RES 2026
REGIONAL ECOLOGICAL SUMMIT

unicef
for every child

CENTRAL ASIAN YOUTH STATEMENT

FOR THE REGIONAL ECOLOGICAL SUMMIT 2026

LCOY Local Conference of Youth Qazaqstan
LCOY KYRGYZSTAN 2025
LCOY TAJIKISTAN 2025
Turkmenistan 2025 LCOY Local Conference of Youth
LCOY Local Conference of Youth Uzbekistan

Consolidated Position of Youth based
on the Outcomes of the LCOY 2025 National Conferences
in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

PREAMBLE

We, the youth of Central Asia, address the States of Central Asia (hereinafter referred to as the «States»), strategic partners, and thematic area partners of the Regional Ecological Summit 2026 (hereinafter referred to as the «Partners»).

At a time when environmental challenges and the consequences of climate change in the region are becoming impossible to ignore, the voices of the younger generation resonate louder than ever. This statement represents a joint call from the youth of all five Central Asian countries.

We have come of age in a region where accelerated glacier melt, escalating water scarcity, air pollution, land degradation, and biodiversity loss shape the daily lives of millions. These changes define our future and amplify the sense of urgency for a generation that will live with the consequences of today's decisions.

The tragedy of the Aral Sea has become a global symbol of ecological catastrophe. The Caspian Sea is shrinking at an accelerated rate, which could lead to retreating shorelines within several decades. Glaciers are receding faster than at any point in recorded history. Scientists warn that glacier loss in Central Asia will reach its peak in the coming decades, jeopardizing the water security of millions.

In the region's major cities, air pollution levels exceed World Health Organization (WHO) recommended guidelines by 6–12 times. Regional energy systems remain among the most carbon-intensive in the world. The green transition, despite its necessity, carries the risk that rural communities, women, children, and vulnerable groups may be left behind.

We welcome the adoption of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution UNEP/EA.7/Res.6 on «Enhancing the meaningful participation of youth in environmental processes, and enhancing environmental education», and UN General Assembly Resolution 78/179 of 19 December 2023 on «Policies and programmes involving youth» as vital international benchmarks. We call upon the States of the region to ensure their practical implementation through the creation of sustainable mechanisms for youth participation in environmental governance, expansion of access to quality environmental education, and support for youth initiatives.

We, the youth of Central Asia, share the vision and commitment of the Regional Ecological Summit 2026 across key priority areas in the name of sustainable and inclusive development for our region, where no one is left behind.

This statement is our collective response and proposal, reflecting the voices of children and youth. These proposals were formulated during the national LCOY 2025 conferences, held under the auspices of the YOUNGO UNFCCC youth wing in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as the Regional Conference of Youth RCOY Central Asia 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Supporting the Climate Transition

To achieve carbon neutrality, youth call on governments and partners to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy and reduce emissions from coal-fired power generation through energy mix diversification, increasing the share of renewables to 40–50% by 2035. This transition should be accompanied by power grid modernization, development of decentralized energy solutions, and the implementation of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and energy efficiency standards to reduce emissions and carbon intensity.

Adaptation and Economic Resilience to Environmental and Natural Risks

Youth call on governments and partners to accelerate the development and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), integrating climate risks across all development strategies, budgetary processes, and key sectors, including water and food systems. Particular attention should be given to establishing regional adaptation centers, supporting vulnerable groups, and ensuring meaningful participation of youth, science, and civil society. In the health sector, climate risks should be integrated into national health systems, with investments in climate-resilient healthcare infrastructure and strengthened monitoring of climate-related diseases to protect the most vulnerable populations.

Food Security and the Region's Ecosystems

Youth call on governments and partners to strengthen climate risk management systems in agriculture through monitoring, early warning, and adaptive planning. This transition should be supported by climate-resilient agricultural practices, soil restoration, expansion of water-efficient technologies, and modernization of irrigation systems, alongside improved access for farmers to technologies and finance.

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

Youth call on governments and partners to integrate Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) into national strategies and legislation, ensuring the protection of ecologically high-value territories, while deploying modern biodiversity monitoring systems and strengthening protected area management and anti-poaching awareness.

