

Report

on the CICA Side Event: Water Security and Climate Resilience: Addressing Environmental Challenges in CICA Member States.

Dushanbe, Tajikistan
(29 May 2025)

Introduction

On 29 May 2025, Azerbaijan's CICA Chairmanship, in collaboration with the CICA Secretariat, hosted a hybrid side event titled "Water Security and Climate Resilience: Addressing Environmental Challenges in CICA Member States." Held alongside the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in a hybrid format, the event convened representatives from 11 CICA Member States (Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand and Türkiye), international organizations (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) and experts. It focused on dialogue on glacier retreat, water security and climate resilience, reinforcing CICA's role as an important platform for environmental diplomacy.

During the side event, 14 speakers participated, including 7 representatives from CICA Member States, 3 from international and 2 from the CICA Secretariat. 11 speakers attended in person, while 3 joined online. (The full list of speakers and their statements at the side event are annexed to this report).

Key Points of Speakers' Statements

Welcoming Remarks made by H.E. Alimirzamin Askerov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Tajikistan, Mr. Isfandiyor Shukurzoda, First Deputy Chairman,

Committee for Environmental Protection, Tajikistan and Mrs. Zhang Ling, CICA Deputy Secretary General.

H.E. Alimirzamin Askerov (Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Tajikistan) outlined Azerbaijan's CICA Chairmanship vision, "Stronger CICA: Connectivity, Digitalization and Sustainable Growth in Asia," emphasizing confidence-building measures to tackle transboundary environmental challenges and leveraging COP29's legacy for regional cooperation. **Mr. Isfandiyor Shukurzoda** (First Deputy Chairman, Committee for Environmental Protection, Tajikistan) highlighted Tajikistan's leadership in glacier preservation, advocating for 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation and proposing an International Fund for Glacier Conservation to address water security and regional stability. **Mrs. Zhang Ling** (CICA Deputy Secretary General) stressed glacier loss as a threat to water security, biodiversity and disaster resilience, reaffirming CICA's commitment to equitable water governance and sustainable development following the 2024 CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues.

Keynote Speakers were Mr. Shahin Shahyarov, Acting Director of Analysis and Strategic Studies Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and Senior Representative from COP29 Presidency, and Dr. Ugur Turan, Expert in the environmental dimension of the CICA Secretariat.

Mr. Shahin Shahyarov (Senior Representative of the COP29 Presidency) presented key historic outcomes of Baku COP and various COP29 Action Agenda initiatives, among which water issues became one of the priorities. He further detailed the Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action, endorsed by 71 countries, including 11 CICA Member States, aiming to ensure that water is no longer a silent victim of climate change, but rather a catalyst for climate

solutions and to foster inclusive partnerships and transboundary cooperation for climate resilience. **Dr. Ugur Turan** (Expert, CICA Secretariat) presented outcomes from the 2024 CICA Ministerial Conference, focusing on climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable water management and pollution control as pillars of CICA's environmental agenda.

The open discussions were aimed to present various perspectives and best practices from different CICA countries and international organizations serving to broader understanding of most needed actions and cooperation in the context of water security, climate resilience and sustainable development of the region,

Prof. Dr. Lutfi Akca (President, Turkish Water Institute, SUEN) shared Türkiye's water efficiency campaigns, including optimized irrigation and public awareness initiatives, as replicable models for water-scarce CICA regions. **Mr. Buyannemekh Boris** (Director General, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Mongolia) showcased Mongolia's "One Billion Trees" initiative, a reforestation effort to combat climate change, enhance water retention and bolster ecosystem resilience. **Dr. Winai Wangpimool** (Director, Foreign Affairs Division, Mekong River Commission Secretariat, Thailand) discussed the Mekong River Commission's nature-based solutions, such as wetland restoration, to promote water security and regional cooperation in the Mekong basin. **Ms. Fariza Abduova** (Head of Division, Ministry for Ecology and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan) presented Kazakhstan's revised Water Code, which strengthens governance through improved regulations and transboundary cooperation to address shrinking water availability. **Ms. Kong Zhe** (Deputy Division Director, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China) highlighted China's AI-driven water monitoring technologies for real-time quality and flow management, enhancing climate resilience and resource efficiency.

Mr. Anshuman Varma (UNESCAP) pledged technical support and knowledge exchange for glacier preservation, aligning with regional and global sustainability goals. **Mr. Margulan Ibraimov** (SCO) emphasized shared environmental challenges and SCO's commitment to deepen collaboration with CICA on water and climate resilience. **Mr. Bakytzhan Arystanbek** (IOFS) underscored water's role in food security, detailing initiatives like water purification projects in Afghanistan and proposing knowledge exchange to scale solutions.

Main Outcomes

The side event facilitated constructive dialogue among Member States, showcasing innovative national strategies to address glacier retreat and water security challenges. The speakers' contributions demonstrated a unified commitment to addressing water security and sustainable development through innovative and collaborative approaches. The diverse strategies, from Türkiye's water efficiency campaigns to China's technological innovations and Mongolia's reforestation efforts, highlighted the potential for knowledge-sharing across Member States.

The event strengthened partnerships with international organizations, including UNESCAP, SCO and IOFS, creating opportunities for technical exchanges and joint projects. International organizations' pledges for technical support and collaboration further validated CICA's growing influence in global environmental diplomacy, positioning it as a key platform for regional solutions.

It built on the 2024 CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issue's outcomes and COP29's legacy, solidifying CICA's commitment to climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable water management. Azerbaijan's leadership as CICA Chair further elevated the global visibility of

CICA's environmental initiatives and reinforced CICA's role as a catalyst for environmental cooperation. The emphasis on COP29's legacy and the 2024 CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues outcomes underscored the importance of sustained political will and coordinated action, aligning national priorities with global climate goals to ensure long-term resilience and sustainability.

In last, from CICA's perspective, the event reaffirmed the value of multilateral dialogue in shaping effective regional responses to shared environmental challenges, particularly in the areas of glacier retreat and water security.

Conclusion and Expert Analysis

The side event highlighted the urgent need to address water security and climate resilience in the CICA region, where glacier melt threatens water supplies for over 1.5 billion people. Approximately 60% of Asia's glaciers, particularly in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya and Central Asia, may disappear by 2100 under current warming scenarios, reducing water availability by around 20% in countries like Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Central Asia's per capita water availability has already declined dramatically over the past two decades due to glacier retreat, population growth and inefficient water usage. Environmental challenges, including biodiversity loss, desertification and glacial lake outburst flood risks, further threaten regional stability.

