

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS OF ACTIVITY
OF THE CENTER FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
UP TO 2030

«Approved»
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of the Council of the Center.
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I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Natural disasters, accidents, and catastrophes—many of which are currently driven by climate change—are becoming increasingly frequent and severe, significantly impeding progress toward sustainable development. The international community seeks to consolidate efforts in disaster risk reduction, prevention, and emergency response, based on the further strengthening of bilateral, multilateral, regional, and international cooperation, as well as global partnerships.

The region encompassing the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic is exposed to virtually all types of natural and man-made hazards, including earthquakes, floods, landslides, mudflows, avalanches, climate anomalies, droughts, epidemics, dam breaches, and hazardous substance releases, which may trigger large-scale, transboundary disasters.

The Governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic (hereinafter referred to as the Parties), recognizing the threats posed by emergencies, taking into account the necessity of coordinated action in their prevention and response, acknowledging that cooperation in this field will contribute to security and sustainable development, and supporting the efforts of the United Nations and other international organizations to strengthen regional cooperation, based on the principles and priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the subsequent Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, through the ratification by the Parliaments of both states of the intergovernmental Agreement, have established the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (hereinafter referred to as the Center).

To implement the tasks, functions, and powers assigned to the Center in ensuring effective mechanisms for disaster risk mitigation, emergency management, and the reduction of their consequences, joint response through Party-coordinated measures, and the promotion of regional and international cooperation, based on universally recognized norms and principles of international law, and in a spirit of solidarity and equal partnership, these Strategic Directions of Activity of the Center (hereinafter referred to as the Strategic Directions) have been developed.

II. LEGAL BASIS

1. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on the Establishment of the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Regulations of the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction, dated 17 May 2013.

2. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on Cooperation in Civil Defense (Protection), Prevention, and Emergency Response, dated 16 June 2009.

3. National legislation of the Parties.

4. International conventions, agreements, treaties, programmes, and standards adopted by the Parties aimed at disaster risk reduction, prevention, and management of natural and man-made emergencies, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, agreements within the framework of the World Humanitarian Summit 2016, and the Sustainable Development Goals through 2030.

III. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS OF ACTIVITY OF THE CENTRE

1. Strengthening regional and international cooperation in disaster risk reduction, prevention, and emergency response:

- a) Coordinate and maintain close interaction with the competent authorities of the Parties and third States;
- b) Enhance cooperation and engagement with governmental bodies, donor agencies, financial institutions, United Nations agencies, Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement organizations, academic, scientific, and research institutions, the private sector, media, other international and non-governmental organizations, and relevant stakeholders;
- c) Strengthen joint and coordinated activities of the competent authorities of the Parties and third States, based on the understanding, identification, assessment, and monitoring of underlying disaster risk factors and the improvement of early warning systems;
- d) Facilitate the establishment of regional early warning systems and mutual notification mechanisms regarding emergency risks;
- e) Update assessments of underlying factors of large-scale, transboundary disasters at the regional level and identify potential socio-economic consequences in the event of their occurrence;
- f) Develop and strengthen national and regional platforms, forums, and dialogues on disaster risk reduction, prevention, and emergency response;
- g) Initiate and support the development, adoption, and implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements in the field of transboundary cooperation in disaster risk reduction and emergency response;
- h) Support capacity-building of experts and specialists from the Parties, international and non-profit organizations, scientific institutions, and other stakeholders through exercises, consultations, seminars, training, courses, and other relevant activities.

2. Enhancing the safety of populations and territories in the region through the improvement of organizational and legal frameworks, institutional foundations, mechanisms, strategies, policies, and practices for disaster risk and emergency management:

- a) Develop and improve institutional foundations, mechanisms, strategies, policies, and practices for disaster risk and emergency management, including support for the

implementation of interagency and international agreements and global programmatic documents;

- b) Promote the harmonization of national legislation of the Parties in the field of disaster risk reduction and emergency management, based on adherence to human rights principles and gender-sensitive approaches, taking into account the interests of the most vulnerable populations, including women, children, and the elderly;
- c) Strengthen regional emergency management capacity through the study and application of best practices from international organizations and foreign state agencies, and by improving the exchange of such expertise;
- d) Coordinate planning and implementation of joint activities aimed at developing, improving, and strengthening the capacities of national and regional disaster risk and emergency management systems;
- e) Support the creation and development of modern national and regional information and communication systems for data collection, processing, and analysis, in line with international best practices;
- f) Assist in the development, improvement, and implementation of methodological materials, standardized terminologies, forms, and systems for the receipt, collection, processing, storage, protection, analysis, and exchange of information;
- g) Establish a Center database, promote the unification of information and communication systems and crisis center databases of competent authorities of regional states, and facilitate regular data exchange;
- h) Support the implementation of international monitoring systems and networks in the Parties for natural, man-made, environmental, climatic, and other hazards, as well as potential emergencies;
- i) Promote public awareness in the region regarding the linkages between disaster risk, climate change, environmental degradation, and migration, to ensure continued cross-sectoral focus in disaster risk reduction programs at local, national, and regional levels.

