

## INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

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### ABSTRACT

This article introduces an overview of the international legal framework for combating climate change. It examines the key international documents regulating the activities of States in the fight against climate change. It is discussed that the main changes in the field of climate after the adoption of key international documents. Particular attention in this article is paid to the role of the United Nations and other climate organizations in the formation and development of an international legal framework to combat climate change.

**Keywords:** climate change, international legal framework, Framework Convention, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement, international organization, sustainable development.

### INTRODUCTION

Climate change is one of the major global challenges of our time. The increase in greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and environmental pollution lead to climate change on Earth. To solve this problem, it is necessary to develop effective measures and mechanisms that would regulate the activities of States in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. It is also important to recognize the need for international cooperation for joint efforts to combat this phenomenon and minimize its negative consequences.

In this article, we will consider the international legal framework for combating climate change, including such key documents as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and others. We will also analyze their basic principles and goals, as well as the role of international organizations to achieve sustainable development of the planet.

#### **Key documents**

It is important to note that the basis for regulating the activities of States in the field of combating climate change are international documents adopted within the framework of the United Nations. One of the fundamental documents is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted at Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Within the framework of this convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement were developed and adopted, which establish obligations for States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions<sup>1</sup>.

1. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted in 1992. It is the first international document dedicated to the problem of climate change. The main objective of the convention is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the negative effects of climate change. The UNFCCC establishes general principles and frameworks for international cooperation on these issues<sup>2</sup>.

The Convention also provides for the creation of mechanisms for technology transfer and financial support to developing countries to help them combat climate change. UNFCCC also provides for periodic conferences of the parties to discuss progress and take new decisions.

The UNFCCC has been ratified by almost all countries of the world, which confirms its importance in international law and politics. It is also the basis for other key documents, such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, which deepen and expand the operation of the convention.

2. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997 within the framework of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and is the first international document setting specific goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The main objective of the protocol is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5% from the 1990 level in the period from 2008 to 2012<sup>3</sup>.

The Protocol provides for the use of various mechanisms to achieve these goals, including emissions trading, joint project implementation and the clean development mechanism. The Protocol also provides obligations for developed countries to provide financial support and technology transfer to developing countries.

The Kyoto Protocol has been ratified by more than 190 countries, which underlines its importance in the international fight against climate change. However, it expired in 2012, and the international community is currently working on the development of new documents and agreements to continue efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

3. In order to combat climate change and its negative consequences, countries have adopted the Paris Agreement. It was adopted by 196 Parties at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

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<sup>1</sup> Вирт Д.А. Парижское соглашение: новый компонент климатического режима ООН // Вестник международных организаций. 2017. Т. 12. № 4. С. 00–00. DOI.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992 (1771 UNTS 107)

<sup>3</sup> Kyoto Protocol to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1997 (2303 UNTS 148)

Change (UNFCCC COP-21) on December 12, 2015 in Paris<sup>1</sup>. This agreement, which entered into force in less than a year, aims to significantly reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and limit the increase in global temperature this century to 2 degrees Celsius, while finding means to further limit this increase to 1.5 degrees<sup>2</sup>.

The Agreement calls on all countries to commit themselves to working together to reduce emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change. The Agreement opens the way for developed countries to support the efforts of developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change, while at the same time creating a framework for transparent monitoring and reporting on countries' achievement of climate change targets.

The Paris Agreement provides a solid foundation guiding global efforts over the coming decades. The goal is to increase the ambition of countries' actions to combat climate change over time. To facilitate this, the Agreement establishes two review processes, each of which is carried out over a five-year cycle<sup>3</sup>.

4. In 1985, the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer was adopted<sup>4</sup>. It is the first international document devoted to the problem of ozone depletion. The Convention establishes general principles and objectives for the protection of the ozone layer, as well as measures for cooperation and information exchange between countries.

The main result of the Vienna Convention is the adoption of the Montreal Protocol in 1987, which establishes specific measures to phase out the production and use of harmful substances that cause the destruction of the ozone layer, such as freons and halons<sup>5</sup>. The Protocol has become one of the most successful international environmental agreements, and due to its implementation, a significant reduction in the production and consumption of harmful substances contributed to the restoration of the ozone layer.

