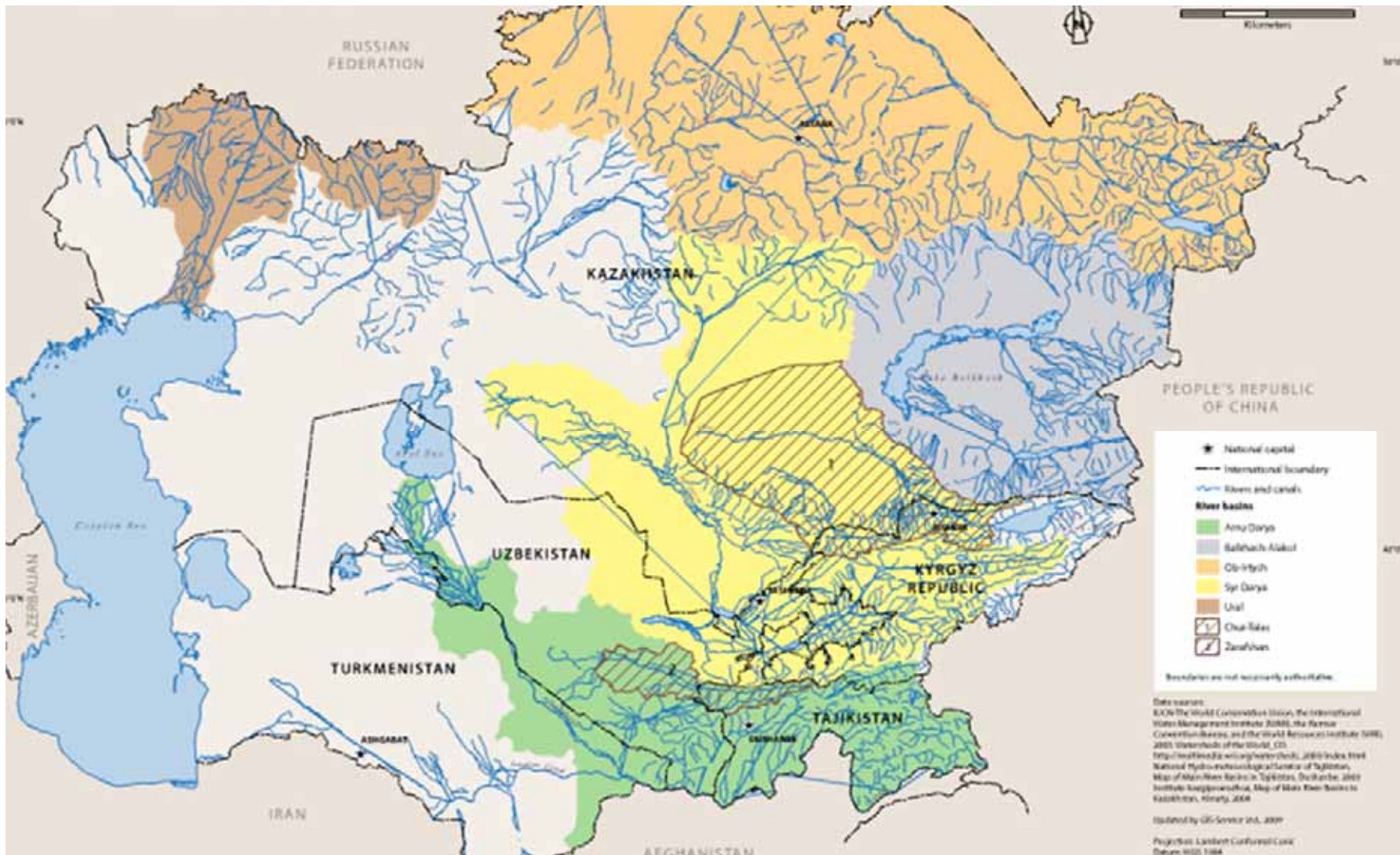




CENTRAL ASIA – THE MAIN PRIORITY OF THE FOREIGN POLICY OF UZBEKISTAN

I.Hushvaktov - deputy of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan

Water is at the heart of all aspects of development, linking different sectors of the economy, countries and components of wildlife. Universal dependence on water resources could not but affect their quantity and quality.





According to the UN, water issues have already affected all the continents, putting the ecosystems' stability and socio-economic development. Under its influence there are more than **2 billion people living in more than 40 countries of the world.**

By 2030, the global shortage of water resources in the world could reach 40%. According to forecasts, global climate change will only increase the intensity of water problems, and will also cause an increase in frequency and increase the severity of floods and droughts.