In water governance, youth call for the establishment of a specialized UN water agency, strengthened cooperation under the IFAS framework, and accelerated joint action to protect the Caspian Sea, including coordinated ecosystem and water-level monitoring. In parallel, environmental regulation of water resources should be strengthened through stricter discharge controls, wastewater treatment upgrades, and ecosystem restoration, while enhancing transboundary cooperation and data exchange on the cryosphere for improved climate and hydrological assessments.

Combating Air Pollution and Improving Waste Management

Youth call on governments and partners to strengthen industrial emissions control and ensure transparent air quality monitoring with open data access. In the transport sector, they call for the expansion of public and electric transport, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, and progressive tightening of emissions standards alongside fleet renewal. In waste management, priorities include waste separation, recycling systems, methane capture, bans on open burning, and a transition toward a circular economy through reduced plastic use and extended producer responsibility.

Mechanisms to Deliver Environmental Ambition

Youth call for expanded access to climate finance for Central Asia, ensuring equitable distribution and increased investments in adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable resource management, including the establishment of national climate funds. Stronger international support is required for LLDCs, alongside integration of loss and damage mechanisms into national climate strategies.

Environmental governance must be based on transparency, accountability, and meaningful participation of youth and civil society. Governments should ensure open access to environmental data, introduce Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) with public participation, and simplify NGO access to funding and international mechanisms.

Just and Inclusive Transition

Youth call for the recognition of a just and inclusive transition as a core pillar of climate policy, integrated into NDCs and long-term strategies to ensure balanced social, economic, and environmental outcomes. This transition should be supported by inclusive policy-making mechanisms involving youth, women, and civil society, with gender considerations embedded across all stages of climate planning and finance.

Environmental and Digital Competencies

Youth call for strengthening environmental and digital competencies through the integration of climate education across all levels of curricula, addressing local environmental challenges and existing knowledge gaps among youth. This should be supported by youth participation mechanisms such as advisory councils, LCOYs, and youth climate platforms, as well as the development of innovation hubs and support for youth-led initiatives and startups. Education systems should be modernized through practical learning, teacher training, "green schools," green skills programs, and expanded access for women in environmental education and employment.

SUPPORTING THE CLIMATE TRANSITION

The climate transition in Central Asia requires a comprehensive approach, integrating the transformation of energy systems, the deployment of innovative technologies, and the enhancement of building energy efficiency. Such a transition must facilitate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen energy security, and create sustainable economic opportunities for the region.

Renewable Energy

Recalling para 28 of Decision 1/CMA.5 and the outcomes of the First Global Stocktake, which call for tripling global renewable energy capacity and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030, and emphasize the need for accelerated actions to phase out fossil fuels to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, *we call upon*:

- States introduce a moratorium on the approval and construction of new coal-fired power plants after 2030 within the framework of long-term low-emission development strategies (LT-LEDS).
- States reduce emissions from coal-fired power generation by 2035 through energy mix diversification, providing for the expansion of renewable energy sources and increasing their share to 40–50% of the total installed capacity of the power system.
- States scale up decentralized renewable energy solutions at the household and small-to-medium enterprise levels, including net-metering mechanisms, tax incentives, and subsidies.
- States, particularly energy departments, to prioritize grid infrastructure modernization in LT-LEDS by replacing outdated power lines with composite materials and expanding High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) infrastructure to ensure efficient transmission of electricity from renewable sources.
- Partners prioritize the financing of energy transition projects in Central Asia, including grid modernization and the development of distributed renewable energy.

