



UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY FOR CENTRAL ASIA



KAZAKHSTAN



KYRGYZSTAN



TAJIKISTAN



TURKMENISTAN



UZBEKISTAN

About the Centre

The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) is a special political mission of the United Nations Organization established upon the initiative of the governments of five Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The UNRCCA was inaugurated in December 2007. It is based in Ashgabat and headed by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRS) Ambassador Miroslav Jenča.



Head of the UNRCCA



Ambassador Miroslav Jenča, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, is Head of the Centre

Mission statement

The goal of the UNRCCA is to assist and support the governments of the region in developing their conflict prevention capacities through enhanced dialogue, confidence building measures and establishing genuine partnerships in order to respond to existing threats and emerging challenges in the Central Asian region.

The Centre has, inter alia, the following functions:

- To liaise with the Governments of the region and, with their concurrence, with other parties concerned on issues relevant to preventive diplomacy;
- To provide the Secretary-General of the United Nations with up-to-date information related to conflict prevention efforts;
- To maintain contact with the OSCE, the CIS, the SCO and other regional organizations, encourage their peacemaking efforts and initiatives, facilitate coordination and information exchange with due regard to their specific mandates;
- To provide a political framework and leadership for the preventive activities of the United Nations country teams in the region; and to support the efforts of the Resident Coordinators and those of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in promoting an integrated approach to preventive development and humanitarian assistance;
- To maintain close contact with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan to ensure a comprehensive and integrated analysis of the situation in the region.

The UNRCCA Program of Action

The UNRCCA is working on the basis of its Action Plan for 2009-2011 in the following priority areas, identified as:

- Cross-border threats from illicit activities: terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking;
- Environmental degradation and management of common resources such as water and energy;
- Implications from the precarious situation in Afghanistan.



Activities of the Centre

The UNRCCA promoted consensus building among Central Asian countries. It fostered joint action on shared challenges and for achieving mutually beneficial solutions. It worked with regional organizations and the UN system to mobilize assistance for key efforts in the region.

The UNRCCA supported the fight against cross-border threats. It organized with UNODC a workshop on non-proliferation and international legal cooperation against biological, chemical and nuclear terrorism (Ashgabat, December 2009). The event contributed to raising awareness among legal experts and diplomats in Central Asia about legal instruments related to the suppression of terrorist threats associated with weapons of mass destruction.

The Regional Centre followed developments in Afghanistan, due to the security implications for Central Asia, and maintained close cooperation with UNAMA. To enhance preparedness measures in Central Asia, particularly with regard to population flows, it organized with UNHCR a seminar on security and groups at risk in Afghanistan (March 2009).

The UNRCCA facilitated the search for a common approach to water resources management issues in Central Asia. For that purpose, it held with UNECE a seminar on “International Water Law and the Negotiation of Mutually Beneficial Multilateral Water Agreements in Central Asia” (Almaty, April 2009).

To advance discussions on a sustainable regional arrangement in the water and energy sphere, the UNRCCA, together with FAO and USAID, supported a seminar on “Mutually Beneficial Multilateral Water Agreements: opportunities to add value and share benefits in the energy, agriculture and water sectors in Central Asia through increased regional cooperation” (Dushanbe, October 2009). This platform enabled to introduce specific projects implemented in Central Asia that stimulate mutual gains through enhanced cooperation.

The role of the UNRCCA in facilitating solutions to water problems was expressly recognized during the Summit of the Heads of States of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) (Almaty, 28 April 2009). The Joint Statement of the Summit called on state parties to strengthen the IFAS and develop cooperation with the Regional Centre, UN structures, and other international organizations.



As a follow up to the IFAS Summit, the UNRCCA organized an international coordination meeting during which the institutional strengthening of the IFAS was discussed, as well as the development of an acceptable mechanism on the use of water and energy resources and environmental protection (Ashgabat, July 2009).

On 3 March 2010, A Memorandum of Understanding between the UN and the IFAS Executive Committee was signed in Ashgabat.

The UNRCCA lent its support to the efforts to combat trans-boundary uranium contamination of soils and rivers and environmental degradation. It co-chaired an international ministerial level forum on uranium tailings in Central Asia (Geneva, 29 June 2009) highlighting health and environmental risks associated with the presence of toxic wastes in Central Asia, and seeking to attract funding for clean-up initiatives.

Drawing on its preventive diplomacy mandate, the Regional Centre organized a seminar involving the Institutes of Strategic Studies of the Central Asia region and foreign experts, focusing on the impact of global challenges in Central Asia and the identification of priorities for preventive measures (Ashgabat, March 2009).



To strengthen regional cooperation and the ability of states to address challenges, the UNRCCA and UNITAR held a one week training course on preventive diplomacy for over 20 young diplomats from the five Central Asian states (Ashgabat, November 2009).



Participants were trained on selected aspects of international law, peace-building and conflict management, case studies, and negotiation techniques.



The UNRCCA held regular consultations with Central Asian countries. On 17 February 2010, it organized the Second Meeting of Deputy Foreign Ministers of Central Asian states in Almaty to discuss ways in which the UNRCCA could continue assisting the countries of the region in addressing threats to stability and sustainable development and advance regional cooperation.

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