3. Consolidation of efforts of all relevant stakeholders and mobilization of investments in disaster risk reduction and emergency prevention:

- a) Support regional states in transitioning from reactive approaches to proactive early-warning practices and strengthening disaster risk management capacities, taking into account the protection of citizens' rights to a safe and healthy environment and protection from emergencies, particularly for the most vulnerable populations, including women, children, and the elderly;
- b) Consolidate joint efforts of all stakeholders in planning and implementing disaster risk reduction and emergency prevention measures through initiating, developing, promoting, and participating in the implementation of national, interstate, and international programs and projects;
- c) Facilitate the mobilization of public and private investments, donor agency resources, financial institutions, and support from international and non-profit organizations at the regional level for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, interagency and international agreements, global programmatic documents on disaster risk reduction and emergency prevention, sustainable development, climate change adaptation, and environmental security;

- d) Support the mobilization of public and private investments to back scientific and technical programs and projects of the Parties aimed at disaster risk assessment, analysis, and research on causes and consequences of emergencies, with a focus on the most vulnerable populations and on large-scale and transboundary events;
- e) Initiate, promote, and participate in periodic risk assessments within the territories of the Parties and other states at local, national, and regional levels for various natural and man-made hazards.

4. Strengthening preparedness for effective emergency response, rescue and humanitarian operations, reconstruction, and recovery:

- a) Establish a unified Registry of Forces and Resources of the Parties to ensure rapid response to large-scale or transboundary emergencies;
- b) Participate in the planning and conduct of international exercises, rescue, and humanitarian operations within the territories of the Parties and other foreign states, supporting the involvement of the Parties' forces and resources;
- c) Facilitate the creation and expansion of national and regional emergency reserves and funds to enhance preparedness capacity for effective response, conduct of rescue and humanitarian operations in the event or threat of large-scale and transboundary disasters, including reconstruction and recovery phases;
- d) Support the development and strengthening of a regional coordination mechanism for emergency response in accordance with interstate and international agreements, treaties, rules, and procedures;
- e) Support the enhancement of preparedness capacities of management authorities, forces, and resources for disasters to ensure effective response and the application of the "build back better" principle in reconstruction and recovery activities;
- f) Assist in developing operational guidance and methodological recommendations to support coordinated actions of management authorities, forces, and resources of the Parties and the international community in responding to large-scale or transboundary emergencies, conducting rescue and humanitarian operations, and implementing recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction in line with international standards, global experience, and best practices.

5. Ensuring the phased institutional development and capacity enhancement of the Center:

- a) Develop and implement measures to ensure the phased institutional development and capacity enhancement of the Center through the planning and conduct, together with all relevant stakeholders, of exercises, conferences, boards, meetings, seminars, trainings, courses, and other activities aimed at strengthening regional and international cooperation and interaction, improving the qualifications of experts and specialists, and introducing best practices in disaster risk reduction, emergency prevention, and response, utilizing the Center's capacities;
- b) Conduct organizational and practical activities aimed at expanding the membership of the Center, including states participating in the Center, and observer states or international organizations;

- c) Develop contacts with stakeholders to ensure continuous information exchange on disaster risk reduction, emergency prevention, and response through the competent authorities of the Parties, between the Parties and the Center, between the Center and observers, and between the Center and other stakeholders;
- d) Promote the Center's cooperation with the competent authorities of the Parties, observers, and third States to study current achievements and exchange best practices in disaster risk reduction;
- e) Establish a working group to create a regional Scientific and Technical Council on Emergency Situations (RSTC-ES) within the Center, involving national and international expert specialists in seismic, environmental, fire, radiation, industrial, hydrogeological, and other safety-related fields;
- f) Coordinate efforts to develop and establish early warning systems and mutual notification mechanisms regarding threats and occurrences of emergencies to ensure timely public information, based on international experience and the expertise of the Parties, third States, and relevant international and non-governmental organizations;
- g) Foster dialogue and cooperation among academic circles and practitioners engaged in disaster risk reduction, risk management, and promotion of partnerships among stakeholders, including those addressing socio-economic aspects, gender mainstreaming, and human rights in policy and development strategies;
- h) Establish and regularly update a database of experts and volunteer organizations to involve them in the implementation of joint projects on disaster risk reduction, prevention, and emergency response;
- i) Develop and maintain the Center's social media pages to inform and disseminate information on the Center's activities, as well as disaster risk reduction, prevention, and emergency response;
- j) Establish the Center's official website as an information resource with regular updates on the Center's activities, civil protection systems in the Parties, emergency threats, warnings, and public information, as well as information for international and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders;
- k) Strengthen interaction among disaster management experts and practitioners across sectors and regions, and develop or reinforce procedures for applying expert knowledge to support competent authorities and other entities in drafting national and local disaster risk reduction, prevention, and emergency response plans, incorporating gender-sensitive approaches;
- l) Enhance the Center's technical capacity by equipping it with multifunctional systems capable of process modeling, decision-making, and issuing recommendations for emergency response, as well as ensuring communication with the Parties and other competent management authorities, including integration into existing international systems;
- m) Improve the qualifications of the Center's experts and specialists, ensuring the Center's capacity to independently identify problems and solutions, develop project proposals, and mobilize resources for project implementation;
- n) Study and adopt best practices from other regional centers, UN agencies, international and non-governmental organizations, and scientific institutions engaged in disaster risk reduction, emergency prevention, and response.

IV. Mechanism for Implementing the Strategic Directions of the Center:

1. Develop and implement (phased) Action Plans for the Center's key activities to carry out coordinated disaster risk reduction, prevention, and emergency response actions jointly with the Parties, observers, international and non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders;

2. The organizational and practical measures provided for in the Center's Action Plans shall be implemented using contributions from the Parties, donor funds, voluntary assistance from international organizations, voluntary donations from legal and natural persons, and other sources not in conflict with the national legislation of the Parties, through initiating, developing, promoting, and implementing joint interstate and international programs and projects in disaster risk reduction, prevention, and emergency response;

3. The Parties shall provide support in matters related to the implementation of the Center's Strategic Directions and Action Plans;

4. Amendments and additions may be made to the Strategic Directions of the Center, which shall be formalized by a decision of the Council of the Center.