5. There is also an Agreement on the Establishment of the Global Climate Fund, an international document adopted in 2010, which establishes a mechanism for financing projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change in developing countries<sup>6</sup>. The Fund's resources will be evenly distributed between mitigation and adaptation over time. At least half of the adaptation funding will be

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<sup>1</sup> <https://unfccc.int/ru/informaciya-ob-onuv/chto-takoe-parizhskoe-soglashenie>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un.org/ru/climatechange/paris-agreement>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.un.org/ru/climatechange/paris-agreement>

<sup>4</sup> Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone, 1985 (1513 UNTS 293)

<sup>5</sup> Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, 1987 (1522 UNTS 3).

<sup>6</sup> Аналитический документ. Размышления о 26-й сессии Конференции Сторон РКИК ООН и дальнейших действиях. 2022 год. Стр. 94

provided to least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States and African countries<sup>1</sup>.

These international instruments play a key role in regulating the activities of States to combat climate change and contribute to the coordination of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change at the global level.

In addition, there are a number of other international documents aimed at regulating the activities of States in the field of combating climate change. These are, in particular, documents of the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization that set standards for aviation and navigation in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### **The role of the United Nations and other intergovernmental climate organizations in shaping and developing the international legal framework for combating climate change.**

The international legal framework to combat climate change is a set of norms and documents regulating relations between states and other actors in the field of climate protection and adaptation to climate change. Speaking about the formation and development of the international legal framework to combat climate change, it is impossible not to mention the contribution of the UN. The UN organizes regular climate conferences at which countries agree on actions and initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the consequences of the climate crisis.

It all started in the 70s of the 20th century when the world community began to think about the need to respect the environment. A global response to the growing awareness of the environmental problems caused by human activities was the environmental movement in the 1970s. On April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day was held, when 20 million people took to the streets across the United States to protest environmental destruction<sup>2</sup>. At the international level, government representatives from different countries for the first time came together in Stockholm in 1972 at the UN Conference on the Human Environment to discuss issues related to the state of the global environment. The participants adopted a series of principles for sound management of the environment including the Stockholm Declaration and Action Plan for the Human Environment and several resolutions. The Stockholm Declaration, which contained 26 principles, placed environmental issues at the forefront of international concerns and marked the start of a dialogue between industrialized and developing countries on the link between economic growth, the pollution of the air,

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<sup>1</sup> FAO, 2019 CA5160RU/1/08.19. <https://www.fao.org/3/ca5160ru/CA5160RU.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Internet resource – <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200420-earth-day-2020-how-an-environmental-movement-was-born> (Date of reference: 01.11.23)

water, and oceans, and the well-being of people around the world. These includes three main categories:

1. Global Environmental Assessment Program;
2. Environmental management activities;
3. International measures to support assessment and management activities carried out at the national and international levels.

The main outcome of this conference was the establishment of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

To address global environmental problems, the UN Environment Program has the following tasks:

1. Analyzing and assessing the state of the global environment and identifying environmental threats and trends.
2. Developing international environmental law and promoting its ratification and enforcement.
3. Promoting public awareness of international environmental policies and activities.
4. Providing policy assistance and advisory services to governmental and non-governmental organizations on environmental and sustainable development issues.
5. Providing leadership and promoting partnerships in environmental activities with other UN agencies, civil society, and the private sector.

UNEP is now the world's leading environmental organization that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental pillar of sustainable development within the UN system, and is an authoritative advocate for the world's environmental interests<sup>1</sup>.

Two years later in 1974, scientists published their first scientific hypotheses that chemicals we produced could harm the stratospheric ozone layer<sup>2</sup>. The scientific confirmation of the depletion of the ozone layer prompted the international community to establish a mechanism for cooperation to take action to protect the ozone layer<sup>3</sup>. Under these circumstances, in 1985 the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer<sup>4</sup> was adopted. The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer is the basis for international efforts to protect the ozone layer. The ozone layer

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<sup>1</sup> Internet resource – <https://www.unep.org/ru/programma-oon-po-okruzhayuschey-srede/pochemu-oon-okruzhayuschaya-sreda-vazhna> (Date of reference: 01.11.23)

<sup>2</sup> Weiss E. B. The Vienna Convention for the protection of the ozone layer and the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer //United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law. Online at <https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/vcpol/vcpol.html> (as of 22 March 2021). – 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Internet resource – [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer | United Nations](https://www.un.org/ru/observance/031123/) (Date of reference: 03.11.23)

<sup>4</sup> E-resource – <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%201513/volume-1513-I-26164-English.pdf> (Date of reference: 03.11.23)

is a thin part of Earth's atmosphere that absorbs almost all of the sun's harmful ultraviolet light<sup>1</sup> and protects living organisms from its harmful effects. However, some chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halogenated hydrocarbons (HHs), which are used in industry and households, destroy ozone molecules and cause holes to form in the ozone layer. This increases the penetration of ultraviolet radiation to the Earth's surface and causes several negative effects, such as an increased risk of skin cancer.