CICA Member States viewed the platform as vital for fostering dialogue, sharing innovative solutions and coordinating transboundary efforts. Speakers emphasized collective action, technology and nature-based solutions, aligning with global frameworks like the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation. Future collaboration proposals included institutionalizing the environmental

theme, enhancing technical exchanges and scaling joint projects on water and food security.

The side event strengthened CICA's environmental agenda by promoting confidence-building measures for transboundary issues, aligning with Azerbaijan's 2024–2026 Chairmanship priorities of connectivity, digitalization and sustainable growth. It underscored CICA's role as a platform for dialogue and practical solutions across its 28 Member States. The event laid the foundation for future initiatives, such as institutionalizing the environmental theme and aligned CICA's efforts with global frameworks like the UN's International Year of Glaciers' Preservation (2025) and the Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences (2025–2034). Partnerships with international organizations further enhanced CICA's influence in global environmental diplomacy.

CICA Secretariat

16.06.2025

Prepared by expert Dr. Ugur Turan

List of Speakers

Moderator:

- Mr. Kamran Seyfullayev, Second Secretary, Regional Security Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Azerbaijan (in-person).

Welcoming Remarks:

- H.E. Alimirzamin Askerov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Tajikistan (in-person).
- Mr. Isfandiyor Shukurzoda, First Deputy Chairman, Committee for Environmental Protection, Tajikistan (in-person).
- Mrs. Zhang Ling, CICA Deputy Secretary General (in-person).

Keynote Speakers:

- Mr. Shahin Shahyarov, Acting Director, Analysis and Strategic Studies Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Azerbaijan, Senior Representative, COP29 Presidency, (in-person).
- Dr. Ugur Turan, Expert in the CICA environmental dimension, CICA Secretariat (in-person).

Open Discussions (CICA Member States):

- Prof. Dr. Lutfi Akca, President, Turkish Water Institute (SUEN), Türkiye (online).
- Mr. Buyannemekh Boris, Director General, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Mongolia (in-person).
- Dr. Winai Wangpimool, Director, Foreign Affairs Division, Mekong River Commission Secretariat, Thailand (in-person).
- Ms. Fariza Abduova, Head of Division, Ministry for Ecology and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan (online).

- Ms. Kong Zhe, Deputy Division Director, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China (online).

Open Discussions (International Organizations):

- Mr. Anshuman Varma, Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP (in-person).
- Mr. Margulan Ibraimov, Referent, SCO Secretariat (in-person).
- Mr. Bakytzhan Arystanbek, Project Manager, IOFS (in-person).

**H.E. Mr. Alimirzamin Asgarov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the Republic of Tajikistan**

Excellencies, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Tajikistan for hosting today's side-event, as well as for the excellent organization of the conference as a whole and for the warm hospitality extended to all of us.

It's my pleasure to be here today and address the audience on behalf of Azerbaijani CICA Chairmanship on the subject of utmost relevance and importance for CICA Member States.

Azerbaijan has taken the helm of CICA Chairmanship for 2024-2026 against the backdrop of increased complexity in international affairs, accompanied by drastic challenges that know no border and continued erosion of multilateralism.

Based on its strong track record of upholding effective multilateralism and promotion of mutually respectful dialogue and cooperation, Azerbaijan is determined to spare no effort in bridging the existing differences, building trust and confidence with the aim of contributing to materializing the potential of CICA for common benefit for all Member States.

To this end, we have embarked on an ambitious Chairmanship program under the overarching theme of "Stronger CICA: Connectivity, Digitalization and Sustainable Growth in Asia".

In all our endeavors, we count on proactive cooperation of the Member States. It is only through our joint commitment and dedication that we can collectively ensure meaningful outcomes in tackling the challenges that the CICA region face.

This is especially true when it comes to addressing climate and environment-related issues, which are becoming ever more urgent. There is a growing necessity of enhancing climate resilience and adaptive capacity as the impacts of climate change become more tangible and acute than ever before.

With this in mind, our CICA Chairmanship priorities also include green transition and sustainable development. CICA Chairmanship of Azerbaijan pays close attention to the environmental dimension, including the water issue, which maintains cross-cutting importance for stability, security and sustainable development in CICA Member States.

One of the main vehicles through which Azerbaijan sets out to realize its Chairmanship vision and promote the implementation of the core CICA objectives is confidence building measures (CBMs). Enhancing the role of CBMs and amplifying their effectiveness for greater intra-CICA coherence and beneficial synergies, including in the environmental dimension and the areas of water and sustainable rebuilding, are among our Chairmanship priorities.

To this end, we also aim to utilize and build on our rich experience of COP29 Presidency that facilitated our result-oriented engagement on the environment and climate issues with a wide range of stakeholders.

Last year in Baku, we faced a make-or-break moment, as we had to deliver on the core issues of the climate agenda. Despite overwhelming challenges, we managed to collectively achieve historic outcomes, with groundbreaking decisions for climate action, including full operationalization of carbon markets and most importantly, setting a new target of at least \$300 billion per year by 2035 in climate finance for developing countries, thus tripling the previous goal, as well as laying out a bold Baku Finance Goal. This Goal has put forth an ambition to scale up climate finance to at least \$1.3 trillion per year by 2035.

Moreover, through our 14 global action agenda initiatives that we put forward to complement the formal negotiation process and catalyze action and ambition across all sectors, including water, we further contributed to strengthening collective climate efforts.

The high importance and relevance of this and other outcomes achieved at COP29 can't be overemphasized also for CICA Member States, which continue facing severe climate change related challenges, including in the area of water security and rapid melting of glaciers. Addressing them is essential for enhancing climate resilience and adaptive capacities of CICA Member States, thus making CICA region more environmentally sustainable and resilient to climate change.

Our water resources are vital ecosystems and natural regulators of global climate. Rivers, also fed by glaciers, irrigate fields and provide life-sustaining water that a large number of livelihoods in the CICA region depend on. However, water pollution, worsening floods, rising sea levels, or rapid retreat of glaciers caused by climate change, result in severe impacts on the environment, as well as the maintenance of human well-being, health and sustainable development in CICA Member States.

It is a high time for CICA to enhance our regional dialogue and accelerate collaboration in the environmental dimension, so that we can start translating our awareness into collective action and join efforts to safeguard the environment and increase our climate resilience. Given its wide and climatically diverse geography, CICA could provide a significant input to global efforts on climate action, including water governance and preservation of glaciers.

