

**REGIONAL STATEMENT OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN YOUTH
to the participants of the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention on Climate
Change (COP27)**

**Egypt, Sharm El Sheikh
7-18 November 2022**

I have the honour to deliver this message on behalf of Youth networks of Central Asia - the Young Climate and Water Experts of the Central Asian Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development (CALP) and the Working Group of First in Central Asia Regional Climate Conference of Youth (RCOY CA):

- Recognizing the important advances made through the UNFCCC multilateral processes since 1994, including those in the context of the Paris Agreement, commitments voiced by the governments of Central Asian states during the 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties and their Nationally Determined Contributions,
- Acknowledging that climate change is a global concern that imposes a multitude of threats on the Central Asian region, our homeland, we would like to reiterate the importance of today's event and the statement that we are making,
- Underscoring that Central Asia is among the regions most vulnerable to climate change, exacerbated by the desiccation of the Aral Sea, and that projected climate change trends will continue adversely impacting the whole region by altering precipitation patterns, bringing extreme weather events, increasing natural disaster occurrences, and inducing water, food, energy insecurities in Central Asian region,
- Acknowledging that the majority of Central Asia's population reside in rural areas and share two existing major transboundary river basins, and that their food security and livelihoods depend extensively upon agricultural productivity and the availability of water resources, integrity of ecosystems and the services they provide,
- Understanding the importance of involving youth, as agents of change and future decision-makers, in the global processes to address and respond to the impacts of global climate change, and highlighting the urgent need for multilevel and cooperative action,

We, representatives of the youth networks of Central Asia - young climate and water experts - alumni of CALP and members of RCOY CA process:

- Call for all countries of the Central Asian region to act immediately in terms of the national and regional commitments in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy efficiency, adopting climate-smart agricultural practices activities, water saving technologies, innovative water and waste management technologies, improving disaster risk reduction monitoring systems and preparedness to secure wellbeing of our generation and that of the generations ahead,
- Appeal to the Central Asian and global decision-makers to ensure that voices of young climate and water experts are heard, and to support their rightful concerns through the meaningful participation in national, regional and international processes in shaping the climate and water agendas and commitments, as well as in implementation of those,

- Urge to increase the investments in education for sustainable development (ESD), including innovative and nature-based solutions, capacity building activities in climate (as part of wider Action for Climate Empowerment – ACE program) and water diplomacy to shape a firm basis for knowledge accumulation in climate change and carbon neutrality issues,
- Ensure that youth and women living in rural areas, vulnerable to climate change, have an adequate access to environmental education and awareness raising activities, so as to prepare them to undertake local action towards better adaptation and mitigation practices,
- Ensure that women are involved in the decision-making processes at all levels, including in building their leadership potential through various youth-led platforms,
- And last but not least, continue to support and expand the efforts of sustaining the Central Asian Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development so that the next generation of climate experts and young environmental leaders could have a chance to learn, develop and communicate their stance on the global agenda.