Technology

- *Recalling* Article 10 of the Paris Agreement, which underscores the role of innovation and technology development in climate action, and Decision 15/CMA.1, which calls for the strengthening of enabling environments for climate technologies through policy support and institutional coordination, *we call upon:*

- States prioritize policies to foster innovation and attract private and international investment in climate technologies and Best Available Techniques (BAT) in alignment with long-term decarbonization goals, as well as the development of local technology assembly, support for youth climate projects, and the enhancement of public awareness.
- States implement industrial emission standards for high-emission sectors, where not yet established, mandating the adoption of Best Available Techniques (BAT).
- States replace high-carbon-footprint construction materials with alternative low-carbon materials, ensuring compliance with green building standards.
- Partners support the development and transfer of technologies and innovations for the modernization and enhancement of energy efficiency of industrial facilities in hard-to-abate sectors, such as metallurgy, agriculture, and other high-emission sectors.

Buildings

Recognizing that the building sector, with its aging building stock, remains a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions and is characterized by low energy efficiency, *we call upon*:

- Partners provide international support for scaling up building modernization programmes, prioritizing insulation, the use of energy-saving materials and appliances, raising public awareness, and the implementation of clean heating systems.
- States develop targeted subsidies and concessional loans for low-income households and social facilities to implement energy efficiency measures. Simultaneously, develop local competencies and human resource capacity.

ADAPTATION AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RISKS

Central Asia is among the regions most vulnerable to environmental and climate risks. In these conditions, accelerated and systemic adaptation of key economic sectors, infrastructure, healthcare systems, and social institutions is required to enhance the resilience of society and the economy to climate risks.

National Planning and Institutional Framework for Adaptation

- *Considering* that the Paris Agreement requires the integration of adaptation into national policy, countries in the region must intensify the development and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). Recognizing the leading role of national authorities, *we call upon*:
- Strengthen climate change adaptation measures by integrating climate risks and adaptation priorities into all national development strategies and budget processes, with particular focus on the water and food sectors and the development of transboundary regional cooperation.
- Establish a system of regional adaptation centers, including a capacity of local NGOs, and provide direct support to the most vulnerable groups — small farmers, women, children, and youth in rural communities within climate risk zones and remote areas.
- Ensure the participation of youth, civil society, and the scientific community in the development and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), including the development of regional (local) adaptation strategies.
- Include monitoring and mitigation of the impact of dust storms in national climate plans (NDCs, NAPs) and establish a joint inter-state working group on the warning system and assessment of sand and dust storms.

- Expand green protective belts, tree planting, and sustainable soil restoration measures in zones prone to sand and dust storms.
- Involve youth scientific groups in monitoring climate and ecosystems and developing regional strategies.

Infrastructure and Life-Support Systems

Underscoring paragraph 63(e) of Decision 1/CMA.5, which calls upon Parties to increase the resilience of infrastructure and human settlements to climate change impacts to ensure the continuity of essential services and minimize climate risks, *we call upon*:

- States update infrastructure planning standards to develop climate-resilient infrastructure capable of withstanding floods, heatwaves, extreme cold, wildfires, and dust storms, including the conduct of Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) for urban master plans to ensure effective environmental regulation.
- States expand early warning systems for the population and rural communities through SMS alerts, instant messengers, and local notification systems.
- States initiate ecosystem restoration projects, including afforestation, combating desertification, and the protection of water catchment areas with the active participation of local communities.

Healthcare

Noting that 143 states, including four countries from the region, have endorsed the COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health, and recognizing WHO guidelines, including the COP24 Special Report on Health and Climate Change and framework mechanisms for building climate-resilient health systems, amidst intensifying threats from heat stress, air pollution, and vector-borne and water-borne diseases, *we call upon*:

- Health authorities integrate comprehensive climate-related health risk assessments into national health systems and adaptation plans, including preparedness for extreme heat, air pollution, dust storms, and vector-borne diseases, while ensuring adequate national financing and intersectoral coordination.
- States and Partners invest in climate-resilient and accessible medical infrastructure, including equipping rural clinics and hospitals with cooling systems, air filtration, and renewable energy-based backup power sources, as well as developing mobile health services and resilient pharmaceutical supply chains in remote and climate-vulnerable regions.
- States establish a national information and analytical platform on climate-sensitive diseases for medical professionals and researchers, and support public awareness programmes on the nexus between climate and health, particularly for the most vulnerable populations, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

FOOD SECURITY AND THE REGION'S ECOSYSTEMS

Recognizing that climate change, land degradation, and water scarcity intensify threats to food security in Central Asia, we emphasize the need for sustainable management of agriculture and natural ecosystems to ensure the long-term resilience of the region and the well-being of rural communities.

