

Unofficial translation by SIC ICSD

**Approved by Decision No. 3
of the Interstate Commission on
Sustainable Development
Almaty, 18 October 2000**

**STATUTE
OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

I. General Provisions

1.1. The Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) was established pursuant to Article 2 of the *Agreement on Joint Actions to Address the Problems of the Aral Sea and the Aral Sea Basin, on Environmental Rehabilitation and on Ensuring the Socio-Economic Development of the Aral Sea Region*, signed by the Heads of State of Central Asia in the city of Kyzyl-Orda on 26 March 1993.

1.2. In its activities, the ICSD shall be guided by the decisions adopted by the Heads of State of Central Asia, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), as well as by the present Statute.

1.3. The primary objective of the ICSD shall be to coordinate and manage regional cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development of the Central Asian States.

II. Main Functions

2.1. To organize and coordinate the development of a regional strategy for sustainable development, as well as related programmes and plans.

2.2. To manage regional programmes, action plans and projects in the fields of environmental protection and sustainable development.

2.3. To organize the review and preparation of regional projects.

2.4. To coordinate actions for the implementation by the Central Asian States of their obligations under environmental conventions with a transboundary dimension.

2.5. To promote the harmonization of legislation and methodologies in the field of environmental protection.

2.6. To facilitate interstate information exchange and the establishment of a regional information database in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development.

III. Structure and Organization of Work

3.1. The ICSD shall be composed of 15 members, with 3 members from each State, including Ministers of Environment, Deputy Ministers of Economy, and representatives of academia and other relevant sectors, appointed by the Governments of the respective States.

3.2. The working bodies of the ICSD shall be:

- The Secretariat, which provides technical and financial support for the work of the ICSD;
- The Scientific-Information Centre (SIC), based in Turkmenistan, with its four branches in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- The Consultative Council, consisting of experts of the sustainable development network, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations and donor institutions.

3.3. The work of the ICSD's subsidiary bodies shall be regulated by the relevant statutes, adopted by the ICSD.

3.4. The chairmanship of the ICSD shall be exercised by the Ministers of Environment on a rotational basis, every two years.

3.5. Meetings of the ICSD shall be convened according to an approved schedule, or at the initiative of not less than three of the five participating States, but not less than twice per year.

3.6. The costs of organizing ICSD meetings shall be borne by each State, through contributions to IFAS and other sources of financing.

IV. Rights and Responsibilities

4.1. The ICSD shall take decisions or submit recommendations on the basis of consensus, understood as the absence of any objection by a member State.

4.2. The ICSD shall submit to IFAS for approval proposals concerning:

- the adoption of regional strategies, programmes and action plans;
- the approval of annual budgets for the working bodies of the ICSD and regional activities.

4.3. Through its members, the ICSD shall submit to the Governments of the States for approval proposals regarding agreements on loans and commitments for co-financing of regional projects.

4.4. For the purpose of fulfilling its functions, the ICSD shall have the right to establish consultative and expert working groups for the review, preparation and management of regional environmental projects.

4.5. The ICSD shall have the right to involve representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations of the Central Asian States, in order to take account of their interests and to carry out expert review.

4.6. The Secretariat of the ICSD shall have the status of a legal entity, maintain its own bank account, official stamp and letterhead, and have an independent balance sheet. All documentation relating to the work of the ICSD and its Secretariat shall be conducted in the Russian language.

4.7. Financing of the activities of the ICSD and its working bodies shall be provided through contributions of the States to IFAS, on the basis of submissions by the ICSD members of the respective States.

4.8. The privileges granted to the Executive Committee of IFAS shall also extend to the leadership of the ICSD's working bodies.

V. Amendments to the Statute and Termination of Activities

5.1. Amendments to the present Statute may be made by the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, upon submission by the ICSD.

5.2. The ICSD shall terminate its activities pursuant to a decision of the Heads of State of Central Asia.

5.3. The Statute of the ICSD shall enter into force upon its approval by the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea.