

THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE FOR CENTRAL ASIA
Project: Strengthening coordination and positioning of Central Asia in global climate processes
(GIZ)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Individual Consultant (IC) to Facilitate the Central Asian Regional State Bodies Dialogue on Climate Change to Develop Central Asian Countries Joint Statement for COP-28

1. BACKGROUND

The UNFCCC's annual Conference of Parties (COP) stands as one of the world's largest multistakeholder platforms for dialogue on climate change. Each year, COP attracts approximately from 10,000 to 15,000 high-level delegates and visitors, featuring a comprehensive agenda and fostering global awareness of intricate scientific findings and climate action debates. However, before COP26, delegations from Central Asian countries lacked coordination and faced challenges in effectively representing themselves within regional negotiation groups. This resulted in limited opportunities to promote Central Asia as a thriving region, attract investor attention, and raise global awareness about regional accomplishments, challenges, and openness to cooperation.

In 2021, an important milestone was reached when the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) successfully organized the Central Asian Pavilion (CAP) at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, UK. At the request and with the support of Central Asian delegations, the CAP served as a dedicated platform to unify the voices of Central Asian Countries within motto "5 countries - 1 region - 1 voice", hosting thematic meetings and exhibitions throughout the conference. CAREC facilitated the development of a Regional Statement by the Central Asian State bodies with the overall title "The voice of Central Asia" presented at COP26 in the CAP.

In 2022 at COP27 in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, CAREC developed a similar statement and presented it at COP27 margins. Through its dedicated efforts, CAREC has successfully facilitated the organization and active participation of Central Asian countries in COP27. By strengthening the negotiating power of these nations, CAREC has played a crucial role in ensuring that their voices are heard, and their interests are represented in global climate discussions.

In 2023, CAREC received support from GIZ under the "Supporting preparations and participation of the Central Asian countries at the UNFCCC COP28" project to help prepare Central Asian countries to participate in the UNFCCC COP28. This year CAREC, with the support from GIZ and other development partners, will be instrumental in coordinating and empowering Central Asian countries in their preparations and participation in COP28. By strengthening their negotiating power, organizing joint side events, increasing visibility, and attracting investments, CAREC will play a pivotal role in promoting regional cooperation and highlighting Central Asia's commitment to the Paris Agreement. One of the key activities is targeted at further strengthening the common voice of Central Asian State Bodies at the regional level, with the expectation of significant progress and formulating a Joint Statement for the upcoming COP. This will be done in close collaboration with officially nominated members of the Central Asian Regional Negotiation Working Group, representatives of development partners, and other stakeholders.

The Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries for UNFCCC COP28 is crucial for the countries themselves and the global negotiation process. It amplifies their collective voice, strengthens their bargaining power, promotes regional cooperation, demonstrates commitment, enhances global negotiations, and facilitates cooperation and partnerships. By presenting a united front, Central Asian Countries can effectively address their common concerns, attract international attention and make a meaningful contribution to global efforts to combat climate change, while inspiring other regions to take decisive action. At the same time, by presenting a cohesive and coordinated stance, Central Asian Countries can strengthen their collective appeal to international financial institutions and potential investors, increasing the likelihood of securing substantial funding for climate-related projects in the region.

2. OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this assignment is to provide substantial support and facilitation in formulating a comprehensive and compelling Central Asian State Bodies Joint Statement. It aims to advocate for a climate-resilient future and will be delivered at the upcoming UNFCCC COP28, carrying the collective voice and aspirations of the Central Asian region.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

The IC will work under direct supervision of the CAREC Climate Change Specialist and with close cooperation with nominated members of the Central Asian Regional Negotiation Working Group and other relevant public/state institutions to accomplish the following scope of work:

- Drafting zero version of the Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries for COP-28 and enhancing it based on proposals and officially received comments;
- Support CAREC in establishing and functioning the Central Asian Regional Negotiation Working Group, including building their capacity on COP28-related processes;
- Development of presentation materials on the Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries for the COP-28 preparation process, taking into account the visibility requirements of CAREC and GIZ;
- Support in the development Conceptual document “Central Asina Countries at the COP28”;
- Delivering presentations on the national and regional events organized by CAREC, parties, and development partners to promote development Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries for COP-28;
- Provide support for nominated members of the Central Asian Regional Negotiation Working Group and lead the process of consideration of the Joint Statement within countries;
- Support CAREC, guide, and strengthen timely delivered the review/ approval of the Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries process within Central Asian Ministries of Foreign Affairs;
- Organize and facilitate implementation of the Central Asian Regional State Bodies Dialogue on Climate Change, which has to consist of at least 1 offline regional event, 2 online regional events, and 5 national (online or offline) events with the aim of discussing and developing/ approval the Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries for COP-28;
- Communication with nominated participants and facilitate organization of the 10th Meeting of Foreign Ministers and Parliamentarians of Central Asia on the COP28, which includes drafting initiation letters, development of substantial documents and agenda of the event;
- Ensuring participation of nominated members of the Central Asian Regional Negotiation Working Group and future COP delegation members in the COP28-related capacity-building events organized by CAREC;
- Collaboration and facilitate communication of the Central Asian Regional State Bodies Dialogue with the Central Asian Regional NGO Dialogue in relation to the preparation and formulation of mutually reinforcing two Central Asian Joint Statements for COP-28;
- Submit and ensure acceptance of the application on the Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries "The Voice of Central Asia" for inclusion in the official program of the COP28;
- Identify a key presenter (among the high-level representatives of the official Central Asian country delegations to COP-28), in coordination with CAREC reaching a presentation agreement with him/her and provide full support (presentation preparation, talking points, etc.) to him/her in delivering of the Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries "The Voice of Central Asia" at COP28;
- Develop a comprehensive narrative report about the events held, lessons learned, and results achieved, which will contain recommendations and next steps for further follow-up actions;
- Facilitate and organize the post-COP event with presentation of the results achieved.

