"APPROVED"
by the Regional Forum – Meeting of
Heads of Emergency Agencies of Central
Asian Countries
Protocol dated October 20, 2026

PROPOSALS
for improving the Regional Mechanism of International Response
to Large-Scale Emergencies

The populations and territories of the Central Asian states, as elsewhere in the world, face serious challenges of increasing exposure and vulnerability to natural, man-made, environmental and climatic risks resulting from the growing scale of anthropogenic impact on the environment, ecosystem degradation, and the emergence of new challenges and risk factors that hinder sustainable development.

A significant part of the territory of Central Asia, and most large cities and settlements, are located in a zone of high seismic risk and face serious challenges in reducing vulnerability to destructive earthquakes and other risks of a natural and man-made nature.

Over the last 100 years, destructive earthquakes have occurred in every country of the region, including the Almaty and Sarez earthquakes of 1911, the Chatkal earthquake of 1946, the Ashgabat earthquake of 1948, the Khait earthquake of 1949, the Tashkent earthquake of 1966 and others – which claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and led to large-scale destruction and damage amounting to billions of dollars.

The destructive earthquakes and other catastrophic disasters that have occurred in recent decades have shown that no country in the world can be absolutely certain that it will not need the assistance of other states, or international assistance from development partners and humanitarian organizations.

Taking into account the importance of pooling efforts and undertaking joint coordinated actions, the states of Central Asia have established and developed cooperation in the field of prevention and elimination of emergencies, the basis of which is formed by interstate Agreements ratified between the Governments of the Central Asian countries, which relate to cooperation only in the field of prevention and elimination of emergencies.

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CENTRAL ASIA						
1.	Agreement among the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan on cooperation in the field of prevention and elimination of emergencies *dated July 17, 1998, Cholpon-Ata (Kyrgyz Republic).*	+	+	+	-	+
BILATERAL INTERSTATE AGREEMENTS						
Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic						
1.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on cooperation in the field of civil defense (protection), prevention and elimination of emergencies *dated June 16, 2009, Astana (Republic of Kazakhstan).*					
2.	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 *dated May 17, 2013, Almaty (Republic of Kazakhstan).*					
3.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction on the conditions of its stay on the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan *dated June 17, 2022, Nur-Sultan (Republic of Kazakhstan).*					
Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Tajikistan						
4.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on cooperation in the field of civil defense, prevention and elimination of emergencies *dated September 6, 2014, Almaty (Republic of Kazakhstan).*					

Agreement between the Governments of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan	
5.	Agreement between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan on cooperation in the field of civil defense (protection), prevention and elimination of emergencies *dated May 27, 2013, Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic).*
Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan	
6.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on joint measures and interaction on timely notification in the event of a breach of Lake Sarez *dated May 30, 2000, Tashkent (Republic of Uzbekistan).*
Agreement between the Governments of Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan	
7.	Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on cooperation in the field of prevention and elimination of emergencies *dated November 25, 2013, Tashkent (Republic of Uzbekistan).*
Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan	
8.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of Turkmenistan on cooperation in the sphere of civil defense, prevention and elimination of the consequences of emergencies *dated November 2, 2017, Dushanbe (Republic of Tajikistan).*
Agreement between the Governments of the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan	
9.	Agreement between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Government of Turkmenistan on cooperation in the field of prevention and elimination of emergencies *dated August 23, 2018, Ashgabat (Turkmenistan).*
Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan	
10.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of Turkmenistan on cooperation in the field of civil defense, prevention and elimination of emergencies *dated October 25, 2021, Ashgabat (Turkmenistan).*
Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Uzbekistan	
11.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on cooperation in the field of prevention and elimination of emergencies *dated December 6, 2021, Astana (Republic of Kazakhstan).*
Agreement between the Governments of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan	
12.	Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on cooperation in the field of prevention and elimination of emergencies *dated January 27, 2023, Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic).*

At the same time, the above-mentioned existing interstate Agreements ratified between the Governments of the Central Asian countries relate to cooperation only in the field of prevention and elimination of emergencies.

Thus, it can be stated unambiguously, and this is confirmed in practice, that when emergencies occur, cooperation in the field of emergency elimination, on the basis of the terms and definitions applied, covers only a short-term period (from the first hours to several weeks, at most up to a month) of conducting emergency rescue and other urgent work aimed at saving lives and preserving the health of people, reducing damage to the natural environment and material losses, as well as localizing the emergency zones and ceasing the action of the hazardous factors characteristic of them.

At the same time, in the event of large-scale emergencies (for example, destructive earthquakes) with catastrophic consequences, the affected state or states will need not only assistance in eliminating the emergencies, but also assistance in eliminating their consequences, both from states and in the form of long-term assistance from the international community – international organizations working in the field of international and humanitarian response to emergencies at the regional and global level.

