

JOINT STATEMENT
of the Heads of Emergency Authorities of the Central Asian Countries
on Strengthening Earthquake Resilience, Enhancing Preparedness for Response
and Ensuring Recovery within the Framework of the International Day
in Memory of the Victims of Earthquakes

29 April 2026

Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan

From 29 to 30 April 2026, under the chairmanship of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a large-scale high-level international event dedicated to the International Day in Memory of the Victims of Earthquakes, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 79/285 on 29 April 2025 at the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, was held in Tashkent.

The Heads of Emergency Authorities of the Central Asian Countries, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

commemorating the International Day in Memory of the Victims of Earthquakes, including the 60th anniversary of the devastating Tashkent earthquake of 1966, Ashgabat earthquake of 1948, the Almaty earthquake of 1911, the Chatkal earthquake of 1946, the Sarez earthquake of 1911 and the Khait earthquake of 1949, with deep respect, reverence and sorrow bow their heads in memory of all victims and persons affected by earthquakes throughout the world over the course of human history,

noting that over the past 100 years, destructive earthquakes have occurred in every country of the region, claiming the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and causing billions of dollars in damage,

considering that earthquakes claim millions of lives and cause large-scale destruction, as well as aggravate existing socio-economic problems, and remain one of the serious challenges for many countries and peoples,

recognizing that earthquakes and other natural disasters affect different population groups in different ways, with women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities often facing greater risks and specific needs in the processes of preparedness, response and recovery,

recognizing that a significant part of the territory of Central Asia, as well as most major cities and settlements, is in zones of high seismic risk and faces serious challenges in reducing vulnerability to destructive earthquakes and other risks of natural and man-made origin,

understanding that each Country bears primary responsibility for taking measures to reduce disaster risks, protect the population and territories from emergencies, strengthen resilience and enhance preparedness for earthquakes,

guided by the political will and decisions of the Consultative Meetings of the Heads of States of Central Asia on improving mechanisms for collective response to transboundary earthquake threats and developing sustainable cooperation among the countries of Central Asia,

declare the following:

The Parties welcome and fully support the proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly of 29 April as the International Day in Memory of the Victims of Earthquakes, and the invitation to all States, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations to observe it annually by holding events aimed at raising awareness of the importance of strengthening resilience, preparedness for response and ensuring recovery.

The Parties express their shared aspiration to unite and consolidate their efforts to develop and improve national and regional systems for monitoring, forecasting, early warning and mutual information exchange regarding the threat and occurrence of emergencies, through the introduction of innovative information and communication technologies.

The Parties expressed their readiness to implement measures to improve early warning systems, information exchange mechanisms and monitoring technologies that equally cover women and men, especially those facing additional barriers due to disability, age or residence in rural and remote areas, with sex- and age-disaggregated coverage.

The Parties reaffirm their firm intention to ensure that disaster risk reduction and the development of earthquake resilience capacity are addressed as priorities in the context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Parties intend to implement practical measures to strengthen the regional coordination mechanism for responding to large-scale and transboundary emergencies, and to raise awareness of earthquakes, preparedness for response and ensuring recovery, within the framework of the regional UNDP project “Strengthening the System for Region-Wide Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia,” funded by the Government of Japan.

The Parties expressed their readiness to hold consultations on the draft Regional Agreement on International Disaster Response, which would form the legal basis for strengthening the capacity of the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR), operating since 2016, by assigning it additional tasks and functions related to the coordination of international and humanitarian response in the event of destructive earthquakes and other large-scale and transboundary emergency situations.

Positively assessing the initial results of the regional UNDP project “Enhancing Urban Resilience to Disaster Risk and Climate Change in Central Asia,” supported by the Government of Japan, including measures to establish the “Coalition of Resilient Cities of Central Asian Countries,” the Parties reaffirm their readiness to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation on improving the safety, resilience and sustainability of cities in relation to disaster risks and climate change.

In order to strengthen resilience and enhance preparedness for earthquakes and other disasters, the Parties agreed to facilitate the creation of a mechanism for sustainable dialogue, the exchange of information, scientific data and best practices among scientists, researchers and experts, the conduct of joint scientific research and the practical application of its results through the introduction of innovative methods and technologies in disaster risk reduction and seismic safety, including the capabilities of artificial intelligence.

The Parties reaffirm their readiness to further strengthen regional cooperation and global partnership on disaster risk reduction, climate change and environmental protection, including within the framework of the permanent consultative platform - the Regional Forum - Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Authorities of the Central Asian Countries.

This Joint Statement reflects a shared understanding of the need for collective and coordinated actions to strengthen earthquake resilience, enhance preparedness for response and recovery, protect the population and territories from emergencies and promote the sustainable and safe development of the Central Asian Countries.

**For the Ministry of Emergency Situations
of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

**For the Ministry of Emergency Situations
of the Kyrgyz Republic**

**For the Committee for Emergency Situations
and Civil Defense under the Government
of the Republic of Tajikistan**

For the Ministry of Defense of Turkmenistan

**For the Ministry of Emergency Situations
of the Republic of Uzbekistan**