

Joint Declaration of Intent

of the high-level Green Central Asia conference in Berlin on 28 January 2020

**on cooperation in the field of climate and security in Central Asia and Afghanistan
within the framework of Green Central Asia**

between

**the Federal Republic of Germany
and the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan,
Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

1. The Federal Republic of Germany as well as the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (hereinafter referred to as “the Central Asian states and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan”), considering the successful implementation of the Central Asia Water Initiative (Berlin Process), express their intention to extend their cooperation in the field of climate and security.

The joint initiative entitled Green Central Asia is an offer from the Federal Republic of Germany to the Central Asian states and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to support them in tackling the challenges of climate change and in strengthening regional cooperation to this end. Green Central Asia will thus play a part in implementing the EU Strategy for Central Asia.

Cooperation between the Central Asian states, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Federal Republic of Germany will include projects in the fields of environmental protection, combating the negative consequences of the Aral Sea crisis, water, renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency, glacier protection, biodiversity, afforestation, combating desertification, land management and sustainable agriculture, as well as scientific cooperation including interconnections and related fields, at local, national and regional levels.

The Central Asian states, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Federal Republic of Germany reaffirm their willingness to strengthen regional cooperation in the sphere of climate and security and sustainable development, to enhance stability and prosperity in the region as well as to continue supporting consented activities within the framework of the Berlin Process, taking into consideration new regional initiatives.

2. The Central Asian states, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Federal Republic of Germany

note the report of the UN Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly on climate change and its possible security implications of 11 September 2009, which forecasts increasing water stress, especially in drylands,

emphasise the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement and call for their full implementation,

underscore the necessity to enhance the capacity to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change, to strengthen resilience and lower greenhouse gas emissions,

refer to UN General Assembly Resolution 72/283 of 22 June 2018, “Strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in the Central Asian region”,

refer to the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which describes the impact of climate change on polar ice, mountains, permafrost, glaciers, sea levels and drinking water and the resulting consequences,

refer to the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation, in which it is stated that water, in sufficient quantity and quality, is essential for all aspects of life and sustainable development and that water resources are embedded in all forms of development (e.g. food security, health promotion and poverty reduction) and are important for economic development and agriculture, industry and energy generation as well as for maintaining healthy ecosystems,

moreover emphasise UN General Assembly Resolutions 64/292 of 28 July 2010, 68/157 of 18 December 2013, 70/169 of 17 December 2015 and 74/141 of 18 December 2019 on the human right to clean drinking water and sanitation,

emphasise further the importance of timely implementation of UN GA Resolution 71/222 on the International Decade for Action, Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028, which contributes to the implementation of goals and targets of sustainable development of water resources by creating a comprehensive and flexible framework for capacity-building in this field,

refer to the New Delhi Declaration: Investing in Land and Unlocking Opportunities (Fourteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, New Delhi, 1-12 September 2019) and note that desertification and land degradation and drought have a negative impact on the health of people and the development of the countries of the region and emphasise that the natural ecosystems of arid areas are areas requiring special attention in connection with climate change.

3. The Central Asian states, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Federal Republic of Germany also note the relevant provisions of the EU Foreign Affairs Council conclusions on water diplomacy of November 2018 highlighting the potential of water diplomacy to help safeguard security, development, prosperity and the human right to drinking water and sanitation and calling upon countries, international organisations, regional and sub-regional bodies to tackle the challenges of climate change and demographic and economic development through comprehensive responses, including through integrated water resource management at transboundary level. The states note the fact that, in its conclusions, the Council drew particular attention to the situation in several river basins, among them the Aral Sea basin in Central Asia,

Furthermore, the states take note of the conclusions of the EU Foreign Affairs Council of February 2019 on climate diplomacy. Together, they acknowledge the calls for the UN to play a more prominent role in the sphere of climate and security, inter alia by creating a comprehensive basis of information for the UN Security Council, ensuring better risk analysis, taking climate and environmental risk factors into full consideration, and developing operational responses to climate-related security risks.

4. Against this backdrop, the Central Asian states, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Federal Republic of Germany, within the framework of Green Central Asia, intend to strengthen regional cooperation and seek to give special consideration to the challenges of climate change and economic and demographic development, thus contributing to sustainable development, regional stability and security in Central Asia and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Within this context, they declare their intention to support the implementation of the abovementioned UN resolutions and to endeavour to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, where appropriate through a series of conferences on climate and security in Central Asia and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. These political dialogues will be underpinned by projects within the framework of Green Central Asia. These projects will include workshops on the early detection of climate-induced security and development risks, the analysis of climate-related security risks, further training on adaptation to climate change and strengthening of resilience including through the effective use of renewable energy sources and others. Furthermore, the Central Asian states, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Federal Republic of Germany underscore the importance of environmentally friendly technologies and infrastructure.

5. The Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan will consider the possibility of acceding to the Group of Friends on Climate and Security in New York and to expand their cooperation on climate and security to include this body. Germany co-chairs this group together with Nauru and Afghanistan is already a member.

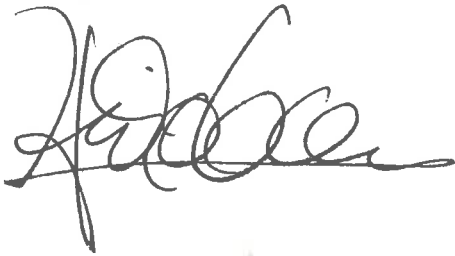
6. The Central Asian states, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Federal Republic of Germany acknowledge the particular importance of taking regional ownership of measures initiated and projects implemented within the framework of Green Central Asia. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Central Asian states are determined to incorporate the lessons learned in the course of Green Central Asia into their national and regional action plans, cooperation programmes and institutions. Furthermore, the Central Asian states, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Federal Republic of Germany will support activities that promote higher levels of transparency, stakeholder awareness, and exchange of information on best practices.

7. Green Central Asia will work closely with relevant stakeholders, including representatives of civil society and community-based organisations, business and industry, scientific and educational institutions and international partners in order to support the Central Asian states and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in their efforts to promote climate and environmental cooperation.

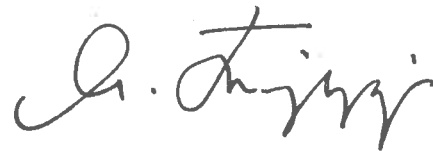
8. Following the kick-off conference in Berlin on 28 January 2020 and on the basis of this Declaration, the Central Asian states, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Federal Republic of Germany intend to review the implementation by jointly drafting an Action Plan (projects) for Green Central Asia by the end of 2020 at the latest by holding high-level political meetings and dialogues as well as by organising a series of political conferences on climate and security in the region of Central Asia and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and to take stock of the progress made on the abovementioned activities. Furthermore, the Central Asian states, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Federal Republic of Germany intend to encourage all relevant stakeholders to initiate and implement further activities in the field of climate and security.

Berlin, 28 January 2020

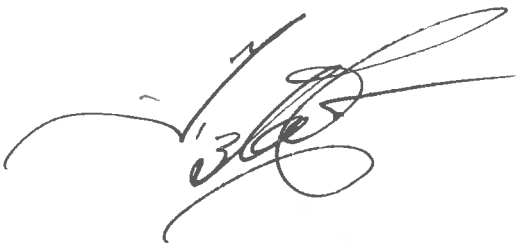
For the Federal Republic of Germany



For the Republic of Kazakhstan



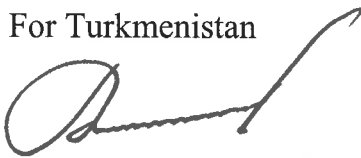
For the Kyrgyz Republic



For the Republic of Tajikistan



For Turkmenistan



For the Republic of Uzbekistan



For the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

