

Draft Summary of the Aral Sea Panel session

“Commitment for Ensuring Water Security in the Aral Sea Basin – Cooperation versus Competition”

The Aral Sea crisis is the extremely disaster of the 20th century. It was made huge efforts to solve the Aral Sea basin problems resulted by this disaster. It was made a lot for the last 15 years, but many problems are still need to be solved. The Large Sea is going to shrink. The problem is worsening by global climate change, growth of population and economics of the Central Asia countries.

The Aral Sea Panel Session has been conducted with the purpose to discuss existing problems and propose new initiatives to achieve sustainable water management in Central Asia.

The session was chaired by President of the World Water Council Mr. Loich Fauchon and attended by the President of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea, President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, officials from Central Asia countries, representatives of the international organizations, academics, NGOs, private sectors and medias. The problems of the Aral Sea basin in the context of the Priority Themes of APWF were discussed within the framework of the session and the next initiative were proposed:

- Contribute to giving to the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea the status of the United Nations Institute for coordination of activity of international organizations and donors with the announcement of Aral Sea Basin the priority pilot region for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- Support an initiative of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan about organization of the International Conference on water related disaster reduction in 2008 in Dushanbe, during of which it is planned to share the outcomes of the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit
- Promote to creation of the Aral Sea basin Public Water Council
- Create Central Asian sub-regional Centre of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan

масштабы катастрофы настолько велики, что необходима мобилизация усилий правительств стран бассейна, международных организаций и доноров.