

MEMORANDUM

**of Understanding between the Executive Committee
of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and the Executive Committee
of the Commonwealth of Independent States**

The Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States

noting that the problems of overcoming the consequences of ecological disaster appeared as a result of shallowing of the Aral Sea and being the cause of sharp worsening of socio-economic situation of population of Pryaralye and all the neighbor regions of Central Asia States are not resolved yet;

realizing in a due measure all aspects of dramatic conditions for the population living in the Pryaralye region and the problems caused by necessity of creation and agreement of mechanisms of integrated water resources management and regulation of processes of water use in Central Asia.

taking into account that:

for the purpose of overcoming numerous problems, caused by the continued ecological disaster in the region, on October 6, 2002 in Dushanbe the Heads of Central Asia States (the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan) adopted a Programme of Concrete Actions on Improvement of Ecological and Socio-Economic Situation in the Aral Sea Basin for the Period of 2003-2010,

the activity of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea in accordance with the mentioned Programme is aimed at overcoming the consequences of ecological disaster through combining the efforts of stakeholders for strengthening interaction and rendering practical support on a wide spectrum of technical, ecological, socio-economic directions and programmes,

the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the authorized and branch bodies of the Commonwealth promote with their activity broadening and strengthening relations between the states-participants of the Commonwealth of Independent States in different spheres;

the Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea and the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States *consider it necessary* to sign the present Memorandum for the purpose of:

- developing agreed mechanisms of complex water resources management;
- rehabilitating water economic objects, improving and efficient use of water and land resources;
- improving environmental monitoring systems and developing complex measures on combating the acts of nature in case of threat of their occurrence;
- ecological rehabilitation of natural ecosystems, sanitary-hygienic protection of population and solution of social problems of Pryaralye;
- rehabilitating ecological sustainability and biological productivity of the region;
- combating desertification and developing wet-lands in the downstream of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers.

1. The present Memorandum defines bases for partnership of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea and the Executive

Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States for increasing interaction in the following main directions:

- regular information exchange;
- search for and attraction of financial means of donors and co-donors for implementation of the Programme of Concrete Actions on Improvement of Ecological and Socio-Economic Situation in the Aral Sea Basin for the Period of 2003-2010;
- attraction of experts and representatives of states-participants of the Commonwealth of Independent States and international organizations for participation in thematic conferences, seminars and other international contacts on the problems of the Aral Sea;
- assistance in conclusion of basic bilateral agreements (contracts) between the Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea and the interested organizations on directions envisaged by the Programme of Concrete Actions on Improvement of Ecological and Socio-Economic Situation in the Aral Sea Basin for the Period of 2003-2010;
- other aspects promoting implementation of projects, programmes and decisions concerning the problems of the Aral Sea and Pryaralye.

2. Monitoring of realization of the Memorandum provisions will be carried out through support of constant contacts. For this purpose the representatives of the Executive Committee of the International Fund and the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States will jointly consider the conditions of cooperation envisaged by the provisions of the present Memorandum and plan further joint measures at least once a year.

The present memorandum is signed in the Astana City on September 16, 2004 in duplicate in Russian. One of the copies is kept in the Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea and the other one is in the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

**Chairman
of the Executive Committee
of the International Fund
for saving the Aral Sea**

 S. Aslov

**Chairman
of the Executive Committee -
the Executive Secretary
of the Commonwealth
of Independent States**



V. Rushailo