SHORTAGE OF WATER RESOURCES IN CENTRAL ASIA

By the 2040s, even with an increase in the runoff of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya basins, the total water deficit for irrigation in Uzbekistan is estimated to be 8%, with a constant runoff of 15%, with a reduction in runoff, the water deficit may reach 33 %.



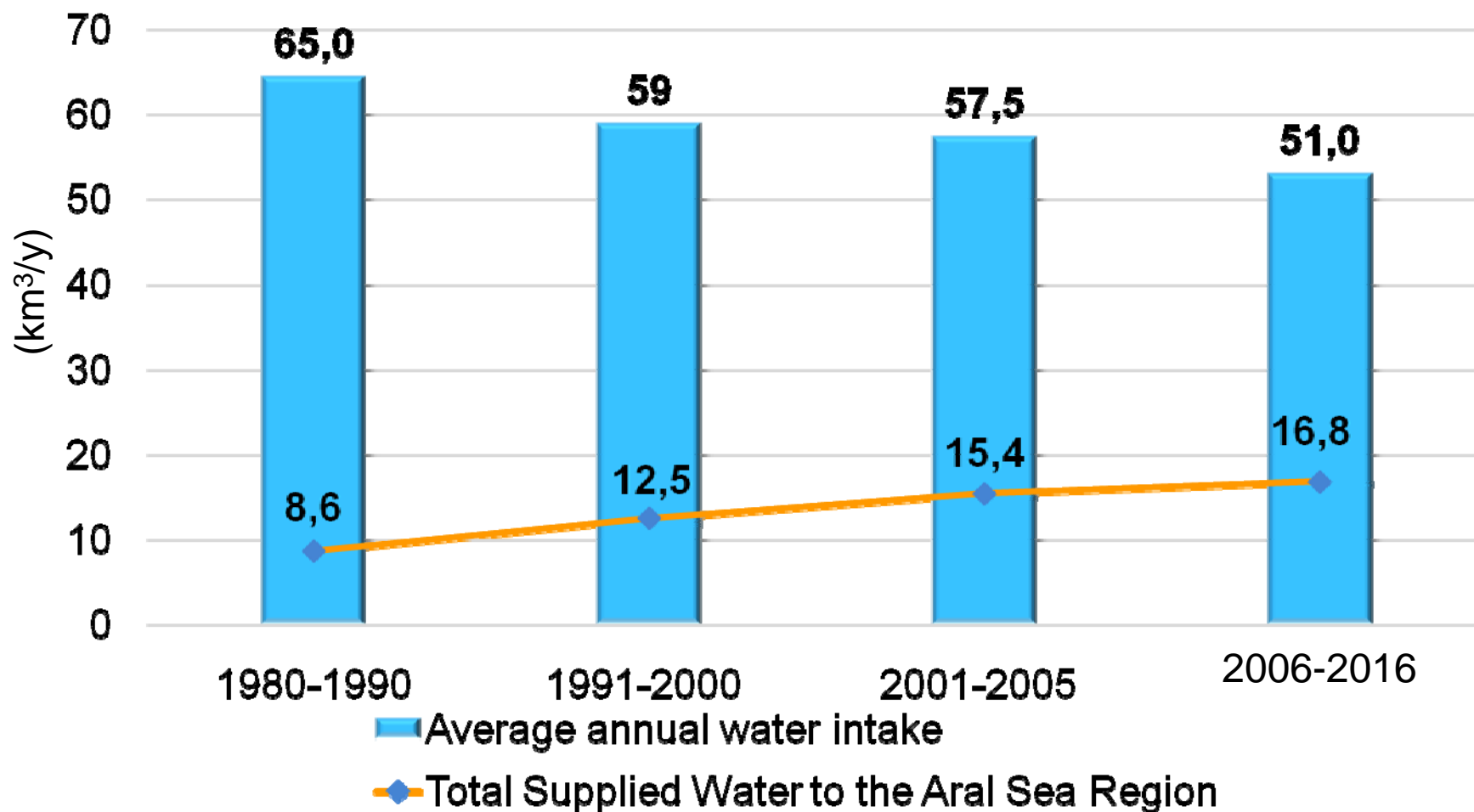
ADDRESSING ISSUES RELATED TO THE USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES IN CENTRAL ASIA

The Uzbek side believes that the use of water resources of the transboundary rivers of Central Asia should be solved taking into account the interests of more than 60 million people living in all countries of the region.



