“APPROVED”
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REGIONAL CONCEPT
for Enhancing the Resilience of Cities of Central Asian Countries to Disaster Risks and Climate Change until 2030

(hereinafter – the Concept)

Part 1. Analysis of the Current Situation:

Modern cities of Central Asia are the main centers – drivers of economic growth, play a key role in sustainable development and in ensuring comfortable and safe living conditions for the population, concentrating industry, education, the services sector, financial resources, innovation and human capital.

The population, economic activity, as well as social, cultural, environmental and other processes, transport, health care, education, science and cultural institutions, infrastructure, the housing, financial and banking sectors, central governing bodies and the main facilities of the services sector are increasingly concentrated in cities, and all of this is located on relatively small areas. All of this, in turn, gives rise to numerous problems.

Currently, cities in the region are home on average to about 47–50% of the total population. According to UN and World Bank forecasts, by 2050 the share of the population living in the region’s cities is expected to increase to 55–60%.

The average population density in the cities of Central Asia ranges from 2,000 to 7,000 people per 1 km², with the highest figures characteristic of the central districts of large cities, where density may exceed 10,000 – 15,000 people per 1 km².

Practically all existing and newly built cities of the region are subject to trends of rapid urbanization, a sharp increase in population size and density, and growing pressure on critically important infrastructure facilities, such as the systems of education, health care, electricity supply, water supply, sewerage, transport, communications, food supply and other infrastructure.

Modern cities face the growing impact of natural and man-made hazards, intensified by the negative consequences of climate change. Earthquakes, mudflows, floods, fires, extremely high rates of air temperature increase up to 40 degrees and above, droughts, frosts, strong winds, intense downpours, dust storms, landslide processes, environmental pollution, ecosystem degradation and water resource scarcity pose a threat to the safety of the population and to sustainable socio-economic development. The negative consequences of climate change are already increasing the frequency and intensity of hazardous natural phenomena, leading to constantly growing human, financial and environmental losses.

Most large cities of the region are located in a zone of high seismic risk and face serious challenges in reducing vulnerability to destructive earthquakes. Over the last century, Almaty, Tashkent, Ashgabat and other large cities and settlements of the region have been subjected to destructive earthquakes, the catastrophic consequences of which led to large-scale destruction, hundreds of thousands of affected people and damage amounting to billions of dollars.

The environmental situation in the large cities of Central Asia remains difficult. The most acute problems are air pollution, the shortage of clean water, the accumulation of solid household waste and the reduction of green spaces. The most serious problem of the capitals and other large cities of the region is air pollution, which has a negative impact on public health and the environment.

These problems are aggravated by the rapid growth of the population, the development of industry, active construction, the reduction of the area of parks and squares, the increase in the number of vehicles, the insufficient capacity of irrigation networks and roads, traffic congestion and the high load on urban infrastructure.

Central government bodies and mayor’s offices – city governing bodies – are taking measures to enhance the resilience of urban infrastructure and life-support systems, improve monitoring, early forecasting and warning systems, build protective structures, improve urban planning, and introduce nature-based approaches and modern innovative information and communication technologies, the ultimate goal of which is to reduce disaster risk, minimize the negative consequences of climate change, and protect the population and territory from emergencies.

Mayor’s offices – city governing bodies – are expanding and strengthening international cooperation and partnership with other cities, twin cities, international and non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions, in

order to attract investment, exchange experience and implement joint initiatives, programs and projects in all areas of activity, including on issues of enhancing the resilience of cities and their populations to disaster risks and climate change.

In November 2025, in the city of Dushanbe, a high-level regional event was held – the Regional Forum – Meeting of Heads of Emergency Agencies of Central Asian Countries, during which issues of enhancing the resilience of the cities of Central Asia to natural disaster risks and climate change were considered and discussed within the framework of the implementation of the UNDP Regional Project *"Enhancing the Resilience of Cities to Natural Disasters and Climate Change in Central Asia,"* funded by the Government of Japan, and the global UN initiative "Making Cities Resilient 2030."

Following the results of the Regional Forum:

1) the heads of emergency agencies of Central Asian countries approved and signed the *"Protocol of Intentions on Enhancing the Resilience of Cities of Central Asian Countries to Disaster Risks and Climate Change"* with the aim of further strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation on issues of enhancing the safety, livability and resilience of cities to disaster risks and climate change, and of providing support and assistance in the implementation of the UNDP initiative for the establishment and further functioning of the *"Coalition of Resilient Cities of Central Asian Countries."*

2) the heads of the mayor's offices – city governing bodies – of the cities of Petropavlovsk, Osh, Dushanbe, Ashgabat and Namangan adopted a Joint Declaration and an agreed decision on the establishment of the *"Coalition of Resilient Cities of Central Asian Countries,"* within the framework of which they expressed their intentions and reached an agreement to strengthen interaction and cooperation, consolidate their actions and expand partnership in order to ensure the inclusiveness, safety, livability and resilience of cities to disaster risks and climate change.

In April 2026, in the city of Tashkent, under the chairmanship of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a large-scale high-level international event was held, dedicated to the International Day of Remembrance of Earthquake Victims, established by UN General Assembly Resolution 79/285 of April 29, 2025, on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Following this event, the heads of emergency agencies of the states of Central Asia adopted the *"Joint Statement on Strengthening Earthquake Resilience, Enhancing Response Preparedness and Ensuring Recovery,"* thereby expressing a common aspiration to unite and consolidate their efforts in the development and improvement of national and regional systems of monitoring, forecasting, early warning and mutual notification of the threat and occurrence of emergencies, through the introduction of innovative information and communication technologies.

The capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the city of Astana, received in 2026 a "Certificate of Recognition" and became the first resilience hub in Central Asia within the global UN initiative "Making Cities Resilient 2030." This was the first important step on the path to the resilience of cities in the region and to strengthening the role of Astana as a regional platform for the exchange of knowledge, innovation and practical solutions between cities.

Within the framework of the implementation of the GIZ regional project *"Sustainable and Climate-Oriented Urban Development in Central Asia,"* the densely populated cities of the Fergana Valley – Manas, Osh, Khujand, Isfara, Fergana and Kokand – are implementing measures and participating in regional exchange of experience and training on climate-resilient urban development and enhancing resilience to disaster risks and climate change.

The largest cities of Central Asia – Astana, Almaty, Bishkek, Dushanbe, Ashgabat and Tashkent – are actively investing in the modernization of critical infrastructure, the expansion of green zones, the reduction of air pollution and the improvement of the seismic resistance of buildings, and are introducing digital technologies for the management of utilities and other services. Special attention is paid to disaster risk management and to enhancing resilience to climate and natural risks, since these large cities and capitals are located in zones of high seismic risk.

Despite the measures being taken, the mayor's offices – city governing bodies – of the states of Central Asia face a number of difficulties and problems in the field of enhancing resilience to disaster risks and climate change, directly related to insufficient financing, rapid growth of the urban population, aging infrastructure, the intensification of extreme weather events, an uneven level of preparedness for climate risks, insufficient coordination between authorities, gaps in ensuring inclusiveness and public participation in decision-making, taking into account gender aspects and the needs, age, social and other characteristics of different population groups, as well as incomplete data on the differentiated impact of disasters on different population groups, which are necessary for risk-informed planning.

Part 2. International Policy on Which the Concept Is Based:

Urbanization, climate change and the growing number of natural and man-made disasters make enhancing the resilience of cities one of the key tasks of national and international policy. The international community has developed and is implementing a number of initiatives, strategies, agreements and programs aimed at reducing disaster risks and adapting cities to climate change.

International policy in the field of enhancing the resilience of cities to disaster risks and climate change is founded and based on a number of global documents adopted under the auspices of the UN and other international organizations, the main ones of which are:

1) The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal No. 11 — "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable";

2) The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030);

3) The Paris Climate Agreement (2015 –2030);

4) The New Urban Agenda;

5) The global UN initiative "Making Cities Resilient 2030" (MCR2030), aimed at enhancing the resilience of cities to natural, man-made and climate risks by 2030.

Despite significant progress, national and international policy in the field of enhancing the resilience of cities and their populations to disaster risks and climate change faces a number of difficulties, directly related to insufficient financing, rapid growth of the urban population, aging infrastructure, the intensification of extreme weather events, an uneven level of preparedness of different states for climate risks, and insufficient coordination between authorities and international organizations.