I hope this side-event will serve as a favorable platform for circulation and consideration of new ideas that could feed our future efforts and collaboration

in addressing the climate and environmental challenges that impact the CICA region. The CICA Chairmanship of Azerbaijan stands ready, as a trusted partner, in facilitating and advancing these efforts going forward.

Thank you all once again for your participation and commitment.

I wish you a successful event and fruitful discussions.

Mr. Isfandiyo Shukurzoda, First Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

Уважаемые дамы и господа, Дорогие участники,

От имени Комитета по охране окружающей среды при Правительстве Республики Таджикистан разрешите тепло поприветствовать вас на сегодняшнем мероприятии, посвящённом теме *«Водная безопасность и климатическая устойчивость: Решение экологических проблем в государствах-членах Совецания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА)»*.

Прежде всего, хочу выразить искреннюю признательность Секретариату СВМДА за инициативу проведения этой встречи, а также за приглашение принять участие в обсуждении столь важных и актуальных вопросов.

Тема, вынесенная на повестку дня, затрагивает одни из самых насущных вызовов для всего азиатского региона. Водная безопасность и климатическая устойчивость являются неотъемлемыми условиями для устойчивого развития, экологического равновесия и социальной стабильности.

Вода объединяет нас — исторически, географически и стратегически. И именно поэтому вопросы водных ресурсов неизменно занимают центральное место в межгосударственной повестке.

Только на основе доверия, партнерства и солидарности мы сможем превратить водный потенциал региона в точку опоры д

ля нашего общего будущего. Эффективное водное сотрудничество — это не только залог развития, но и мощный фактор стабильности, мира и доверия.

Наш регион динамично развивается. Однако новые вызовы — изменение климата, рост населения, неэффективные методы водопользования, нехватка инвестиций и технологий — усугубляют давление на водные ресурсы. И если мы не будем действовать решительно, последствия могут быть необратимыми.

Особенно хочу подчеркнуть взаимосвязь этих вопросов с сохранением ледников, которые играют ключевую роль в обеспечении пресной водой значительной части населения региона.

Осознавая масштаб угроз, Президент Республики Таджикистан предложил инициативу об объявлении 2025-го года Международным годом сохранения ледников, учреждении Всемирного дня ледников, а также создании Международного фонда по их сохранению. Эти инициативы получили широкую поддержку и, как мы убеждены, могут стать толчком для нового глобального движения по защите криосферы.

Интенсивное таяние ледников в результате изменения климата представляет серьезную угрозу процессу обеспечения благоприятных условий жизни населения и защите водных ресурсов. Климатические изменения уже сегодня трансформируют ландшафт нашего региона. Таджикистан — страна, где формируется до 60% всех водных ресурсов Центральной Азии, — остро чувствует эти перемены.

За последние десятилетия мы потеряли значительную часть объёмов наших ледников. Только ледник Федченко — крупнейший на материковой

части региона — сократился почти на 2 кубических километра. И эта тенденция продолжается.

По данным исследований, за последние несколько десятилетий более тысячи ледников в Таджикистане полностью исчезли и это тревожная тенденция, с которой невозможно справиться усилиями одного государства. Нам необходима широкая, скоординированная международная поддержка, а также активизация регионального взаимодействия.

Вызывает беспокойство то, что нынешнее ускоренное таяние и отступление ледников оказывает серьезное воздействие на окружающую среду, здоровье человека и устойчивое развитие.

Процесс ускоренного таяния ледников привел к увеличению природных катаклизмов и деградации водной экосистемы. Это явление ежегодно становится причиной разрушения народно-хозяйственных объектов и нанесения значительных финансовых убытков населению страны.

Однако, к сожалению, процессы глобального потепления и изменение климата вызывают их стремительное таяние, что напрямую угрожает водной безопасности не только нашей страны, но и всего региона.

Сегодня мы сталкиваемся с последствиями деградации водных экосистем, нарушением режима водоснабжения, рисками стихийных бедствий — в том числе селевых потоков и наводнений, которые происходят всё чаще и с более тяжёлыми последствиями. В условиях климатических изменений необходимо вырабатывать долгосрочные стратегии адаптации, модернизировать водохозяйственную инфраструктуру, внедрять инновационные технологии водосбережения, а также усиливать мониторинг и научные исследования.

Уважаемые участники,

Нельзя забывать, что вода — это не только источник жизни, но и фактор мира и сотрудничества. Там, где налажено совместное управление водными ресурсами, укрепляется доверие и создаются прочные связи между странами.

Поэтому мы высоко ценим платформу СВМДА, как уникальный механизм для построения взаимопонимания, обмена лучшими практиками и выработки согласованных подходов к вопросам экологической безопасности.

В этой связи, мы видим следующие направления для углубления сотрудничества СВМДА:

- Проведение совместных научных исследований в области гляциологии и гидрологии: Объединение усилий стран позволит более точно оценить масштабы и последствия таяния ледников, разработать научно обоснованные прогнозы изменения водного стока и адаптировать к ним стратегии водопользования.

- Развитие региональных систем раннего предупреждения о гидрометеорологических опасностях: Укрепление систем оповещения о наводнениях, селях и засухах с использованием ведущих технологий и опыта позволит минимизировать риски для населения и экономики региона.

- Обмен опытом и технологиями в сфере водосбережения: Внедрение современных водосберегающих технологий в сельском хозяйстве и промышленности является критически важным для повышения эффективности водопользования. Мы заинтересованы в изучении и адаптации опыта стран в этой сфере.

В этой связи хочу ещё раз отметить значимость проводимой в Душанбе Международной конференции высокого уровня по сохранению ледников. Это важная международная платформа, направленная на объединение усилий всех заинтересованных сторон, включая государства, международные организации, научные круги и гражданское общество, для защиты ледников и обеспечения устойчивого управления водными ресурсами.

Уверен, что сегодняшние обсуждения и предложения внесут ценный вклад в развитие регионального взаимодействия по вопросам водной и климатической безопасности, а также укрепят общие усилия в борьбе с последствиями изменения климата.

Желаю всем участникам плодотворной работы, конструктивного диалога и успешного продвижения к достижению общих целей.

Благодарю за внимание.

Mrs. Zhang Ling, CICA Deputy Secretary General for the CICA Side Event

Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure and profound gratitude that I welcome you today at this significant CICA side event on “Water Security and Climate Resilience: Addressing Environmental Challenges in CICA Member States,” organized by the CICA Chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the support of the CICA Secretariat.