Water resources management in central Asia

Water intake volume by Uzbekistan



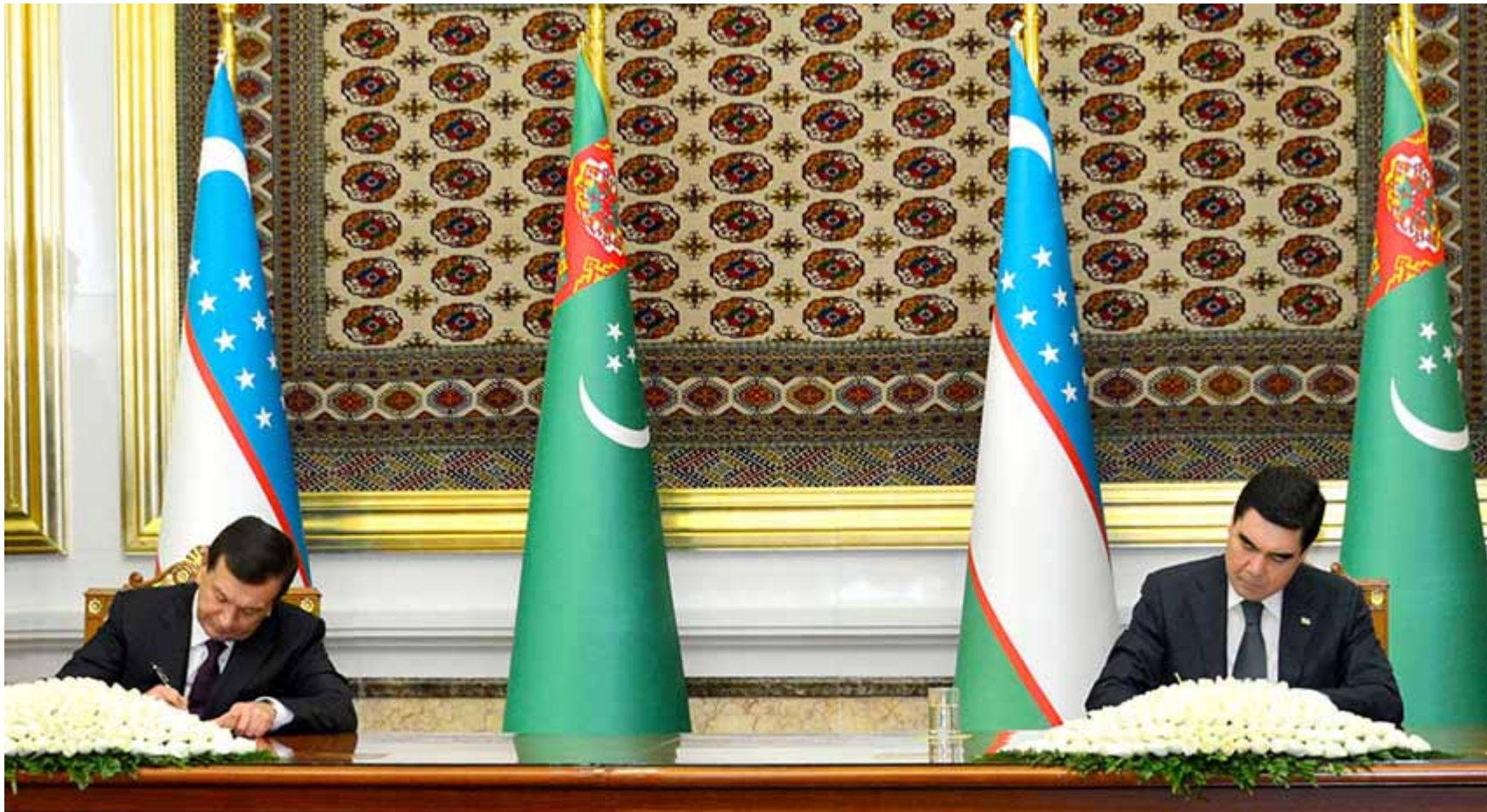
In this context, I want to emphasize that the Uzbek side supports the initiative of the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) to develop a mutually beneficial formula for cooperation of the Central Asian states in the field of transboundary water resources management in the Aral Sea basin and intends to participate in the regional consultations to discuss conventions On the use of water resources in the basin of the Amudarya and Syrdarya rivers.



THE JOINT WORKING GROUP OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



Within the framework of the State visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Turkmenistan on March 9-10 this year. "An agreement was signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Turkmenistan on cooperation in water management issues".



On April 12, 2017 in Tashkent was held an international scientific and practical conference on "Problems and prospects for effective water management in a globalizing ", in which the heads of the water management departments of the countries of Central Asia participated.



