

EXPLANATORY NOTE
ON MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS
“ON THE REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM
FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE”

In 2021, the heads of emergency authorities of the Central Asian countries approved the Regulation on the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Emergency Response (the Regulation).

To achieve the key objectives of the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) defined in the Regulation, it became necessary to establish, on its basis, a Regional Emergency Response Coordination Center for Central Asia. This Center would be responsible for identifying priority needs and requirements of Central Asian countries, coordinating actions among regional emergency agencies and international organizations in delivering humanitarian assistance, and ensuring prompt data and information exchange in the event of a threat or occurrence of an emergency.

To assess the Center’s capacity to implement these tasks, international experience of similar regional centers was studied, such as the European Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) in Brussels and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) in Indonesia. These centers operate 24/7 with financial support provided approximately 70% by external donors and 30% by member states.

For the successful and comprehensive functioning of such a center in Central Asia, CESDRR must assume the role of coordinator, managing a 24-hour operational center with the involvement of emergency authorities of Central Asian countries. This requires modernization of the Regional Situation Room (including, for example, integration with satellite tools under the Copernicus program), increased staffing, and additional financial resources. Modernization of the situation room is key to effective information exchange and emergency monitoring.

A starting point in building regional understanding of the need for such a Center was the Regional Consultative Seminar on strengthening the Regional Coordination Mechanism, conducted by the end of 2023 with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). During the seminar, representatives of emergency authorities of Central Asian countries recognized the importance of CESDRR’s role as a Regional Humanitarian Coordination Center for Central Asia.

The Center also reviewed the results of a comparative study assessing the compliance of each Central Asian country’s national legal framework with the Regulation on the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the Guidelines for the Regulation of International Disaster Assistance (IDRL Guidelines), conducted by IFRC international expert Professor Carlo De Stefano.

The main outcome of this study was a **Regional Mapping Report on the international legal frameworks of Central Asian countries in disaster response**. It compared existing national legislation with international norms on disaster assistance, identified strengths, highlighted gaps, and outlined necessary steps for harmonizing national legislation with international standards and best practices.

Based on these findings, recommendations were developed for drafting and concluding **multilateral agreements and shaping approaches to strengthen regional cooperation among Central Asian countries** (including joint exercises), as well as for adopting a legally binding regional instrument - a **Treaty (Agreement)**

on international disaster response. Such an agreement would regulate the provision of international assistance and establish the legal foundation for creating a Central Asian Emergency Response Coordination Center.

To implement these initiatives, relevant measures have been incorporated into the Action Plan (Roadmap) for implementing the Strategy for the Development of Cooperation among Central Asian Countries in Disaster Risk Reduction for 2025-2026.