First and foremost, allow me to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Government of Tajikistan for kindly hosting this important gathering in the beautiful city of Dushanbe. Your warm hospitality and unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability provide an inspiring background for our discussions. I also wish to express deep appreciation to the Azerbaijan for their visionary climate diplomacy leadership in convening this timely dialogue, reinforcing our collective resolve to tackle pressing environmental challenges in the CICA region.

Glaciers, often referred to as the essence of our planet’s water systems, are crucial to the ecosystems, economies, and livelihoods across the CICA region. These frozen reservoirs sustain rivers, sustain agricultural lands, and ensure access to clean water for millions of people. Yet, the faster melting of glaciers due to climate change poses an existential threat to water security, biodiversity, and disaster resilience in our Member States. From the high peaks of the Pamir mountains to the vast crises of Central and South Asia, the loss of glaciers worsens water scarcity, desertification, and extreme weather events, challenging the sustainable development of our region. The risks could not be higher, and the urgency for collective action has never been more apparent.

This side event builds on the momentum of the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues, held in Astana in 2024, which marked a pivotal moment in our shared commitment to environmental sustainability. The conference underscored the critical need for enhanced regional cooperation in water management, clean water access, and climate resilience. Its outcome document reaffirmed CICA's dedication to fostering dialogue, coordinating policies, and implementing joint actions to address these interconnected challenges. Today, we carry forward that legacy by exploring actionable strategies to safeguard our water resources, promote sustainable water governance, and ensure equitable access to clean water for all.

As we embark on today's discussions, let us be guided by the spirit of collaboration and a shared vision for a resilient, water-secure CICA region. Together, we can transform challenges into opportunities, ensuring that our glaciers, rivers, and ecosystems continue to sustain life for generations to come. I look forward to the rich exchange of ideas and the concrete outcomes that will emerge from this gathering.

Thank you once again to Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and all participants for your dedication to this honorable reason. Let us begin this important dialogue with optimism and purpose.

Mr. Shahin Shahyarov, Senior Representative, COP29 Presidency, Azerbaijan

It is an honour to join you for this important event.

Let me begin by expressing my gratitude to the Government of Tajikistan for hosting us in the beautiful city of Dushanbe.

When Azerbaijan assumed the COP29 Presidency, we recognized the responsibility to help tackle the most pressing challenges facing the global community. At COP29, we achieved several historic outcomes:

- We adopted the Baku Finance Goal, committing to mobilize at least 300 billion dollars for the developing world by 2035.
- We established high-integrity carbon markets.
- We operationalized the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage.

And we launched various COP29 Action Agenda initiatives, among which water issues became one of the priorities. When the hydrological cycle is disrupted, everything is affected—from agriculture and public health to energy systems and peace.

This is a shared challenge - felt by all, regardless of development status - but especially urgent in the CICA region, where countries share both water resources and climate vulnerabilities.

Here, we face a convergence of risks:

- Glaciers that once fed our rivers are retreating rapidly.
- Water demand is growing due to agriculture, energy, and population growth.
- Institutional mechanisms for coordinated water management remain limited.

These dynamics increase the risk that local water stress becomes a broader regional crisis.

With this awareness, Azerbaijan launched the COP29 Declaration on Water for Climate Action—the first political declaration focused on water, adopted on the margins of a UN Climate Change Conference. It calls for transformative action at the water-climate nexus by:

- Promoting inclusive dialogue and partnerships;
- Strengthening scientific understanding of climate impacts on water systems;
- Developing water-integrated policies and plans - including NDCs, NAPs, and national biodiversity strategies.

A core component of the Declaration is the Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action -a platform to ensure continuity and cooperation on water across COPs. This Dialogue addresses water in connection with climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and desertification, prioritizing action at the international, regional, and basin levels.

The Baku Dialogue serves as a bridge between climate diplomacy and basin-level cooperation, bringing together Member States, river basin organizations, development partners, civil society, and technical experts to develop actionable pathways. These range from enhancing early warning systems and climate-resilient infrastructure to scaling nature-based solutions and strengthening transboundary governance.

Our aim is to ensure that water is no longer a silent victim of climate change, but rather a catalyst for climate solutions—and that regions like ours, with shared rivers and shared risks, lead the way in turning vulnerability into cooperation and resilience.

As of today, the Declaration has been endorsed by close to 100 stakeholders, including 71 countries, *11 of which are Member States of CICA*, and is already shaping momentum toward more collaborative and coherent action.

In this spirit, we believe CICA has a unique and timely role to play. With its inclusive structure and emphasis on dialogue and confidence-building, CICA can facilitate greater transboundary cooperation - particularly in areas where rivers and glaciers cross borders - by fostering trust, enabling data and knowledge exchange, and supporting the harmonization of institutional frameworks.

We warmly invite CICA as an institutional stakeholder to join and support the work of the Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action, and we equally welcome all CICA Member States to engage individually in this collaborative process. The Dialogue is open, inclusive, and designed to advance regional leadership in addressing water-related climate risks.

As Chair of CICA and President of COP29, Azerbaijan stands ready to support CICA's engagement and to build synergies with the Baku Dialogue.

Dr. Ugur Turan, Expert in the CICA environmental dimension, CICA Secretariat

Distinguished Excellencies, esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor to address you at this CICA Side Event. I would like to thank the CICA Chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan for organizing and supporting this event and extend my gratitude to the host country, Tajikistan.

I have a short presentation regarding our achievements, future plans, and a brief comparative analysis of environmental-focused indicators for CICA Member States.

Slide 2

CICA represents 28 Member States and half the world's population. It is a vital multilateral platform dedicated to promoting peace, security, and cooperation within its five dimensions for confidence-building measures across Asia.

The CICA Environmental Dimension has three priority areas, each with coordinator and co-coordinator countries: Sustainable Development, coordinator is Thailand, Environment Protection's coordinator is Mongolia and co-coordinators are Bangladesh and China, and Natural Disaster Management's coordinator country is Iran, co-coordinator is Bangladesh. We undertake activities like seminars, workshops, and online and offline training sessions to address regional environmental issues faced by our Members.

Slide 3

The cornerstone of our environmental efforts was the first-ever CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues, held on 28 August 2024 in Astana. This initiative, proposed during the Sixth CICA Summit by the President of

Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, aimed to identify environmental issues among CICA Member States.

This landmark event marked an essential step in addressing shared environmental challenges across our region. The conference focused on critical themes: all forms of pollution, climate change impacts, sustainable and green economy, ensuring access to safe, clean water, and biodiversity preservation.

It is well known that Asia includes countries vulnerable to climate change and other environmental issues, such as water scarcity, resource management, pollution's impact on ecosystems, desertification, floods, earthquakes, etc. These challenges, worsened by climate change, impact ecosystems, economies, and public health, demanding urgent collective action. This is why the Conference was crucial for our region.

These discussions culminated in the adoption of the High-Level Statement, a powerful commitment to environmental sustainability, focusing on improving quality of life region-wide and fostering regional cooperation.

Slide 4

Key outcomes included pledges for climate adaptation to tackle extreme weather, biodiversity conservation to protect ecosystems, sustainable water management to address scarcity and glacier melt, pollution control to protect health, and knowledge exchange to share best practices.

These commitments provide a strong framework for CICA's long-term environmental agenda, fostering permanent cooperation on environmental issues such as transboundary challenges.

To address these challenges regularly, CICA Member States are exploring the establishment of a permanent CICA advisory body on environmental themes to

drive cooperation on environmental sustainability within the region, building on the initiative of the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues held last year. This body, tentatively called the CICA Environmental Council, will foster cooperation, enable knowledge exchange, and advance green development policies within the CICA agenda. CICA's vision for a sustainable future emphasizes supporting its Member States in shifting to a low-carbon economy.

We have been highly inspired by COP29's legacy, hosted by Azerbaijan, and the CICA Chairmanship's climate diplomacy leadership, including the Baku Climate Unity Pact and advancements in global climate finance. The conference emphasized supporting Member States in moving to low-carbon economies through renewable energy and green technology.

CICA's participation in COP29, including high-level events like the "High-Level Roundtable on Energy" co-hosted by Azerbaijan and the International Energy Agency, reinforced our commitment to climate action.

Looking ahead, CICA is developing a strong environmental agenda through international fora. For example, the Glacier Conservation conference in Tajikistan, World Environment Day in Azerbaijan in 2026, the Regional Climate Summit in Kazakhstan next year, the UN Water Conference co-hosted by the UAE and Senegal in December 2026, and COP17 in Mongolia will further collaboration on environmental issues.

Slide 5

The CICA Member States face diverse challenges. Climate change affects all nations, while biodiversity loss impacts 22 CICA Member States, alongside droughts, floods, air pollution, extreme heat, desertification, and water scarcity, which are among the top concerns in CICA Member States. These shared

challenges underscore the urgent need for regional cooperation and solidarity to build resilience and promote sustainable development across our region.

Slide 6

This slide highlights SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and the 2024 SDG Index Scores, showing both progress and challenges across CICA Member States. Among them, South Korea leads with a score of 77.33, followed by Thailand at 74.67, reflecting strong progress in sustainable development. However, nations like Afghanistan and Pakistan, face significant challenges, particularly in achieving SDG 6. Water scarcity, pollution, and insufficient infrastructure remain critical issues.

I would like to stress that with only five years until 2030, we must strengthen collective action to meet these goals.

Slide 7

In conclusion, the urgency of the SDGs cannot be overstated. CICA's commitment to environmental sustainability, supported by the 2024 CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues and inspired by COP29's legacy, demands collective action and regional solidarity.

By prioritizing digitalization, knowledge exchange, and green technologies, we can address critical challenges like water scarcity, pollution, and climate impacts. Together, we share the responsibility to build a resilient, low-carbon future for our region.

Thank you for your attention, and I wish all participants a productive side event.

Distinguished Participants,

On behalf of the Republic of Türkiye, I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Azerbaijan, current Chair of CICA, for convening this important session under the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation.

We are here today to discuss a critical issue that affects the future of our region: the growing threat of water insecurity due to climate change, glacier retreat, and environmental degradation. In many CICA member countries, rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, reducing snow fall and decreasing snow cover are not abstract risks, they are realities we face each year.

Glaciers are melting fast. Apart from glaciers; area of snow cover and the number of snow-covered days are also decreasing in CICA region and globally. These changes are impacting food production, ecosystems, and livelihoods especially in arid and semi-arid regions like ours.

Unfortunately, we cannot stop glacier melt totally. Science tells us that some of the loss is already irreversible. That is why we must not only focus on preservation but also plan for a future where glaciers or snow-covered mountains are no longer a reliable source of water. This means we must rethink water governance with a new mind-set; one that is based on resilience, adaptation, and long-term sustainability.

In Türkiye, we are already taking steps in this direction. Periodic floods and droughts are becoming more frequent and severe. The runoff to the rivers is less than the long-term average flows in our Basins due to the decreased number of snow-covered days and snow-covered areas and the shift of the

snow line to higher altitudes. In response to this challenge; storing water in reservoirs is one of the most convenient methods. It is the key for effective water management and resilience ensuring regulated water flows even during dry periods.

Moreover, we believe in the balance between use and conservation. And we promote integrated water management across all sectors. With this vision, we have also launched a national Water Efficiency Campaign to promote responsible water use, especially in agriculture, the sector with the highest consumption.

We also strongly believe in the power of regional cooperation. Türkiye, as both an upstream and downstream country, supports collaborative solutions. We believe in sharing not only water, but also technology, solutions, investment and benefits. Only through cooperation we can meet the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6.

Dear Participants,

Preserving glaciers is about more than protecting ice. It is about using water efficiently, protecting water, protecting life and ecosystems. It is about preparing for the world of tomorrow, while taking action today.

Türkiye stands ready to contribute and collaborate in this effort. Thank you.

Mr. Buyannemekh Boris, Director General, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Mongolia

Distinguished colleagues, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my gratitude to the CICA Secretariat, the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan as CICA Chair, and the Government of Tajikistan for organizing this important event at such a critical moment for climate and environmental cooperation in our region.

Mongolia is a proud member of the CICA process and remains committed to the principles of dialogue, mutual trust, and regional cooperation.

Today's theme resonates deeply with Mongolia's national priorities. As a landlocked country with a sensitive ecosystem, we are quite susceptible to climate change impacts. We're experiencing increased desertification and growing water stress across our regions..

Glacier loss is a shared environmental concern. For Mongolia, glacier-fed rivers are vital for many communities and ecosystems. As glaciers recede, water availability becomes less certain, posing challenges for both development and ecological balance.

In response, Mongolia is advancing several key initiatives. Our "One Billion Trees" national campaign aims to restore degraded land and improve water retention. We also continue to engage in regional cooperation to share knowledge and coordinate efforts on.

Mongolia also supports CICA's evolving environmental agenda. We welcome the outcomes of the 2024 Ministerial Conference in Astana and believe that they should now be translated into actionable regional roadmaps.

The upcoming 17th Session of Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, which Mongolia will host in 2026, offers a unique platform to align our efforts on drylands, rangelands, and sustainable land and water management.

Distinguished participants, let us reaffirm our shared responsibility. Water security and climate resilience must become the cornerstones of a peaceful and prosperous Asia. Platforms like CICA can and must play a greater role — not only by facilitating dialogue but by helping build technical capacities, encouraging joint pilot projects, and fostering synergies between member states and international institutions.

Thank you.

Dr. Winai Wangpimool, Director, Foreign Affairs Division, Mekong River Commission Secretariat, Thailand

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of Thailand, as the coordinator of the CICA sustainable development priority area, I am honored to join this important discussion on water security and climate resilience.

2. Today, many CICA Member States are facing growing water challenges. In Thailand, we are not yet water scarce. However, as our population grows and cities expands, water demand continues to increase. This, combined with more frequent droughts and floods due to climate change, could lead to serious problems in the future. That is why effective and flexible water management is essential, not just for long-term development but also for protecting people's lives and livelihoods.

3. To address these issues, Thailand employs a strategic and integrated approach. We promote Strategic Environmental Assessment as a framework to guide decision-making, balancing economic, social, and environmental dimensions. This means thinking not just about water supply, but also about how those plans will affect the environment, communities, and the economy in the long run. In 2024, our National Water Resources Committee agreed to apply this approach in 22 main river basins across the country. This was also supported by our National Economic and Social Development Council, which saw the benefit of using this method in our long-term national water strategy. The goal is to help local river basin committees create better, more informed plans that respond to climate risks and local needs.

4. But beyond planning, we must also rethink how we interact with nature.

Across the globe, we are facing extreme weather events more frequently including floods, droughts, wildfires, and pollution. These are not just environmental issues; they affect our health, our livelihoods, and our communities. One of the key causes is the destruction of nature. As forests are cut down, wetlands drained, and ecosystems degraded, we see rising temperatures and more unpredictable rainfall. Traditional infrastructure alone cannot handle these changes. That is why Thailand is strongly promoting Nature-based Solutions as part of our national water strategy.

These include restoring wetlands, protecting forests, and building “green” infrastructure that works with nature rather than against it. Such solutions can reduce flood risks, improve water retention, and strengthen community resilience, often at a lower cost than traditional engineering.

And importantly, they are inclusive. Everyone can contribute, whether by planting trees, preserving green spaces in urban areas, or supporting local conservation efforts and so on.

5. Beyond our national actions, cooperation is key, especially for countries like Thailand, located within several transboundary river basins. These shared waters require shared solutions.

6. On the bilateral front, Thailand works with Myanmar to manage flooding along the Mae Sai River, focusing on reducing flood risks and ensuring fair water allocation. Moreover, we also have Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with countries that may not share a river with Thailand but face similar challenges, such as the Netherlands, Hungary, the Republic of Korea, and China. These partnerships enable the exchange of best practices, technologies, and innovations to enhance water resources management and

improve climate change adaptation, in order to increase the efficiency of water resources management at both national and regional levels.

7. At the multilateral level, Thailand actively engages in frameworks such as the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC), the Mekong River Commission (MRC), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). For example, Thailand is one of the founding members of the Mekong River Commission (MRC), along with Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam. Under the 1995 Mekong Agreement, we have jointly established five key procedures covering data sharing, prior consultation, water use, water quality, and flow monitoring to support ecosystem conservation and promote sustainable development.

8. Looking ahead, we believe CICA can play a stronger role in translating ministerial outcomes into actionable regional strategies, while aligning national efforts with international frameworks such as the UNFCCC and the 2030 Agenda. By doing so, CICA can position itself as a key driver of climate diplomacy and environmental security in our region.

9. Lastly, Thailand stands ready and remains committed to working with all CICA Member States toward a more sustainable and water-secure future.

10. Thank you.

Ms. Fariza Abduova, Head of Division, Ministry for Ecology and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan

Dear colleagues!

Dear participants of the Conference!

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to the organizers for convening this important session, which gives us the opportunity to address one of the most pressing and sensitive issues of our time – Water Security and Climate Resilience in the CICA region.

Kazakhstan places significant importance on collaboration with the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia. Our country is actively engaged in its initiatives and view environmental cooperation as a key element in building trust and promoting sustainable development.

Last year under the chairmanship of Kazakhstan, the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues was held, during which a unified approach to addressing environmental, water management and climate issues was confirmed. We emphasized the importance of coordinated actions and exchange of knowledge, practice and technology.

Recognizing the need for a permanent regional dialogue and development of joint documents to address these pressing issues within the CICA, we believe it is necessary to institutionalize cooperation between our countries.

In this context, we strongly believe it is necessary to continue the discussion of the issue on establishment of the CICA Environmental Council, initiated by the Head of State H.E. K. Tokayev at the sixth CICA Summit.

This Council would become an important tool for coordinating CICA states efforts to combat environmental challenges.

Dear colleagues,

Solving water problems is one of the most important priorities of Kazakhstan.

It is worth noting that important reforms in the field of water resources are being implemented in our country. Last year the Concept for the Development of the Water Resources Management System by 2030 was approved.

This year our President signed the new Water Code, which establishes modern mechanisms for recording, planning and protecting water resources, strengthens measures to prevent water shortages and adapt to climate change. For the first time, the concept of "water security" was introduced into legislation.

As it is known, the first "One Water Summit" was held in 2024 by joint initiative of the Presidents of Kazakhstan and France, bringing together leaders, experts, and civil society to develop a holistic approach to water ecosystems. One of the key messages of this Summit was that water is one, and only integrated management of this resource will enable effective adaptation to climate and environmental challenges.

Today, when we speak about the protection of water resources, we cannot avoid speaking of climate issue.

In response to the climate challenge, our country is taking consistent steps toward the development of a comprehensive and strategic climate policy.

Kazakhstan ratified the Paris Agreement and adopted a Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060.

Currently, work is underway to develop a Roadmap for the implementation of this Strategy. This document will serve as a key tool in ensuring the transition to low-carbon development by uniting efforts across all sectors of the economy

— energy, transport, industry, agriculture, as well as water and ecosystem resources.

Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources together with international organizations and experts is working on the development of new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0) under the Paris Agreement. It will be a key strategic document reflecting our commitment to more ambitious greenhouse gas emission reductions and the implementation of adaptation measures aligned with national priorities and capacities.

To strengthen joint action and develop coordinated approaches within the regional climate process, the Regional Climate Summit will be held in Kazakhstan next year.

This Summit will focus on supporting the climate transition, economic adaptation, food security, and a just regional transition. We invite all CICA countries to take an active part in the work of the Summit.

Dear participants,

Environmental problems have no boundaries and they can only be solved by joining forces.

I am convinced that today's session will provide a good impetus for improving the activities in the area of environmental protection in the CICA region.

Thank you for your attention.

Ms. Kong Zhe, Deputy Division Director, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China

Distinguished Ambassador Askarov, Deputy Chairman Isfandiyor, Deputy Secretary-General Zhang Ling,

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

Very pleased to be invited to participate in this CICA side event. On behalf of the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, please allow me to extend my congratulations on the convening of this meeting and express my gratitude to the Chair Country Azerbaijan, the Host Country Tajikistan, and the CICA Secretariat for their meticulous preparations for the meeting.

Facing the increasingly severe global climate change and environmental issues, water security and climate resilience have become crucial topics affecting regional stability and development.

As the largest developing country, China has always attached great importance to water resources protection and climate change adaptation. By improving policies, strengthening monitoring and early warning systems, and advancing actions in key areas, China has continuously enhanced the adaptability of water ecosystems to climate change. We have built an intelligent water resources monitoring system, promoted new monitoring methods, implemented national water-saving initiatives, established rigid restraint systems, and actively promoted reforms in water resource taxes, leading to significant improvements in water use efficiency and benefits. Furthermore, China has actively promoted ecological protection and restoration projects, protected and expanded river and lake ecological spaces, addressed soil erosion, strengthened

comprehensive treatment of groundwater overextraction, and strived to achieve sustainable utilization of water resources and keep the ecological environment in a virtuous cycle.

As one of the most representative multilateral cooperation forum in Asia, CICA member states should fully leverage the diversity of civilizations and development models within the CICA mechanism to strengthen collaboration in the environmental and climate fields. Taking this opportunity, I would like to share a few suggestions:

Firstly, implement the outcome documents of the Ministerial Meeting on Environment. The CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues was held in August last year and reached a high-level statement and relevant cooperation consensus. It is recommended that all member countries jointly explore specific measures to implement these consensuses and deepen the cooperation on the ground.

Secondly, enhance policy dialogue and experience sharing. As the technical support unit for China's CICA environmental cooperation, our center has successfully hosted thematic events on biodiversity conservation, green and low-carbon city development, and other topics under the CICA mechanism. In the future, we are willing to continue to build cooperation and exchange platforms and channels for CICA member states.

Thirdly, deepen technical cooperation in the field of green and low carbon development. We suggest strengthening joint research and development, transfer, and commercialization of green and low-carbon technologies, promote the application of technologies in climate-smart water saving, water ecosystem restoration and sustainable infrastructure construction, thereby enhancing the level of green and low-carbon development in all countries.

China is the co-coordinator country of environment protection priority area within CICA. Our center is ready to play a bridging and think tank role, working with all partners to contribute "Asian solutions" to regional and global environmental governance.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Anshuman Varma, Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues,

It is an honour to speak today on behalf of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and to contribute to this timely dialogue.

Our focus on understanding how glacier loss is shaping water challenges across CICA Member States, most of whom we share in common with ESCAP's membership – is not only critical, but urgent.

Please allow me to offer three key observations:

First - Glacial retreat is deepening regional water insecurity

Our member states encompass some of the world's most glacier-dependent regions. From the Hindu Kush Himalayas and the Pamirs to the Tien Shan mountains, glaciers are the primary source of freshwater for millions.

Yet, as we know, these glaciers are shrinking, with the projection that up to 80% of glacial mass in high-mountain Asia may be lost by the end of the century. For nations in the Aral Sea Basin, and also those in the Helmand River Basin and in South Asia, this has dire implications for year-round water flow, especially during dry seasons. And sadly, it doesn't stop there: in the Caucasus and also the Mekong Basin, glacial melt is disrupting water cycles and livelihoods.

The retreat of glaciers first increases runoff and river flow – but only temporarily. Once tipping points are crossed, we see sudden declines in water availability, destabilizing both upstream and downstream water security. This jeopardizes irrigation systems, food production, energy access, and urban water supply.

Second - Climate impacts are compounding existing stressors

Climate change is not acting alone. Our member states also face a complex mix of environmental pressures: rapid population growth in several countries, industrialization, inefficient irrigation, and groundwater over-extraction.

In Central Asia, for example, water demand already outpaces availability in many catchments, with water-sharing tensions exacerbated by climatic extremes. Similarly, Mongolia and Iran are experiencing desertification alongside reduced snowfall, shorter snow retention periods, and extreme temperature fluctuations.

Moreover, black carbon pollution – from burning fossil fuels, biomass, and agricultural residues – is being deposited on glacier surfaces, darkening the ice and accelerating melt rates. This pollution is often transboundary, carried by atmospheric currents from distant regions.

The 2025 World Water Development Report emphasizes that it is the convergence of glacial retreat and poor water governance that poses the most severe risk. Without urgent and integrated responses, climate shocks will amplify social and economic vulnerabilities.

Third - Regional problems need regional cooperation and solutions – and ESCAP is here to support this

Glacier loss also poses challenges to existing water management frameworks, many of which were not designed with long-term cryospheric changes in mind. For river systems that span borders, shifts in timing and volume of flow will create new complexities for planning and resilience.

At the 81st Commission Session held in April this year, ESCAP member States adopted a resolution introduced by the Government of Tajikistan on '*Strengthening cooperation on water and climate change nexus*'. The resolution encourages collaboration with regional and subregional organizations and in

this context, ESCAP looks forward to cooperating with CICA by facilitating technical cooperation for member States, strengthening knowledge exchange, and building regional capacity in sustainable water and climate policy to jointly tackle glacier preservation, and address water-related climate risks.

Thank you for providing me this opportunity to speak.

Mr. Bakytzhan Arystanbek, Project Manager, IOFS

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Dear Colleagues,

It is a privilege to take the floor on behalf of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) at this important event.