Part 3. Vision of the Concept

This Concept defines unified strategic approaches, principles, goals, main tasks and areas of regional interaction and cooperation, consolidation of efforts and expansion of partnership in order to ensure the inclusiveness, safety, livability and enhanced resilience of cities and their populations to disaster risks and climate change.

The Concept will become the basis for forming a modern system of urban development management oriented toward ensuring public safety through disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and the sustainable use of natural resources.

It is expected that by 2030 the countries of Central Asia will achieve significant progress in enhancing the resilience of cities to disaster risks and climate change by improving data collection processes for understanding risks, risk management systems, developing safe and resilient urban infrastructure, introducing modern monitoring and early warning technologies, and integrating climate change adaptation measures into urban planning and development processes.

Most cities of the region will enhance their resilience and become safer, more inclusive and climate-adapted territories, capable of effectively preventing, minimizing and overcoming the negative consequences of natural and man-made disasters.

The cities of Central Asia will have a higher level of preparedness for the prevention and reduction of disaster risks, for response and for recovery after emergencies, ensuring the protection of the population, the sustainable functioning of critical infrastructure, the reduction of economic losses and the preservation of a favorable environment.

Regional cooperation and global partnership, the exchange of knowledge and data, best practices and international experience, innovative solutions and technologies, and the implementation of joint projects will become an important basis for forming resilient, safe and climate-adapted cities of Central Asia.

The implementation of the Concept will make it possible, within the framework of the *"Coalition of Resilient Cities of Central Asian Countries,"* to form by 2030 a network of resilient cities of Central Asia capable of effectively withstanding modern climate and natural challenges, ensuring public safety, sustainable economic growth and the achievement of the sustainable development goals, the fulfillment of obligations under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the implementation of the international climate agenda.

Within the framework of the "Coalition of Resilient Cities of Central Asian Countries," cities will gain access to a unified package of support measures aimed at enhancing their resilience. The support package includes the development of city risk profiles, access to a practical methodology and tools for integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures into urban planning, mechanisms for the formation and selection of projects, the training module "Fundamentals of Urban Resilience" and a compendium of tested regional solutions, assistance in developing projects to obtain financing, as well as expert consultations and exchange of knowledge with international partners, including Japanese institutions.

Part 4. Goals

The main goals of this Concept are:

1) forming a unified regional approach to enhancing the resilience of the cities of Central Asia by integrating disaster risk management and climate change adaptation into public policy, spatial planning, infrastructure development and urban governance systems;

2) strengthening regional cooperation and global partnership, consolidating joint actions and efforts in order to ensure the inclusiveness, safety, livability and enhanced resilience of cities to disaster risks and climate change;

3) creating, within the framework of the "Coalition of Resilient Cities of Central Asian Countries," a unified regional system for enhancing the resilience of the cities of Central Asia to disaster risks and climate change, by strengthening cooperation and partnership, the exchange of knowledge and data, best practices and international experience, innovative solutions and technologies, and the implementation of joint projects.

Part 5. Principles

This Concept is based on the following key principles:

1) the priority of preserving the life and health of the population and the environment, based on the prevention and reduction of disaster risks;

2) inclusiveness and mandatory participation of the population in decision-making, taking into account gender aspects and the age, social and other identity factors of different population groups;

3) an integrated approach to disaster risk and climate change management, providing for the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation issues into strategies, programs and plans of socio-economic development, as well as into the system of state and municipal governance;

4) the responsibility of public authorities, business entities and society, and the scientific validity of decisions taken;

5) environmental sustainability and the rational use of natural resources, the use of modern digital technologies, innovative solutions and data, including data disaggregated by sex, age and ability, for the prevention, assessment and reduction of disaster risks, as well as in eliminating the consequences of natural disasters;

6) compliance with international obligations and the sustainable development goals, and an orientation toward strengthening regional cooperation and global partnership.

Part 6. Main Tasks and Priority Areas of Implementation

Task 1. Development and improvement of disaster risk and climate threat management systems.

Priority areas of implementation:

1) creating and strengthening regional, national and local mechanisms for managing disaster risks and climate threats;

2) integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation issues into state and municipal policy, strategies, programs and plans of socio-economic development;

3) improving and harmonizing legislation and the regulatory legal framework in the field of disaster risk reduction and climate change, taking into account national legislation and the specific features of the states of Central Asia.

