



**Follow-up Conference to the Fifteenth
OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on**

**“Main Challenges for Providing Environmental Security and
Sustainable Development in the Region of Central Asia:
Degradation of Land and Pollution of Soil”**

Tashkent, 30-31 October 2007

Organized in co-operation with
the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan

DRAFT AGENDA

Tuesday, 30 October

9:00 Opening Session

Welcoming remarks by

- Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan
- Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan
- Representative of Spanish OSCE Chairmanship
- Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

10:00 First Plenary Session: Assessment of Current Trends in Environmental
Security and Sustainable Development in the Region of Central Asia:

This session will provide an overview of the current situation, including positive and negative trends. It would identify the main obstacles to integrated land and water resources management (e.g. lack of knowledge, appropriate tools, legislative and institutional frameworks or financing) with an emphasis on the related needs for technology transfer.

Keynote speakers (TBC):

- Prof. Victor Dukovniy, Director, Scientific Information Center of the Inter-State Commission for Water Co-ordination for Central Asia (ICWC)
- Mr. Usman Buranov, Leader, International Fund for saving the Aral Sea, GEF Project Agency.
- Prof. Hans-Peter Nachtnebel, Department of Water-Atmosphere-Environment, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria.

Questions and answers

11:15 Tea/Coffee break

11:30 Second Plenary Session: Views of officials from the Central Asian Countries

In this session, senior experts/officials of the Central Asian countries would be asked to describe how they see, for their countries and for the region, the most critical issues and the priorities in the areas of integrated land and water resources management as well as the potential role of technology transfers in addressing these issues and implementing these priorities.

- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- Afghanistan
- Mongolia

Questions and answers

13:00 Lunch

In the afternoon of the first day and in the morning of the second day, there will be parallel workshops on a number of areas or aspects of technology transfers relevant in the Central Asian context. The technology transfers being discussed could come from Spain, from other OSCE participating states and from Mediterranean and Asian Partners for co-operation. Special efforts would be made to elicit the participation of representatives from the business community. There will be stands where private companies or other entities interested in technology transfer will have the opportunity to display and distribute material.

14:30 Parallel Workshops on

- Transfer of technology in the area of irrigation

and

- Transfer of technology in the areas of water treatment and desalination (with the participation of the International Network of Basins Organisation, INBO)

16:15 Tea/Coffee break

- 16:30 Parallel Workshops on
- Transfer of technology towards improved land management, the combating of desertification and soil pollution
- and
- Analytical systems for evaluation of possibilities for increasing water and land use efficiency

Reception

Wednesday, 31 October

- 09:00 Parallel Workshops on
- Transfer of technology and expertise towards optimal combination of electricity production and water management, including models on water sharing and water allocation (e.g. SCADA)
- and
- Transfer of technology and expertise in the areas of information systems, flood prevention and enhancement of dam safety
- 10:45 Tea/Coffee break
- 11:00 Parallel Workshops on technology transfers and regional co-operation towards achieving environmental security and sustainable development in the Aral Sea Basin
- Training, gender and health aspects
- and
- Successful experiences of regional co-operation: ENVSEC experience in Central Asia (e.g. Chu and Talas Commission) and other existing frameworks (legal or other) for sustainable sharing of water resources
- 12:45 Lunch

14:30 Third Plenary Session: Support from the International Community

In this session representatives of bilateral and multilateral donors and of international financial institutions would be invited to indicate how they could support a new momentum in regional co-operation as well as technology transfer towards integrated land and water resources management in Central Asia.

The links between the achievement of environmental security and sustainable development would be stressed.

Identified organisations include the UNDP, the EU, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, EurAsEC and the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation.

16:15 Tea/Coffee break

16:30 Conclusions and Recommendations

- Representative of Uzbek Government
- Representative of Spanish Chairmanship
- OSCE Secretariat