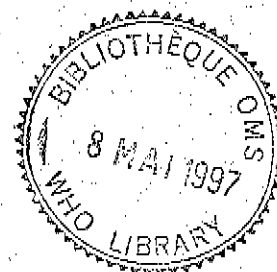




# ISSYK-KUL RESOLUTION

## ON ACTIONS FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH PROTECTION IN CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS

First Central Asian Republics Conference on  
Development of National Environmental Health  
Action Plans - Partnership for sustainable  
development  
Lake Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan  
12-14 June 1996



World Health Organization  
Regional Office for Europe

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# ISSYK-KUL RESOLUTION

ON ACTIONS FOR ENVIRONMENT  
AND HEALTH PROTECTION IN  
CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS

## TARGET 18

### POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

*By the year 2000, all Member States should have developed, and be implementing, policies on the environment and health that ensure ecologically sustainable development, effective prevention and control of environmental health risks and equitable access to healthy environments.*

#### Keywords

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY  
HEALTH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION  
SUSTAINABILITY  
CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS

## ISSYK-KUL RESOLUTION

### ON ACTION FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH PROTECTION IN CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS

1. We, the representatives of the Ministries of Environment and of Health of the Central Asian Republics, have met here at Lake Issyk-Kul, at the invitation of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, in accordance with the Environmental Health Action Plan for Europe adopted at the Second European Conference on Environment and Health, held in Helsinki, June 1994. The aim of the Conference was to work out the main ones of practical actions on environment and health in our sub-region. We recognize that more effective use of the limited resources available within and to our countries calls for extended and intensified cooperation among the Central Asian Republics.
2. We note with pleasure that several decisions of the Helsinki Conference have been followed through and that most of the countries have started to develop their national environmental health action plans (NEHAPs).
3. We emphasize the vital importance of the "Environment for Europe" process initiated at Dobris Castle in 1991 and followed up at the Conferences in Lucerne in 1993 and in Sofia in 1995.

#### COMMITMENT TO ACTION

##### Country actions

4. In implementing this Resolution we will follow the recommendations of the Helsinki and the Sofia Conferences. We emphasize that the tasks of health promotion can be tackled only in the context of the improved quality of the environment, and that these two aspects are therefore not in conflict but complementary.
5. Recalling the decisions taken at the 1994 Helsinki Conference to charge our respective health and environment ministries to jointly develop NEHAPs not later than 1997, we will make all efforts to ensure that NEHAPs are integrated in or closely related with the National Environmental Action Programmes (NEAPs)<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The development of National Environmental Action Programmes (NEAP) by the countries of Central and Eastern Europe was launched at the Second "Environment for Europe" Conference, which was held in Lucerne, Switzerland, in 1993

6. We will exert influence on other governmental authorities, such as those responsible for agriculture, water management, energy, industry, transport, municipal and communal services and tourism in order to integrate environment and health issues into their existing economic strategies; this will be an important step towards sustainable development.
7. We are convinced that there is an urgent social and political need to use a comprehensive integrated approach in order to establish healthy communities, including the rational utilization of nature resources, under the leadership of the ministries of environment and of health.

#### **Regional collaborative actions**

8. We support and welcome the activities of WHO and other international organizations on further improving environmental health management in the Central Asian Republics.
9. We will continue our work on unification of the legislation and normative basis in environmental health and on collaborative development of a system to meet ecological requirements in respect of rational utilization of nature resources and public health standards, involving international organizations in this process;

We will jointly draw up a regional legislative framework document on the reform of public health (sanitary-hygiene) services in accordance with the WHO concept of environmental health, thus defining the boundaries of responsibilities of the public health services and other bodies, enforcing environmental health legislation.

10. We emphasize the need to build up scientific and technical capacities to improve and develop the main services in environmental protection and environmental health; these include, in particular, information systems, assessment of health-related environmental hazards and control measures, education and training of environmental health professionals, mechanisms for programme monitoring and evaluation, financing mechanisms in environment and health protection, public information and participation in related actions:
  - In pursuance of the agreements reached during the WHO workshop on education and training of environmental health professionals held in Bishkek, in November 1995, we will make joint efforts to improve existing systems for the education and training of environmental health professionals, improve teaching methods with the help of international organizations, developing institutional capacities and improving the training of teachers. We will study the existing normative basis for training of environmental professionals and use them widely in our future work
  - we will define a regional list of statistical indicators on various aspects of the environment and human health for inclusion in the CARINFONET project