4) Enhancing the capacity of relevant city specialists in the field of urban resilience within the framework of the training module "Urban Resilience."

Task 2. Enhancing the resilience of cities to climate change.

Priority areas of implementation:

1) developing green and nature-based infrastructure: urban forests, parks, green zones and natural protective systems;

2) reducing vulnerability to the negative consequences of climate change that worsen living conditions and the health of the population and damage urban infrastructure and the environment;

3) rational use of natural resources — saving water, energy efficiency and the use of renewable sources of electricity, waste recycling and reduction of environmental pollution.

Task 3. Improving risk monitoring and forecasting systems.

Priority areas of implementation:

1) conducting a comprehensive assessment of natural, man-made and climate risks, including their differentiated impact on the population, and developing risk and vulnerability profiles;

2) creating and improving geoinformation systems, including data disaggregated by sex, age and ability;

3) developing and improving national systems for monitoring, forecasting and mapping risks, using innovative information and communication technologies such as artificial intelligence;

4) expanding the network of observation and laboratory control, meteorological, hydrological, seismic and other stations.

Task 4. Development of resilient urban infrastructure.

Priority areas of implementation:

1) constructing and modernizing infrastructure facilities, taking into account natural, man-made, environmental and climate risks;

2) enhancing the resilience of transport, energy, water supply and social infrastructure;

3) introducing standards of sustainable urban development that meet the requirements of resilience and safety;

4) improving systems for control and supervision over the condition of potentially hazardous facilities and the environment, and for forecasting emergencies;

5) enhancing the resilience of critically important infrastructure (hospitals, schools, kindergartens, social facilities and life-support facilities).

Task 5. Improving early warning systems and emergency preparedness.

Priority areas of implementation:

1) introducing modern systems and innovative technologies for early warning, prompt notification and emergency alerting, as well as models based on data on differences in access to alerting channels among different population groups;

2) developing and introducing civil defense plans and plans for preparedness and action in emergencies;

3) enhancing the preparedness capacity of governing bodies, city services, forces and means to respond to emergencies and carry out recovery work;

4) training and upgrading the qualifications of specialists in actions to prevent emergencies and eliminate their consequences.

Task 6. Developing a culture of public safety.

Priority areas of implementation:

1) improving the training of the population in actions under the threat and occurrence of emergencies;

2) building the knowledge, skills and practical abilities necessary to save life and health;

3) training the population in climate change adaptation measures and practical actions that reduce their vulnerability to disaster risks of a natural, man-made and environmental nature;

4) expanding inclusiveness and mandatory participation of the population in urban planning and decision-making, taking into account gender aspects and the age, social and other identity factors of different population groups.

Task 7. Strengthening regional cooperation and global partnership.

Priority areas of implementation:

1) expanding regional cooperation, consolidating joint actions and efforts, including within the framework of forming national networks of intercity cooperation of partner cities and twin cities, the “Coalition of Resilient Cities of Central Asian Countries,” the global initiative “Making Cities Resilient 2030,” “Smart Cities” and others;

2) deepening partnership with international and non-governmental organizations, and scientific research and educational institutions;

3) exchanging knowledge and data, best practices, innovative solutions and international experience, technologies, including with leading international organizations, such as partners from Japan, in the field of disaster risk reduction and sustainable urban development.

Task 8. Attracting investment and financial support.

Priority areas of implementation:

1) attracting public, private and international investment, and initiating, developing and implementing programs and projects;

2) developing priority resilience projects ready for investment and promoting them among potential investors and development partners;

3) introducing mechanisms of financial protection and insurance against disaster risks of a natural, man-made, environmental and biological-social nature, which account for differences in property rights among different population groups;

4) developing and introducing economic and social incentives, and providing technical and financial support to the population, organizations and the business sector investing in enhancing the resilience of the city.