Agriculture

Climate change is already significantly impacting agricultural yields and soil conditions in the region. Consequently, *we call upon States to*:

- Create National Climate Risk Management Systems in Agriculture, integrating climate change impact research, early warning, satellite monitoring, and emergency response at regional and national levels.
- Implement climate-resilient and science-based agricultural practices aimed at reducing methane and nitrous oxide emissions and mitigating effects associated with fertilizer use, in accordance with the Global Methane Pledge and the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture.
- Introduce grass-stand monitoring, rotational grazing, and agroforestry on slopes and in shelterbelts to increase resilience to climate risks.
- Create sustainable storage systems and cold chains to reduce post-harvest losses.
- States and Partners to expand measures for soil fertility restoration, salinity reduction, and moisture conservation, including the use of Nature-based Solutions (NbS).
- States and Partners to increase investment in climate-resilient agriculture and efficient water management, including the introduction of drought-resistant crops, safe fertilizers, drip and precision irrigation, solar pumps, and rainwater harvesting systems.
- States and Partners to expand farmers' access to training, adaptation technologies, microfinance, and modern agricultural equipment.
- States and Partners to modernize irrigation systems, restore natural water bodies, and expand water-saving practices, accompanying these measures with farmer training.

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

Sustainable management of natural resources is a key condition for environmental security, economic stability, and long-term development of Central Asia.

We call upon States to strengthen measures for water conservation, soil fertility restoration, and the protection of mountain, forest, steppe, and aquatic ecosystems that underpin the sustainable development of the region.

Biodiversity Conservation

Recalling decision CBD/COP/DEC/15/4 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, we call upon:

- States integrate the concept of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) into national development strategies and legislation. As noted in the «Conservation of Central Asian Mountains» report (2021) by Zoi Environment Network supported by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), such territories possess the highest conservation value. Accounting for these areas in infrastructure projects will preserve key ecosystems and prevent biodiversity loss.
- States implement modern technologies in biodiversity monitoring and patrol natural areas more effectively, raising public awareness of poaching consequences.
- States implement Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for all new mining and energy projects in high-altitude areas. Companies are obligated to ensure local ecosystem preservation, species monitoring, and full land reclamation upon completion.
- States strengthen measures to prevent the spread of invasive alien plant species that pose a serious threat to the ecosystems and biodiversity of Central Asia. It is essential to implement effective monitoring, early detection, and rapid response systems, as well as to enhance transboundary cooperation and data exchange to control and limit their expansion.
- States support community-based natural resource management initiatives, including the development of ecotourism that facilitates poaching reduction and ensures sustainable

livelihoods without environmental degradation, alongside ecosystem restoration through the planting of endemic species and active local involvement in soil rehabilitation.

- States implement sustainable rangeland management systems, including rotational grazing, the restoration of degraded lands, and the establishment of buffer zones around protected areas. Providing support to local farmers and pastoralist communities through sustainable livestock programmes will alleviate pressure on natural ecosystems and preserve habitats for rare species.

Water Diplomacy and International Cooperation

Recognizing that water security is becoming an increasingly acute problem in Central Asia due to uneven precipitation, insufficient data accuracy, and the intensifying impact of climate change on river flows and glacier melt, we call upon:

- States and Partners create a specialized UN agency on water issues to strengthen global coordination of water policy.
- States and Partners strengthen cooperation within the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) to facilitate joint monitoring, ecosystem restoration, and equitable shared resource use.
- States and Partners accelerate transboundary coordinated actions to preserve the Caspian Sea, including strengthening regional cooperation for ecosystem protection, coordinating monitoring of sea-level changes and biodiversity status, and implementing regional adaptation measures.
- States include youth in decision-making processes, regional action plan development, and monitoring the implementation of agreements on transboundary rivers, lakes, and glaciers.
- States implement «nexus approaches» linking water, energy, and climate through cross-sectoral groups of civil servants, experts, civil society, and youth.
- Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Fund (GEF) to support national and regional projects for water infrastructure modernization, capacity building, and data modernization.

