2026			
09:00-10:45	RES Session	<p>Session 2.1. Strengthening Regional Actions on Methane Reduction in Central Asia</p> <p>Description: <i>The session focuses on reducing methane emissions in the energy sector as one of the most effective and fastest climate mitigation measures. Participants will discuss the potential for methane projects, available financing mechanisms, monitoring and reporting requirements, and the role of the private sector. The session is expected to conclude with the signing of a Regional Statement on Joint Methane Action in Central Asia.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Oksana Kravtsova, EH Programme Manager, Manjyot Ahluwalia, Director for Central Asia, Global Methane Hub (GMH)</p> <p>Contact persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oksana Kravtsova, EH Programme Manager, CAREC ● Arailym Shulgauova, Assistant to Executive Director, CAREC <p>Key partners: CAREC, GMH, EDF, CATF, UNECE, CCAC, UNEP/IMEO, Carbon Limits, Carbon Mapper, IEA, GIZ Turkmenistan</p>	<p>Session 3.1. Workforce Development and Research Cooperation to Advance Renewable Energy in Central Asia</p> <p>Description: <i>The session focuses on workforce development and research cooperation as key enablers for scaling up renewable energy in Central Asia. Participants will discuss labour market needs and skills gaps at different levels—from engineers and project managers to operations and maintenance technicians—as well as approaches to updating curricula in universities and vocational and technical education systems. Special attention will be given to joint research initiatives and partnerships among universities. The session will conclude with the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between technical universities on the introduction of a practical education course on renewable energy development.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Bakhtiyor Pulatov, D.Sc, Prof., Rector of the Central Asian University for Environmental and Climate Change Studies (Green University), Uzbekistan</p> <p>Contact persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Valeriya Orlova, CCSE Programme Specialist ● Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist <p>Key partners: CAREC, OSCE, GIZ</p>
10:45-11:15	Coffee Break		

Time	Congress Center, Plenary Hall "ASTANA" up to 300 participants, theatre-style seating	Congress Center, 1st Floor, Hall No. 2 "TURKESTAN" up to 200 participants, theatre-style seating	Hilton Astana, 1st Floor, Hall No. 9 "IRTYSH" up to 80 participants, theatre-style seating
11:15-13:00	RES Session	<p>Session 2.2. Climate Finance and the Private Sector</p> <p>Description: <i>This flagship session of CACCC-2026 is dedicated to mobilizing private capital for the implementation of climate action in Central Asia. In the format of a Panel Discussion, participants will discuss financial instruments, investor expectations, risks, and opportunities for forming regional project portfolios. The session is expected to conclude with the signing of a Regional Initiative or Memorandum of Understanding on climate finance and private sector engagement.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Elvira Borombaeva, President of the Association of Legal Entities "Small Hydropower Plants Association," Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <p>Contact persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist • Erlan Jumabaev, CAREC CO Director in Kazakhstan <p>Key partners: CAREC, UN Global Compact CA</p>	<p>Session 3.2. Fifth Meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) of the RESILAND CA+ Programme</p> <p>Description: <i>By invitation only. The RAC meeting of the RESILAND CA+ program aims to review implementation progress, discuss key results, and agree on priorities for further action. Participants will consider issues of coordination among countries and partners and define next steps to strengthen regional cooperation in landscape restoration and climate resilience.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dilovarsho Dustzoda, Advisor to Executive Director</p> <p>Contact persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyudmila Kiktenko, EM Programme Manager • Azamat Kauazov, CCSE Programme Manager • Dilovarsho Dustzoda, Advisor to Executive Director <p>Key partners: CAREC, World Bank</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-15:45	RES Session	<p>Session 2.3. Economic Dimensions of Water–Energy Cooperation in Central Asia under Climate Change</p> <p>Description: <i>The session will explore the economic dimensions of water–energy cooperation among Central Asian countries in the context of increasing climate risks and the evolving regional electricity market. Participants will discuss how shifting river flow regimes, growing water scarcity, and seasonal mismatches in energy demand affect costs and economic resilience—and which instruments can turn interdependence into shared benefits. The discussion will focus on benefit- and cost-sharing models, compensation mechanisms and joint</i></p>	<p>Session 3.3. Regional One Health program in Central Asia</p> <p>Description: <i>This session explores the interconnections between climate change, human and animal health, ecosystem conditions, and food security. Discussions will focus on integrating climate risks into healthcare and agri-food systems, strengthening intersectoral cooperation, and improving data sharing. The session is expected to conclude with the agreement on a Regional "One Health and Climate" Plan for Central Asia.</i></p>