At the same time, I would like to note that the Central Asian Regional Environmental Forum is currently being held in conjunction with the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia in Tashkent 2018.



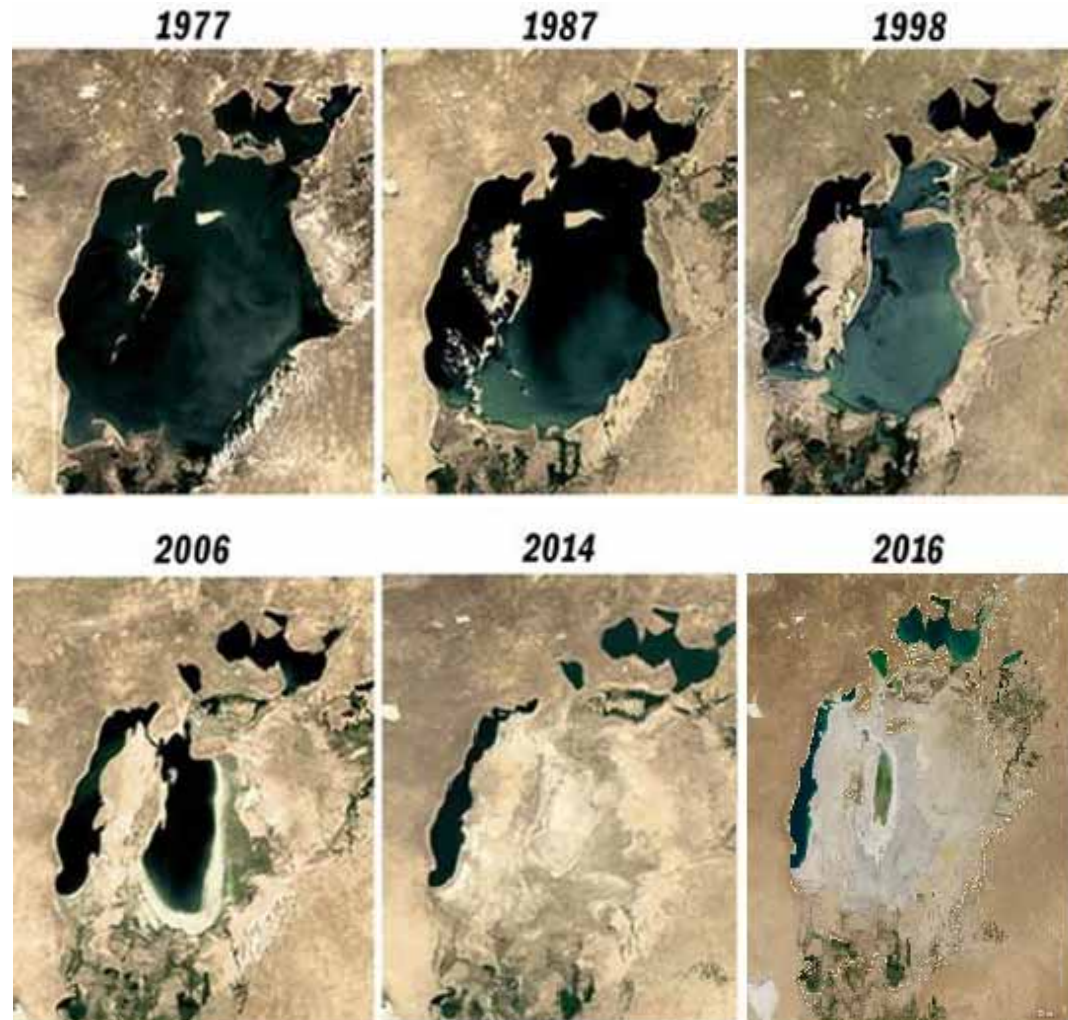
Aral Sea dried-out seabed



THE ARAL SEA RAPIDLY SHRINKING SINCE THE 1960s

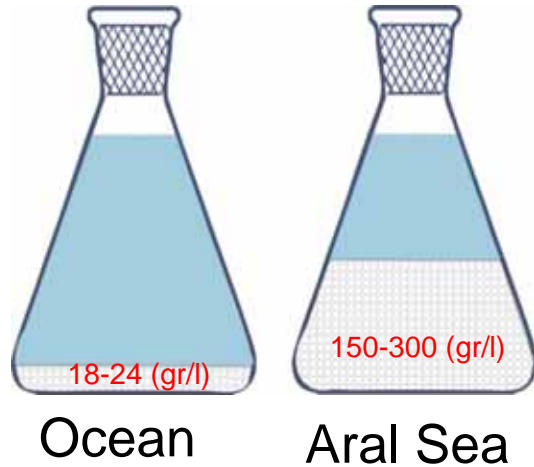
Last 50-55 years:

