

*Unofficial translation by SIC ICSD*  
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*on Sustainable Development No. 5*  
*dated 6 November 2004*

**Statute**  
**on the Public Council under the Interstate Commission on**  
**Sustainable Development of Central Asia**

**1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1**

The Public Council under the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development of Central Asia (hereinafter referred to as the “Public Council” or “PC”) is a voluntary association of representatives of civil society from the countries of Central Asia, established to facilitate and support the activities of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development of Central Asia (ICSD) in addressing issues related to environmental protection and sustainable development in the region.

The Public Council shall function as an advisory and consultative body to the ICSD and shall represent the views and interests of civil society at ICSD meetings on matters concerning the implementation of environmental protection strategies, programmes, and sustainable development plans in Central Asia.

The Public Council shall engage with governmental authorities, the private sector, and other stakeholders at the national level through national civil society forums, meetings, consultations, seminars, and other appropriate mechanisms.

The Public Council shall organize its activities on the principles of transparency, inclusiveness, broad participation of civil society actors, and due consideration of diverse stakeholder interests.

**Article 2**

The procedures governing the activities of the Public Council shall be determined by this Statute.

### **Article 3**

The Public Council shall be composed of civil society representatives delegated by the countries of Central Asia.

Members of the Public Council shall be selected and approved by national civil society forums.

The composition of the Public Council shall ensure equal representation from each Central Asian country, as well as the inclusion of representatives from the Central Asian Youth Environmental Network.

The term of office and procedures for termination of membership shall be determined by the respective national civil society forums that delegated the members.

A member's mandate shall remain valid until a replacement is duly delegated by the respective national civil society forum.

## **2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES**

### **Article 4**

The primary objective of the Public Council shall be to promote cooperation between governmental institutions and civil society organizations in the fields of environmental protection and sustainable development at the national, regional, and international levels.

Such cooperation shall be pursued through the engagement of civil society in decision-making processes, facilitation of dialogue among stakeholders, and support for practical actions aimed at integrated natural resource management and environmental protection.

### **Article 5**

In accordance with its mandate, the Public Council shall:

- Facilitate the participation of civil society in discussions on environmental issues, sustainable development in Central Asia, and ICSD decision-making processes;
- Promote education for sustainable development and strengthen the capacity and competencies of civil society representatives;
- Conduct awareness-raising activities to enhance public engagement in the implementation of environmental policies and sustainable development strategies adopted by the ICSD;

- Engage civil society in the development and implementation of regional and transboundary programmes and projects;
- Enhance the effective use of ICSD information resources and promote the exchange of environmental information among regional and national networks and organizations;
- Foster intersectoral cooperation in environmental protection and sustainable natural resource management;
- Carry out public monitoring of the implementation of ICSD decisions.

### **3. STRUCTURE AND GOVERNING BODIES**

#### **Article 6**

The supreme governing body of the Public Council shall be the Regional Meeting of the Public Council, convened at least once every two years.

The Regional Meeting shall serve as a platform for developing a consolidated position of Central Asian civil society on the implementation of sustainable development strategies, programmes, and action plans.

Regional Meetings shall be held on a rotational basis in the country hosting the ICSD at the time of the meeting.

National civil society forums shall serve as preparatory stages for the Regional Meeting.

A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of all members of the Public Council, provided that representatives from all Central Asian countries are present.

Decisions shall be adopted by a majority vote of members present.

In the event of disputes, matters shall be referred to the Secretariat for consideration and resolution.

Representatives of international organizations and civil society from Central Asian countries may be invited to participate as observers.

Members shall report on the implementation of Public Council plans during the Regional Meeting.

The Secretariat shall be responsible for organizing the Regional Meeting and determining the number of invited participants.

Extraordinary Regional Meetings may be convened upon the initiative of the Secretariat or any member, supported by at least one-third of the members.

Between Regional Meetings, members may deliberate and adopt decisions electronically, including via email. In this case deadline for discussion of questions and adoption of decisions is set within the agreed timeframes.

## **Article 7**

The executive body of the Public Council shall be the Secretariat of PC.

The Secretariat of PC shall be elected at the Regional Meeting from among the members of the Public Council for a term of two years, with one representative from each Central Asian country.

Elections shall be conducted by open vote and formalized by decision of the Public Council.

In the event of early termination of a Secretariat member's mandate, new elections shall be held within three months from the date of early termination.

The Secretariat shall be accountable to the Public Council.

The Secretariat of PC meets at least twice per year.

A Chairperson shall be elected for the duration of Secretariat meeting. Chairperson during the Secretariat Meeting ensures effective proceedings and adherence to democratic principles are met.

Voting procedures shall be determined during Secretariat meetings.

## **Article 8**

The Secretariat of PC shall:

- Ensure coordination between the Public Council, ICSD, and national and international partners;
- Organize the activities of the Public Council between its meetings;
- Represent the Public Council in its relations with ICSD, governmental authorities, international organizations, and civil society;
- Inform ICSD of issues considered and decisions adopted by the Public Council;
- Coordinate the preparation of materials and draft documents for Public Council and ICSD meetings;
- Disseminate information to members and civil society regarding ICSD decisions, which are related to activities of the Public Council and civil society;
- Maintain official documentation and ensure its safekeeping.

The Secretariat member from the host country of the ICSD shall serve as Coordinator and implements its responsibilities and coordination with Secretariat of PC.

#### **Article 9**

The Public Council may establish commissions to address priority areas of its activities.

Commissions of PC shall be composed of Public Council members and invited experts.

Their establishment shall be formalized by decision of the Public Council.

Commission Chairpersons shall be elected from among their members during the Commission Meetings.

#### **Article 10**

Commissions shall:

- Organize work within their respective areas of competence;
- Prepare draft recommendations and decisions for consideration by the Public Council;
- Develop project proposals related to the issues of environmental protection and sustainable development in cooperation with civil society and stakeholders;
- Establish expert and working groups, as necessary.

#### **Article 11**

The activities of the Public Council and its subsidiary bodies shall be carried out on the basis of long-term and annual work plans.

Draft plans for the Public Council shall be prepared by the Secretariat, while plans for commissions and working groups shall be prepared by their respective heads.

### **4. REORGANIZATION AND DISSOLUTION**

#### **Article 12**

Reorganization or dissolution of the Public Council shall be carried out in accordance with this Statute on the basis of a decision of the Regional Meeting of PC.

In the event of dissolution, all materials and archives shall be transferred to the ICSD Secretariat.

### **Article 13**

These Regulations shall enter into force upon their approval at the Regional Meeting of the Public Council.

Amendments and additions shall be made by decision of the Regional Meeting.