Water Resources

Recognizing that water security in Central Asia is under increasing pressure due to glacier retreat, significant water losses in irrigation systems, and the degradation of river ecosystems, *we call upon:*

- States implement integrated basin water resources management to ensure sustainable water allocation across economic sectors, the maintenance of environmental flows, and the protection of river ecosystems, with the participation of local communities, scientific institutions, and youth.
- States and Partners increase investments in the modernization of water and irrigation infrastructure and the deployment of water-saving technologies and water metering systems to reduce water losses in irrigation networks.
- States strengthen environmental regulation of water resources, including stricter control over maximum allowable discharges, the modernization of wastewater treatment systems, and measures for the restoration of degraded aquatic ecosystems.
- States enhance transboundary cooperation and expand the exchange of processed data on the cryosphere.

- States develop modern monitoring systems for glaciers, high-altitude lakes, and river basins, utilizing satellite data and hydrological models, to increase the accuracy of water balance forecasting to at least 90 per cent and to prevent floods, mudflows, and glacial lake outbursts.
- States strengthen scientific and regional cooperation in hydrology, hydrogeology, and climate modeling, including support for youth-led research and innovation projects and the development of data exchange mechanisms among Central Asian countries.
- States implement measurable indicators to monitor progress, such as reducing irrigation water losses (percentage of the baseline level), increasing the number of hydrogeological studies, expanding youth research or innovation projects in water management, improving water balance forecasting accuracy (target >90 per cent), and reducing water allocation conflicts and transboundary disputes (number of cases per year).

Combating Air Pollution and Improving Waste Management

Recognizing the serious risks of air pollution and inefficient waste management to public health and the environment, we emphasize the need for strengthened monitoring, emission reductions, and the implementation of sustainable solutions in transport and waste management.

Monitoring and Combating Air Pollution

Recognizing that air pollution from industrial enterprises significantly contributes to the development of diseases such as cancer, asthma, allergies, and cardiovascular diseases, as well as to premature mortality,

Emphasizing the critical need for transparent data and active citizen participation in environmental governance, we call upon:

- States ensure strict compliance with atmospheric air quality standards through effective state control of emissions and the implementation of modern treatment technologies by enterprises.
- States strengthen air quality monitoring systems, ensuring the open online publication of data and the establishment of warning systems for vulnerable groups.

Transport Sector and Clean Mobility

Recognizing the role of transport emissions in the region's major cities and emphasizing that sustainable transport solutions can significantly improve air quality, *we call upon*:

- States develop urban master plans prioritizing pedestrian infrastructure, cycle lanes, and large-scale greening along transport arteries to reduce thermal stress and provide dust filtration.
- States support electric vehicle (EV) subsidies, the expansion of charging infrastructure, clean public transport systems, and sustainable urban mobility policies, including regulatory measures to reduce private vehicle usage.
- States adopt emission standards, including the phased decommissioning of obsolete vehicles (Euro-3 and below), and the implementation of trade-in programmes and accessible financing for the population to acquire low-emission vehicles.

Waste Management and Methane Emission Reduction

Recognizing that effective waste management and methane reduction are fundamental to protecting public health, reducing air and soil pollution, mitigating climate risks, and transitioning

to a circular economy where resources are reused and waste generation is minimized throughout the product life cycle, *we call upon*:

- States adopt national laws on separate waste collection, mandating methane capture at municipal solid waste landfills and prohibiting the open burning of waste;
- States build national recycling infrastructure and support the establishment of local sorting and processing plants at the national level;
- States implement policies to minimize waste generation at all stages of the product life cycle, including obligations for producers to reduce waste, utilize secondary materials, and ensure the full recyclability of packaging and products;
- States set national targets for methane emission reduction and implement methane capture and utilization systems in the waste, oil, and gas sectors in accordance with the Global Methane Pledge;
- States adopt comprehensive measures to prevent plastic pollution, including the phased reduction of single-use plastics, the development of alternative materials, extended producer responsibility (EPR), and enhanced regional cooperation within the framework of the emerging global agreement on plastics;
- States accelerate the transition to a circular economy through economic incentives, innovative business models, and sustainable consumption and production systems, ensuring the extension of product life cycles, the development of secondary raw material markets, and the reduction of primary natural resource use.