However, the convention does not include legally binding targets for reducing the use of chlorofluorocarbons, the main chemicals causing ozone depletion. This is why the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer<sup>2</sup> was adopted 2 years later in 1987. The Montreal Protocol is one of the most successful international agreements in the field of environmental protection. It was entered into force in 1989. Since then, it has been modified and amended several times to include new substances and control measures. The Montreal Protocol includes provisions for the gradual elimination of the production and consumption of substances that deplete the ozone layer, which protects the Earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation. It also provides financial and technical assistance to developing countries to switch to ozone-friendly alternatives. Moreover, this document has a positive impact on the climate as it reduces greenhouse gas emissions. It is supported by scientific and technical bodies that regularly assess the state of the ozone layer and the effectiveness of the Protocol's measures. It should be mentioned that the Montreal Protocol has been ratified by all countries of the world and by the European Union.

However, ozone recovery does not mean that the problem of climate change is solved. Climate change itself causes changes in atmospheric circulation and temperature that affect ozone depletion and recovery. The presence of greenhouse gases such as nitrous oxide as well as other pollutants in the stratosphere also affects ozone depletion. In addition, some ozone-friendly alternatives such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are used in refrigeration and air-conditioning, have high global warming potential and contribute to the greenhouse effect. UN acknowledged the necessity to continue cooperation and action at international, national, and local levels to reduce emissions of all substances that harm the ozone layer and the climate and to move towards safer and more energy-efficient technologies and practices. Realizing the impact of greenhouse gases, new solutions are needed to ensure climate protection. Thus, in 1988, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

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<sup>1</sup> Internet resource – <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/ozone-layer/> (Date of reference: 04.11.23)

<sup>2</sup> E-resource – <https://ozone.unep.org/sites/default/files/Handbooks/MP-Handbook-2020-English.pdf> (Date of reference: 05.11.23)

and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The IPCC's mission is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

In 1992 the UN made a significant contribution to the UN International Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the "Earth Summit" held in Rio de Janeiro. The UN initiated and organized this conference, which brought together more than 100 heads of state and government, as well as thousands of representatives of non-governmental organizations, scientists, journalists, and public figures. The event was held under the motto "Our last chance to save the planet". The conference aimed to develop a common strategy to achieve sustainable development in the 21st century, taking into account environmental, social, and economic aspects. The UN also prepared and agreed on three main documents of the conference:

1. the Declaration on Environment and Development<sup>1</sup>. It consists of 27 principles that aim to guide the future sustainable development of the world, taking into account the environmental, social, and economic aspects;

2. Agenda 21 - a comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally, and locally by organizations of the United Nations System, Governments, and Major Groups in every area in which human impacts on the environment<sup>2</sup>;

3. the Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation, and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests<sup>3</sup>. It consists of 17 principles that relate to forest management, conservation, and use. According to Principle 7 all states and people should cooperate in the conservation, management, and sustainable development of forests, recognizing their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and taking into account the interests and needs of local communities and indigenous people.

In addition, the UN opened for signature two important conventions:

1. the 1992 Framework Convention on Climate Change, which defines the general principles, objectives, and obligations of parties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the climate crisis. The Convention is complemented by various protocols and agreements, such as the 1997 Kyoto Protocol<sup>4</sup>, the 2015 Paris Climate

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<sup>1</sup>E-resource – [https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A\\_CONF.151\\_26\\_Vol.I\\_Declaration.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_CONF.151_26_Vol.I_Declaration.pdf) (Date of reference: 05.11.23)

<sup>2</sup>E-resource – <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf> (Date of reference: 05.11.23)

<sup>3</sup>E-resource – <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/144461> (Date of reference: 06.11.23)

<sup>4</sup>E-resource – <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf> (Date of reference: 06.11.23)

Agreement<sup>1</sup>, and the 2021 Climate Pact<sup>2</sup>, which set more specific and ambitious targets and mechanisms to combat climate change. In addition, the international legal framework to combat climate change includes several other instruments related to different aspects of the problem, such as human rights, migration, sustainable development, biodiversity, and so on. All these instruments aim to ensure cooperation and solidarity among countries and peoples to protect our common planet from the threat of climate change.

2. the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)<sup>3</sup>, which is a global treaty that aims to conserve the diversity of life on Earth, use its components sustainably, and share the benefits from the use of genetic resources fairly and equitably.