Allow me to begin by thanking the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) for organizing this side event and for its continued engagement with IOFS. Our partnership with CICA is longstanding, and we value this opportunity to contribute to a discussion of such high relevance.

IOFS expresses its gratitude to the Government of Tajikistan for its leadership in advancing global dialogue on glacier preservation, and commend its initiative on the UN Decade of Action for Glaciers' Preservation (2025–2034). IOFS also warmly congratulates Azerbaijan on its Chairmanship of CICA and views this as an important opportunity to strengthen cooperation on water, food, and climate security across our shared region.

Dear Colleagues,

Water is the foundation of food security, climate resilience, and regional peace. It is no longer a future challenge – it is a present and growing threat. From the retreating glaciers of Central Asia to the drylands of the Sahel and salt-affected coasts, our Member States are already feeling the strain.

This is where international organizations must step in – to connect countries, transfer knowledge, and accelerate adoption of proven solutions. IOFS is actively doing that through three areas: policy support, technical tools, and regional cooperation.

1. What IOFS is Doing on the Ground

- We participate each year in Cairo Water Week and COP climate summits, where we raise awareness organizing side-events and highlight challenges and opportunities for water in agriculture.
- In Afghanistan, under the IOFS Afghanistan Food Security Program, we implemented a water purification project in 2022 to ensure access to clean drinking water in rural communities. This was followed by emergency wheat distributions in 2023. While addressing urgent needs, these interventions also reflect the long-term connection between water access, food security, and regional stability in a climate-vulnerable setting. IOFS continues to work with partners to strengthen irrigation and rural water infrastructure, contributing to resilience across Central Asia.
- We initiated the concept for a Flood Resilience Center for Food Security, and are currently engaging with national counterparts in OIC countries to move it forward – focusing on early warning, emergency planning, and climate-resilient farming systems.
- We have delivered hands-on trainings on:
 - Digital water channel monitoring in Kazakhstan;
 - Water-saving irrigation techniques in Central Asia;
 - Integrated water governance for the Lake Chad Basin;
 - And capacity-building programs for smallholder farmers in West Africa.

These are not theoretical plans – they are ongoing actions, aligned with our mandate to strengthen member state capacities.

2. Practical Recommendations for Cooperation

First, IOFS encourages joint programming with any interested partner – including CICA member states, international organizations, or bilateral donors. Given IOFS’s close work with Ministries of Agriculture and national research institutions, we are well-positioned to integrate climate-smart agriculture practices, modern irrigation systems, and food security policy support into broader environmental or development initiatives.

Second, IOFS proposes structured knowledge exchange mechanisms. This can include the alignment of workplans and timelines, the sharing of programmatic roadmaps, and the establishment of technical working groups to facilitate coordination. IOFS is also ready to help connect relevant national institutions – including meteorological services, irrigation authorities, and agricultural R&D centers – to foster targeted peer learning and replication of best practices.

3. Final Messages

To conclude, I would like to highlight three key messages based on IOFS’s experience:

- Water security is food security. Without reliable access to water, development is undermined and instability grows.
- Effective solutions already exist. The challenge is to ensure better coordination, scaling, and replication where they are most needed.
- Partnership remains essential. IOFS is fully committed to working with CICA, its member states, and other partners to implement practical, field-oriented initiatives that translate policy into action.

Insights must lead to implementation. IOFS stands ready to contribute to that collective effort.

Thank you.

Уважаемые коллеги, Дамы и господа,

Прежде всего, позвольте выразить благодарность Азербайджанской Республике и Секретариату Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии за приглашение принять участие в этом важном мероприятии, посвящённом вопросам водной безопасности и климатической устойчивости — вызовам, актуальным как для государств-членов СВМДА, так и для стран ШОС.

Наши регионы во многом пересекаются — географически, климатически и социально-экономически. Более половины государств-членов СВМДА одновременно входят в ШОС, что свидетельствует о высоком уровне сопряжения интересов и проблемных полей. Мы разделяем общую обеспокоенность по поводу стремительного таяния ледников, изменения гидрологического режима, деградации экосистем и риска обострения трансграничных водных споров.

В ответ на эти вызовы ШОС последовательно укрепляет сотрудничество в сфере охраны окружающей среды. 2024 год, объявленный Годом экологии в ШОС, стал важным этапом в развитии многостороннего сотрудничества по охране окружающей среды. Были приняты ключевые стратегические документы, среди которых Совместные подходы государств-членов ШОС к решению экологических проблем, План действий по реализации инициативы «Зелёный пояс», План мероприятий по реализации Концепции сотрудничества в области охраны окружающей среды, Заявление об эффективном управлении отходами.

Принятое на Астанинском саммите в 2024 году Заявление глав государств-членов ШОС об обеспечении безопасности питьевой воды и

санитарии подчеркнуло важность доступа к чистой воде как основы устойчивого развития и здоровья населения. Этот документ отражает системный подход к водной политике и служит основой для совместных шагов по преодолению водных рисков, особенно остро ощущаемых в регионе.

Правовую базу для экологического взаимодействия укрепило Соглашение о сотрудничестве в области охраны окружающей среды, которое создаёт прочный фундамент для реализации практических мер и координации усилий между профильными ведомствами стран ШОС.

Большое внимание уделяется вопросам борьбы с изменением климата. В 2022 году в Самарканде главы государств приняли Заявление по вопросам реагирования на изменение климата, а в развитие этого документа была создана специальная рабочая группа, координирующая действия по линии профильных ведомств.

В феврале 2024 года был подписан Меморандум о взаимопонимании между Секретариатом ШОС и Программой ООН по окружающей среде, что стало важным шагом к углублению международного взаимодействия в области экологии.

Нынешний 2025 год по решению глав государств-членов ШОС объявлен Годом устойчивого развития. Это решение стало логическим продолжением экологической повестки, последовательно выстраиваемой в рамках Организации, и отражает стремление государств-членов к выработке сбалансированных решений, сочетающих экономический рост, социальное развитие и охрану окружающей среды.

Уверен, что сегодняшнее обсуждение будет способствовать укреплению партнёрства между нашими организациями и практическому

продвижению инициатив в интересах устойчивого и экологически ответственного будущего для всего азиатского пространства.

Секретариат ШОС готов и впредь развивать конструктивное сотрудничество с Секретариатом СВМДА на основе подписанного в 2014 году Меморандума о взаимопонимании, опираясь на принципы взаимного уважения, взаимодополняемости и общей заинтересованности в решении экологических и климатических задач региона.

Благодарю за внимание.