Mechanisms to Deliver Environmental Ambition

We *emphasize* that the implementation of environmental ambitions must be based on the principles of transparency, accountability, science-based evidence, and the meaningful participation of youth, the scientific community, and civil society.

Financing and International Support

Recalling the UNFCCC Technical Assessment (2023), which notes that international public climate finance in the Central Asia and South Caucasus region amounted to approximately USD 1.7 billion in 2018 — representing only a small fraction of the required funding — with additional climate-adjusted infrastructure investment needs estimated at approximately USD 5 billion annually above USD 33 billion in baseline funding, which renders the region highly vulnerable. *Recognizing* the need for fair and equitable access for the countries of the region to global financing mechanisms, *we call upon*:

- Partners expand support for actions in Central Asia and ensure a fairer distribution of international environmental and climate financing, including the predictability, transparency, and accessibility of international finance.
- Partners create dedicated financial streams or specialized mechanisms ensuring the full participation of Central Asian projects and institutions in global climate finance mechanisms.
- States and Partners increase investments in climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable natural resource management.
- States consider the creation of national climate funds, including climate tax mechanisms and other financing sources.

Support for Civil Society Initiatives

Effective environmental and climate policy requires transparent governance systems, data accessibility, and meaningful public participation in decision-making, implementation, and

monitoring. Expanding public participation is a key condition for the successful implementation of strategies, programmes, and projects. Strengthening the role of civil society requires the creation of an enabling institutional environment and simplified access to financial resources, *we call upon*:

- States ensure full public access to environmental information regarding the state of the environment, biodiversity, ecosystem services, environmental impacts, state measures, and climate risks, without access restrictions or classification.
- States integrate Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) into national law-making, planning, and budgeting systems, and ensure active public participation in SEA through consultations, discussions, and the involvement of civil society representatives, scientific organizations, and local communities at all stages.
- States enhance the role of civil society organizations in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of state environmental and climate programmes by strengthening the status and transparency of public councils and public environmental expertise.
- States simplify procedures for civil society organizations to access national and international financing mechanisms.
- States and Partners support the accreditation of Central Asian civil society organizations to facilitate their access to and participation in international conferences.
- States minimize bureaucratic barriers in obtaining financing for environmental and climate projects, ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of funds.
- States and Partners support the participation of women, particularly from rural communities, in the development of sustainable environmental initiatives and climate projects.

Loss and Damage

Emphasizing the irreversible loss and damage incurred across the countries of Central Asia, and the necessity of ensuring that climate justice is central to the climate response, prioritizing the needs of those most affected, *we call upon*:

- Partners increase financing from the Loss and Damage Fund, recognizing that landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) face unique climate challenges and have an acute need for enhanced financial support.
- Partners strengthen financial flows to the region under the new Loss and Damage Fund, noting that Central Asia is highly vulnerable to climate change due to desertification, biodiversity loss, wildfires, and accelerated glacier melt.
- States integrate loss and damage mechanisms into national climate strategies, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
- States conduct the collection and analysis of data and the economic assessment of loss and damage.

Just and Inclusive Transition

Just and inclusive transition is a key condition for sustainable climate policy and the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement. It requires the integration of social, economic, and environmental dimensions into climate planning, as well as the equal participation of all societal groups, including youth, women, persons with disabilities, and vulnerable communities.