- we will make efforts to produce the regional information atlas "Environment and health of the population".
- 11. We - Member States, WHO and other international organizations - will seek internal and external resources to finance the development and the implementation of NEHAPs and to solve transboundary problems.
- 12. We - participants in the Conference - call on our heads of state to join the International Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Waters Sources and International Lakes.
- 13. Following the agreement among the heads of state of the Central Asian Republics on the problems of the Aral Sea basin we commit ourselves to develop a common policy of the Member States engaged in the development of NEHAPs on the issues of transboundary contamination of water, to implement monitoring of the quality and safety of drinking water and rational utilization of water, and to organize a uniform reporting system.
- 14. Acknowledging the potential hazards to human health resulting from the unsafe storage of radioactive and other wastes, we commit ourselves to including the evaluation and assessment of the current situation and the setting of priorities for our actions at national and regional levels as part of the process of NEHAP development and implementation.
- 15. We regret that the civil strife in Tajikistan is aggravating social, political and ecological problems in the sub-region and we acknowledge an urgent need for our solidarity to be expressed in operational terms. We call for intensification of the actions taken by WHO in cooperation with other United Nations bodies, relief organizations and individual Member States of WHO, to create the conditions for health protection work in Tajikistan and to start contributing to the major efforts that will be required to alleviate adverse health conditions.
- 16. We welcome the technical assistance being rendered by WHO/EURO and request that technical booklets continue to be drawn up on current environmental health issues

#### **Transboundary actions**

- 17. We appreciate the assistance rendered by UNEP to the countries of the Aral-Caspian region and we request UNEP to consider the possibility of expanding its activities further to the Central Asian region. We also request WHO to develop, in collaboration with UNEP and UNDP, a comprehensive regional environmental programme based on NEAPs and NEHAPs and to study the possibility of expanding the regional programme further to the Aral-Caspian region. We ask UNDP to further strengthen cooperation with the Central Asian countries in the context of this Issyk-Kul Resolution.
- 18. Recognizing that the majority of problems related to the Aral and Caspian seas are transboundary ones and taking into consideration the fact that the bulk of water utilization problems are common ones, we resume our support for bilateral and international agreements dealing with these issues.

We consider that it is necessary to develop collaboration among the Central Asian Republics on water management and on neutralization and use of radioactive and other wastes.

#### **INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT**

19. We recognize that successful and sustained implementation of this Resolution is dependent on collaboration between the partners in the "Environment for Europe" process and WHO European Regional Organization, utilizing existing coordinating mechanisms so far as possible.
20. In this connection we have concluded that, in order to secure more operational coordination and efficient management of cooperation between the Central Asian Republics, a CAR Environment and Health Coordinating Council (CAR/EHCC) should be established.
21. We consider that this Council should comprise representatives designated by the governments of the five Central Asian Republics, representatives of WHO and possibly UNEP, UNDP and other international, intergovernmental organizations and international funding agencies, subject to the approval of the respective institutions.
22. The Council will be established initially for the period of three years and will become operational with effect from 1 November 1996
23. We agree that the functions of the CAR/EHCC will be:
  - to promote the development and implementation of NEHAPs;
  - when requested by countries, to facilitate and support the development of environmental health action plans, including technical assistance in analysis of the economic, environment and health implications of particular policy options, and to assist in identification of external resources for the development of plans;
  - to cooperate with the bodies involved in the "Environment for Europe" process, in order to promote the inclusion of actions addressing health issues in, or to their close linkage with, action programmes for the environment;
  - to provide advice and recommendations on environmental health issues to organizations and donors ready to support countries in economic transition or recovering from the effects of armed hostilities
  - to assist in the identification of emerging environmental health issues that require collaborative actions or further study;
  - to foster the exchange and dissemination of information.

24. We recommend that the Council determines the assignment of responsibilities for the main collaborative actions endorsed by this Resolution. These decisions will be based on feasibility studies evaluating practical aspects, available support, financial viability and other factors important for successful implementation of the programme to give effect to the main provisions of this Resolution.
25. We recommend that CAR/EHCC should report annually on NEHAP development and implementation in the Central Asian Republics to the European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC).
26. The WHO Information Centre for the Central Asian Republics will act as a secretariat for the Council.

### CONCLUSIONS

27. We recommend convening a Second Conference of the Central Asian Republics in 1998, to review progress, particularly on the development and implementation of NEHAPs, and to prepare a report for the Third European Conference on Environment and Health to be held in London, in 1999.
28. We express our deep gratitude to the Government of Kyrgyz Republic for its excellent organization of the Conference and we wish to thank its people for the warm hospitality received.

The Resolution was approved and adopted by all the delegates attending the Conference.

Issyk-Kul, 14 June 1996

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