- Water volume reduced more than 15 times
- The Sea area reduced more than 8 times
- The Sea level reduced more than 29 meters
- Coastline retreated hundreds of kilometers



Environmental Consequences

High water salinity

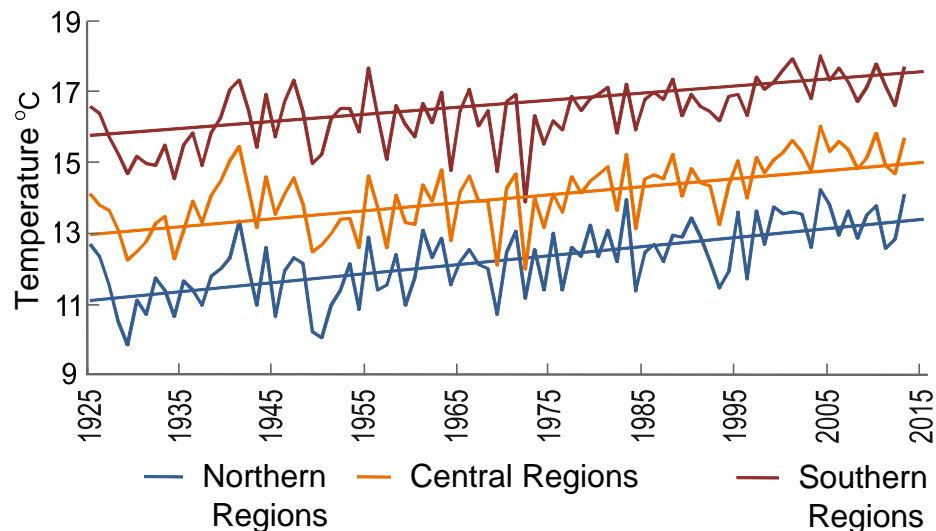
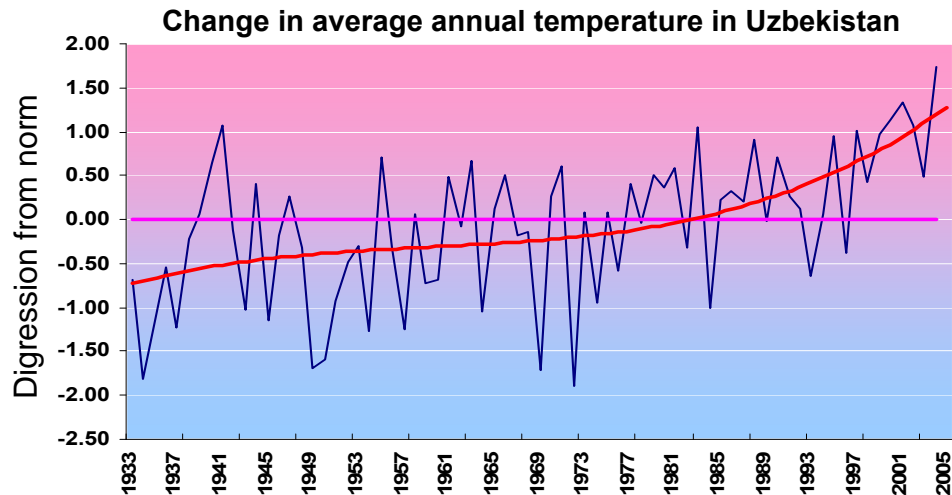


Water salinity –
150-300 gr/liter

*(in oceans this is
– 18-24 gr/liter)*



Environmental Consequences Climate Change



- Significant rise of air temperature throughout Uzbekistan
- Since 1950s the temperature raised to 29°C
- Changing number of days with air temperature over 40°C in the Aral Sea Area
- Changing precipitations trends and as a result increased probability of dangerous hydrologic phenomena

Environmental Consequences LONG RANGE AIR POLLUTION



Annually around 100 million tons of salty dust go up to the atmosphere

More than 90 days storms in a year

Plumes of salty dust reach as far as 400 km and more



**THE STRATEGY OF ACTIONS
ON FIVE PRIORITY DIRECTIONS OF
DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
UZBEKISTAN IN 2017-2021**



2017 year - The year of Dialogue with the People and Human Interests





МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ ФОНД СПАСЕНИЯ АРАЛА
THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA

A scenic landscape featuring a large, deep blue lake in the center. In the background, there are rugged mountains under a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, there are green evergreen trees and some tall grasses. The text "THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**