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		<p><i>infrastructure investments, regional electricity trade and water–energy services, and the role of financial institutions in enabling sustainable transboundary solutions.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dmitry Petrin, Central Asia Water & Energy Program Manager, World Bank</p> <p>Contact persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist, CAREC <p>Key partners: CAREC, World Bank (CAWEP)</p>	<p>Moderator: Oksana Kravtsova, EH Programme Manager</p> <p>Contact persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oksana Kravtsova, EH Programme Manager • Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist <p>Key partners: CAREC, World Bank</p>
15:45-16:15	Coffee Break		
16:15-18:00	<p><i>RES Session</i></p>	<p>Session 2.4. Integrating Climate Risk Management into Strategic Planning in Central Asian Countries</p> <p>Description: <i>This session is dedicated to developing a systemic approach to climate risk management based on the experience of regional programs and national practices. Participants will discuss the integration of climate risk assessments into public policy, budgetary and investment planning, as well as the development of early warning systems and insurance mechanisms. The session is expected to conclude with the agreement on a regional framework or roadmap for climate risk management.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Sergey Makarov, GIZ "Climate Risk Management in Central Asia" Programme Director</p> <p>Contact persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist <p>Key partners: CAREC, GIZ</p>	<p>Session 3.4. Meeting of the Regional Coordination Council (ROHCC) of the project " One Health for Pandemic Prevention, Food Systems Resilience, and Ecosystem Health in Central Asia (Phase 1)". Second meeting.</p> <p>Description: <i>By invitation only. Meeting of the Regional Coordination Council of the World Bank "One Health" Program in Central Asia. The session will be by invitation only, limited to RCC members from Central Asian countries and observer organizations.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Oksana Kravtsova, EH Programme Manager, CAREC</p> <p>Contact persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oksana Kravtsova, EH Programme Manager • Irina Bubenko, Program Specialist, Environment and Health <p>Key partners: CAREC, World Bank</p>

Time	Congress Center, Plenary Hall "ASTANA" up to 300 participants, theatre-style seating	Congress Center, 1st Floor, Hall No. 2 "TURKESTAN" up to 200 participants, theatre-style seating	Hilton Astana, 2nd Floor, Hall No. 6 "SYRDARYA" up to 100 participants (round-table setup up to 25)
Day 3, April 24, 2026			
09:00-10:45	<p>Session 1.3. Transboundary Landscape Restoration in Central Asia</p> <p>Description: <i>This session is dedicated to restoring degraded landscapes as a key direction for climate change adaptation and sustainable development. Participants will discuss experiences from regional and national projects, opportunities to scale up the landscape approach, and avenues for attracting climate finance, including private-sector engagement. The session is expected to conclude with the agreement on a framework declaration or roadmap for landscape restoration in Central Asia.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Asferachew Abate Abebe, Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank</p> <p>Contact persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lyudmila Kiktenko, EM Programme Manager, CAREC ● Azamat Kauazov, CCSE Programme Manager, CAREC ● Dilovarsho Dustzoda, Advisor to Executive Director, CAREC <p>Key partners: CAREC, World Bank</p>	<p>Session 2.5. Climate-Sensitive Water Resources Management</p> <p>Description: <i>The session aims to showcase practical solutions for adapting water management to climate risks through the Source-to-Sea approach and to discuss opportunities for cross-sectoral and transboundary cooperation within regional and national initiatives.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Alexandr Nikolayenko, Manager of the Blue Peace CA project, IWMI</p> <p>Contact persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Irina Yugay, WIS Programme Manager, CAREC <p>Key partners: CAREC, IWMI</p>	<p>Session 3.5. Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Implementation of the Regional Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation in Central Asia</p> <p>Description: <i>This working session, with the participation of authorized representatives of Central Asian countries and partners, is dedicated to assessing progress and advancing the implementation of the Regional Adaptation Strategy. During the meeting, priority projects, financing sources, and partner roles will be agreed upon. The session is expected to conclude with the approval of an updated Strategy Implementation Plan and a protocol of agreements.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Caroline Milow, Green Central Asia Programme Manager, GIZ</p> <p>Contact persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arman Kozhakeldiyev, GCA Adviser, GIZ Kazakhstan <p>Key partners: GIZ</p>
10:45-11:15	Coffee Break		
11:15-13:00	<p>Session 1.4. Closing Session CACCC-2026. "Road to COP31"</p> <p>Description: <i>The closing session summarizes the outcomes of CACCC-2026 and consolidates the key political, institutional, and investment results of the conference. Participants will be presented with and</i></p>	<i>RES Session</i>	<i>RES Session</i>

Time	<p align="center">Congress Center, Plenary Hall "ASTANA" up to 300 participants, theatre-style seating</p>	<p align="center">Congress Center, 1st Floor, Hall No. 2 "TURKESTAN" up to 200 participants, theatre-style seating</p>	<p align="center">Hilton Astana, 2nd Floor, Hall No. 6 "SYRDARYA" up to 100 participants (round-table setup up to 25)</p>
	<p><i>endorse the final resolution or statement of CACCC-2026, as well as discuss next steps for shaping a regional position and project portfolio of Central Asia in preparation for COP31.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dilovarsho Dustzoda, Advisor to Executive Director, CAREC</p> <p>Contact persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist, CAREC ● Azamat Kauazov, CCSE Programme Manager, CAREC <p>Key partners: CAREC</p>		
13:00-14:00	Lunch		