Just Transition

Effective just transition requires institutional mechanisms ensuring stakeholder participation and the integration of social dimensions into climate strategies. Recalling Decision 3/CMA.5, which affirms that the objective of the Just Transition Work Programme is the assessment of pathways to

achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement as outlined in Article 2, paragraph 1, in the context of Article 2, paragraph 2, *we call upon*:

- States recognize Just Transition as a priority area of national climate policy and integrate it into national climate plans, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and Long-term Low-emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS);
- States establish inclusive and transparent national processes for the co-development of climate policy with the participation of trade unions, local communities, the scientific community, youth, and civil society;
- States integrate gender dimensions across all stages of climate policy development and implementation, ensuring the equal participation of women and girls in decision-making processes and the distribution of climate finance.

Environmental and Digital Competencies

The Central Asian region continues to face significant challenges regarding the empowerment of children and youth, which directly impacts their level of awareness and engagement in climate change issues. Specifically, according to UNESCO assessments in the report "Getting Every School Climate-Ready: How Countries Are Integrating Climate Change Issues in Education" (2021), national education curricula in Central and South Asia contain only approximately 4 per cent of climate-related content, leaving significant gaps in youth understanding and participation in addressing environmental challenges.

Youth Participation

Recalling the pivotal role of children, youth, and local communities in addressing and responding to climate change, as set out in the Glasgow Climate Pact (Decision 1/CMA.3), and emphasizing the key role allocated to youth in combating climate change within the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs 3.0) of Central Asian countries, *we call upon*:

- States create or expand public advisory councils under relevant ministries, ensuring no less than 30% youth representation, with the aim of strengthening the role of young people in decision-making and the implementation of environmental, climate, education, and youth policies.
- States and Partners support Local Conferences of Youth (LCOY).
- States expand youth diplomatic platforms for direct participation in the development, negotiation, and monitoring of regional environmental agreements.
- States ensure the active and systemic participation of youth and civil society in processes related to environmental education and the implementation of the Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) agenda, including access to information and involvement in decision-making and implementation processes.
- States invest in the establishment of youth climate centres, public libraries, and laboratories as platforms for ideas, knowledge exchange, discussions, and project activities with access to data and inter-state initiatives.
- States and Partners support existing youth-led projects for climate awareness and activism, as well as youth-led startups and networks.

Education

Recalling Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, by which Parties commit to enhancing climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information,

and *recognizing* Decision 18/CP.26 on the "Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)", which underscores the need to integrate climate education at all levels and across all disciplines,

Recognizing that existing educational systems in the region do not sufficiently reflect the climate challenges faced by local communities, we call upon:

- States integrate topics of sustainable development and climate change into national curricula at primary and secondary levels, taking into account local climate and environmental challenges such as desertification, droughts, water scarcity, and air pollution.
- Education authorities implement practice-oriented learning, workshops, field trips, and gamified approaches in environmental and climate education methodology.
- States develop mandatory training and certification for teachers on climate education and ecology at all levels of the education system to guarantee pedagogical readiness and consistency of content;
- States provide for the creation of "green schools" with green infrastructure—including buildings, energy, and water supply—as areas for practical demonstration and dissemination of climate-resilient technologies.
- States and Partners launch new higher education programmes in environmentally significant fields, such as sustainable agriculture, water resources, modern urban planning, climate change forecasting, and renewable energy.
- States develop national pathways for entering "green" professions through investment in technical and vocational education and training (TVET), career guidance, and targeted scholarships in fields related to ecology and natural resource management.
- States expand women's access to education, technology, finance, and employment in the environmental sector.

Digital Competencies

Recalling Resolution UNEP/EA.7/Res.9 on the environmental sustainability of artificial intelligence systems, *we call upon*:

- States utilize artificial intelligence for environmental protection, including the enhancement of environmental monitoring, natural resource management, and support for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs);
- States improve the quality, accessibility, and interoperability of environmental data, and strengthen national environmental data systems, which is of pivotal importance for Central Asian countries facing shared environmental challenges;
- States expand initiatives to study the environmental benefits, risks, and impacts of artificial intelligence, as well as the exchange of knowledge and best practices regarding its application for sustainable development and environmental protection;
- Partners strengthen international cooperation, enhance capacity-building, and increase financing for developing countries to ensure equitable access to artificial intelligence technologies and their application in the environmental sphere.