

Union for Defense of the Aral Sea and Amudarya

Dear participants!

In the framework of preparation to the CSD-16 NGO community of Central Asia held a workshop in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on January 18-19, 2008. A statement of CA NGO was prepared and the Secretariat will be provided with Russian version of it.

Now I have to raise a problem of the Aral Sea that almost died but all possible issues are concentrated around it. They are problem of desertification, biodiversity, poverty, international conflicts, corruption and so on. Unfortunately there is a sort of silent agreement that the dying of the Sea is unavoidable process. Nevertheless NGOs and indigenous people living around the Sea are not agreed with it. Not all possibilities and opportunities to save the Sea were have used.

I am totally agree with our colleague from Norway who has said about millions ton of dust and salt a year going to the atmosphere from the former bottom of the Aral Sea. It is equal to several volcanoes and impact of aerosols onto global climate should be carefully investigated.

Technically there is a big chance to provide the Sea by water because the most part of waters of two rivers are wasted. That is happening due to keeping of old approach to economics which has leded us to the disaster already. It is not possible to restore a plate broken by a hammer using the same hammer!

We need to strength regional cooperation in saving the Sea and international community should help in this process. How we will be able to save the Earth if we are not able to save the relatively small Sea?

Finally I would suggest to mark an International Day of the Aral Sea. It is really time to do so.

Thank you.

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