Part 7. Mechanisms of Implementation and Financial Support

This Concept is implemented on the basis of the following implementation mechanisms:

1) national legislation, strategies, concepts, programs, plans and other regulatory legal acts governing and providing for measures in the field of ensuring the resilience of cities to disaster risks and climate change, preventing and eliminating the consequences of emergencies, climate change adaptation, achieving the sustainable development goals and others;

2) global, regional and other targeted strategies, concepts, initiatives, programs, plans and projects in the field of enhancing the resilience of cities to disaster risks and climate change, implemented by the countries of Central Asia with the technical and financial support of donor agencies, international and other organizations – development partners.

Financial support for the implementation of the Concept is provided from the funds of:

1) state and local (city) budgets, national development funds, environmental, investment and other funds;

2) investment of international financial organizations and development banks, and the private sector, within the framework of public-private partnership mechanisms;

3) grants, technical, financial and humanitarian assistance of international organizations, donors and other organizations – development partners;

4) climate finance, including international climate funds and other sources provided for by national legislation.

Annex 1
to the Regional Roadmap for the implementation of the Regional Concept for Enhancing the Resilience of Cities of Central Asian Countries to Disaster Risks and Climate Change until 2030 for 2027-2028.

REGIONAL ROADMAP
for the implementation of the Regional Concept for Enhancing the Resilience of Cities of Central Asian Countries to Disaster Risks and Climate Change until 2030 for 2027 - 2028

By joining the Coalition, pilot cities receive a practical support mechanism: three steps of the "resilience path": 1 - risk diagnostics → 2 - risk-informed planning → 3 - preparation of projects for financing.

№	Activity	Benefits for the city	Period (approximate)
Starting point			
1	Assessment of the baseline level of each participating city by the steps of the "resilience path" and agreement on next steps.	Understanding of the city's entry point; receipt of an agreed individual support plan.	Q1 2027
2	Approval of the Coalition's rules of procedure and formation of a register of participating cities.	Clear and understandable rules of participation; designation of a single contact for coordination.	Q1 2027
Step I. Diagnostics			
3	Support in developing a city risk profile or assessment of existing analytics for compliance with a unified methodology	Risk profile or confirmed analytics as a basis for planning and integration	2027-2028, as needed
4	Training on the module "Fundamentals of Urban Resilience" and access to the compendium of tested solutions (including the digital version)	Upgrading the qualifications of city specialists; access to tested regional experience	2027–2028
Step II. Planning and Integration			
5	Assessment of climate risks in the city's current development plans for climate change resilience and discussion of the results with city representatives	Understanding of the necessary degree of risk consideration in planning	2027
6	Access to methodology and practical tools; mutual learning between cities, including with the participation of Japanese institutions	Tools for independent integration; exchange of experience with other cities	2027-2028
Step III. Investment			

№	Activity	Benefits for the city	Period (approximate)
7	Provision of tools for structuring projects; assistance in preparing investment maps at the city's request	Project proposals ready for presentation	2027-2028
8	Identification of possible sources of financing; presentation of projects to partners and financial institutions within a regional investment session	Opportunity to present projects to potential partners for financing	2027-2028; dates of the investment sessions will be determined additionally
Cross-cutting activities			
9	Recognition of cities' achievements at each stage of enhancing resilience and conferring the status of "benchmark city of sustainable development"; formation of national networks of intercity cooperation; assistance to capitals in obtaining the status of Resilience Hub within the MCR2030 initiative, with subsequent coordination of experience exchange and support for other cities of the country	Recognition of results achieved; access to support packages; for capitals – the opportunity to obtain Resilience Hub status within MCR2030, with the formation around them of a network of cities for exchange of experience and mutual support	from Q2 2027
10	Exchange of knowledge and experience: Astana hub, thematic working groups, city twinning, information exchange	Regular access to the experience of the region and partners	continuously
11	Annual monitoring and review of the progress of implementation of the Concept.	Assessment of indicators achieved and timely updating of action plans.	Q4 2027 and 2028

Note: The activities are of a recommendatory nature; participation of cities is voluntary.

Graphic Annex

Regional Roadmap

for the implementation of the Regional Concept for Enhancing the Resilience of Cities of Central Asian Countries to Disaster Risks and Climate Change until 2030 for 2027 - 2028

By joining the Coalition, pilot cities receive a practical support mechanism: three steps of the "resilience path": 1 - risk diagnostics → 2 - risk-informed planning → 3 - preparation of projects for financing.