It is well known that in large-scale emergencies, when catastrophic destruction of housing and infrastructure and the number of affected people are measured in the tens and hundreds of thousands, and damages in the tens and hundreds of billions of dollars, practically any affected state will not be able to cope with eliminating their consequences, with measures to restore engineering infrastructure, housing and the environment, and with providing social rehabilitation assistance to the population (lasting from several months to several years) by its own forces and means alone, without external assistance from the international community.

In this context, it is proposed that the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction, **by April 20, 2027**, develop and submit for consideration by the next Regional Forum – Meeting of Heads of Emergency Agencies of Central Asian Countries: **"The Concept for Establishing a Regional Mechanism of International Response to Large-Scale and Transboundary Emergencies."**

Earlier, the proposal to establish a regional mechanism of international response to large-scale and transboundary emergencies was preliminarily considered, agreed and reflected in the "Joint Statement of the Heads of Emergency Agencies of the States of Central Asia on Strengthening Earthquake Resilience, Enhancing Response Preparedness and Ensuring Recovery within the Framework of the International Day of Remembrance of Earthquake Victims," dated April 29, 2026, Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, in which the heads of emergency agencies of the states of Central Asia (hereinafter – the Parties) stated the following:

– The Parties intend to implement practical measures to strengthen the regional mechanism for coordinating response to large-scale and transboundary emergencies, and to raise awareness of earthquakes, response preparedness and the ensuring of recovery;

– The Parties expressed their readiness to hold consultations on the draft Regional Agreement on International Response to Natural Disasters, forming the legal basis for strengthening the capacity of the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR), operating since 2016, by giving it additional tasks and functions regarding the coordination of international and humanitarian response in the event of destructive earthquakes and other large-scale and transboundary emergencies.

The goals of establishing the "Regional Mechanism of International Response to Large-Scale and Transboundary Emergencies" (hereinafter – RMIRE) are:

1) Strengthening comprehensive mutually beneficial cooperation of the states of Central Asia on issues of ensuring preparedness for international response to large-scale emergencies and carrying out recovery work, on the basis of the principles of friendship, good-neighborliness, interethnic harmony, trust and mutual understanding;

2) Creating an effective mechanism for response and coordination of joint actions to eliminate the consequences of large-scale emergencies and carry out recovery work, and to provide international assistance on the basis of compliance with national legislation, interstate agreements, universally recognized norms and principles of international law, international strategic policy documents of the UN, and the rules, principles and procedures of providing international and humanitarian assistance.

The main tasks of the RMIRE are:

a) coordination and joint activities of the emergency agencies of the states of Central Asia with international and non-governmental organizations and other interested parties working at the regional and global level in the field of international response and provision of humanitarian assistance in the event of large-scale emergencies;

b) practical implementation of the existing bilateral and multilateral interstate agreements in the field of prevention and elimination of emergencies with the participation of the Central Asian countries, as well as international strategic policy documents of the UN and other international organizations, regarding ensuring preparedness for international response to large-scale emergencies and carrying out recovery work on the basis of universally recognized norms and principles of international law.

c) organization of the functioning of a regional coordination mechanism ensuring the consistency of actions of the participating states, international organizations and other partners in providing international assistance;

d) ensuring timely exchange of information on emergencies, forecasts of their development, the scale of consequences, requests, the needs of the affected state and available response capabilities;

e) creation of an information environment that makes it possible to obtain, in the shortest possible time, the necessary data and information regarding the threat or occurrence of large-scale emergencies, as well as the progress of eliminating their consequences;

f) coordination of joint assessment of the situation and needs of the affected state in order to determine priority areas of international response and provision of humanitarian assistance;

g) assistance in mobilizing, coordinating and effectively using international assistance, search-and-rescue, medical, engineering, logistical and other specialized resources sent by the participating states and international partners;

h) coordination of joint actions to eliminate the consequences of large-scale emergencies and carry out recovery work, and to provide international assistance on the basis of compliance with national legislation, interstate agreements, international strategic policy documents of the UN, and the rules, principles and procedures of providing international and humanitarian assistance;

i) assistance in simplifying and harmonizing procedures for crossing the state border, customs clearance, import of humanitarian aid, equipment and machinery, and admission of personnel sent to eliminate the consequences of emergencies;

j) organization of joint planning, preparation and conduct of exercises, drills and exchange of experience aimed at enhancing the preparedness of the participating states for joint international response;

k) development and introduction of unified regional procedures, standards, methodologies and guiding and other documents based on universally recognized norms and principles of international law;

l) assistance in developing and strengthening the joint capacity of the participating states through the exchange of expert knowledge, modern technologies, innovative solutions and best response practices;

m) creation of a regional register of forces and means of the states of the Parties for emergency response to large-scale emergencies;

n) implementation of other tasks in the field of prevention and elimination of large-scale emergencies, determined by the competent authorities of the Parties.

The competent authorities responsible for the implementation of this Agreement are the emergency agencies of the states of Central Asia – the authorized state bodies in the field of civil protection/defense, and prevention and elimination of emergencies.