4. SCHEDULE AND DELIVERABLES

DELIVERABLES	DEADLINE
<p>Interim narrative report on implemented activities, with following attachments and/or information reflected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support provided in establishing and functioning the Central Asian Regional Negotiation Working Group, including building their capacity on COP28-related processes; - presentation materials on the Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries for the COP-28 preparation process, developed with taking into account the visibility requirements of CAREC and GIZ; - drafted sections of the Conceptual document “Central Asina Countries at the COP28”; - description of support provided to the nominated members of the Central Asian Regional Negotiation Working Group on the process of consideration of the Joint Statement within countries Affairs including drafted letter for the official communication with countries’ authorized bodies; - draft version of the Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries for COP-28 officially submitted CA Ministries of Foreign Affairs for review/ approval; - description of support provided to CAREC in the guide, and strengthen timely delivery of the review/ approval of the Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries process within CA Ministries of Foreign; - agenda, LOP, and description of at least 1 offline regional, 1 online regional, and 5 national events organized with the aim of discussing and developing the Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries for COP-28. 	<p>not later than September 10th, 2023</p>
<p>Interim narrative report on implemented activities, with following attachments and/or information reflected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agenda, LOP, and description of at least 1 online regional event organized with the aim of approval of the Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries for COP-28; - version of the Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries for COP-28 agreed/under agreement process by the Countries; - description of support provided to CAREC in the guide, and strengthen timely delivery of the review/ approval of the Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries process within CA Ministries of Foreign; - confirmation acceptance of the application on the Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries "The Voice of Central Asia" for inclusion in the official program of the COP28; - list of preliminarily identified candidates for the presentation of the Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries among the high-level representatives of the official CA country delegations to COP-28; - description of support provided on preparation and formulation of mutually reinforcing two Central Asian Joint Statements for COP-28; - description of support provided on organization of the 10th Meeting of Foreign Ministers and Parliamentarians of Central Asia on the COP28, which includes drafted initiation letters, developed of substantial documents and agenda of the event; - a list of events where the process of developing the Joint Statement of the Central Asian Countries for COP-28 was presented and promoted. 	<p>not later than November 10th, 2023</p>

<p>Final comprehensive narrative report on implemented activities, with following attachments and/or information reflected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agreed version of the Central Asian Joint Statement for COP-28, with supporting evidence; - information about the events held and outputs achieved; - recommendations and next steps for further follow-up actions on strengthening implementation of the Central Asian Joint Statement for COP-28. - agenda, LOP, and description of post-COP event on results achieved. 	<p>not later than November 30th, 2023*</p>
<p><i>*Considering the COP28 timeframe, the assignment may be negotiated for extension without changing the costs and the timing of reporting for Deliverables 1 and 2.</i></p>	

5. REQUIRED QUALIFICATION

- University degree in natural sciences or other relevant fields is essential, and a scientific degree is a preference;
- At least 5 years' experience in partnership/coalition with national/regional State Bodies in the countries of Central Asia on building and facilitating negotiation processes on the environment and/or climate-related policy;
- Strong contacts with State Bodies from Central Asian countries are essential; support from the Central Asian Country's Ministries of Foreign Affairs and/or climate change-responsible state bodies is a preference;
- Excellent language skills (oral and written) in Russian and English.

6. TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

- This assignment is home-based, with travels on regional offline events of the Central Asian Regional Negotiation Working Group. CAREC will cover the cost of this travel in accordance with CAREC rules and procedures, independent of this contract, based on the subsequently identified needs for the expert's onsite participation.

7. TIMELINE AND REPORTING

- The estimated duration of the consultancy will be July-November 2023.
- The Consultant shall report to the Climate Change & Sustainable Energy Program Manager.

8. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Curriculum Vitae (or Resume) in Russian and/or English languages;
- Brief motivation letter (max 1000 words) in Russian and/or English languages.
- Copy of Diploma and relevant certificates if any;
- Any additional supporting documents that could provide information that enhances the effectiveness of the selection of candidates.