The UN also continues to support and implement the outcomes of the conference through its specialized agencies and programs, in particular the abovementioned United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), which is the main coordinator and catalyst for environmental activities in the UN system.

Thus, based on all the above-mentioned treaties and actions undertaken by the UN and intergovernmental climate organizations, it can be said that their contribution to ensuring environmental conservation as well as combating its harmful effects cannot be underestimated.

### **The situation of climate change in the Republic of Uzbekistan and the impact of the international legal framework for combating climate change on the Republic Uzbekistan.**

Uzbekistan is a populous double land-locked country in the middle of Central Asia with an emerging lower-middle income economy. State-owned enterprises still dominate its industrial and financial sectors, and foreign trade centers on commodities. The declared goal of its current economic policy is to achieve sustainable growth and overcome underemployment and poverty as soon as possible. Fast growing external public debt limits the availability of public funds and loans to support economic growth, so attraction of private and foreign investment (FDI) has become a vital priority. Five years ago, the Government of Uzbekistan (GOU) launched a program of radical market reforms, with a focus on improving the business environment. Notable progress has been made so far in addressing a range of systemic business regulation problems and overcoming the

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<sup>1</sup>E-resource –

[https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/paris\\_nov\\_2015/application/pdf/paris\\_agreement\\_english.pdf?gclid=Cj0KCQiAjMKqBhCgARIsAPDgWlyA7UyECGPWeT1Bn8rxONLxFFEwgHz\\_v08EvXCwzokbFj34TxGzPHsaAokREALw\\_wcB](https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/paris_nov_2015/application/pdf/paris_agreement_english.pdf?gclid=Cj0KCQiAjMKqBhCgARIsAPDgWlyA7UyECGPWeT1Bn8rxONLxFFEwgHz_v08EvXCwzokbFj34TxGzPHsaAokREALw_wcB)

(Date of reference: 07.11.23)

<sup>2</sup> E-resource – [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop26\\_auv\\_2f\\_cover\\_decision.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop26_auv_2f_cover_decision.pdf) (Date of reference: 08.11.23)

<sup>3</sup> E-resource – [https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1992/06/19920605%2008-44%20PM/Ch\\_XXVII\\_08p.pdf](https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1992/06/19920605%2008-44%20PM/Ch_XXVII_08p.pdf) (Date of reference: 09.11.23)



dominance of state monopolies, but more is yet to be done to completely unlock all benefits of FDI for the economy.

Uzbekistan has the potential to become a strong regional economy: a dynamic and entrepreneurial population, the largest in Central Asia; relatively good infrastructure; and a large potential consumer market. In the past, most FDI was directed into the oil, gas, and mining sectors. In recent years, however, there has been a trend towards increasing FDI in manufacturing, production and distribution of electricity, tourism, and banking. Such diversification was facilitated by positive changes in state regulation and the beginning of a privatization program. Further advancing privatization, as well as implementation of a long-expected capital market development policy, may create unique investment opportunities.

Over the past five years, the GOU has made efforts to improve the investment attractiveness of the country. The GOU has modernized its legislation through the adoption of the Law on Investments and Investment Activities and other acts that streamlined interactions of investors with the state, reduced the tax load, liberalized access to certain commodities, and started the privatization of major state-owned enterprises. As a result, the inflow of FDI has grown from about \$2 billion in 2017 to over \$8 billion in 2021.

The government's efforts to attract funding for various development and social support programs contributed to sustained economic growth despite severe quarantine restrictions in 2020. With the removal of major pandemic restrictions in 2021, GDP grew 7.4 percent. Notable progress has been made in development of renewable energy capacity. Uzbekistan already attracted FDI to develop nearly 4,000 MW of solar and wind capacity and plans to build another 4,000 MW in generation capacity by 2026, which will increase the share of renewables to 25 percent and displace 3 billion cubic meters of natural gas usage annually. The GOU's current environmental policy goal is to achieve a 35 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP from 2010 levels by 2030.

At the same time, the GOU still attempts to channel foreign investments into predetermined import-substituting or export-oriented projects. In some cases, transparency is sacrificed for the urgency of investment. Pandemic-related challenges and the subsequent disruption of global supply chains have slowed the progress of liberalization reforms because the GOU expanded the use of direct administrative control methods. Another restraining factor is the lack of experience among middle and lower-level government officials in working transparently and properly enforcing legislation that protects the rights of entrepreneurs.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-investment-climate-statements/uzbekistan/>

Futures and Foresight are amongst the tools increasingly embraced by sustainable development practitioners. Navigating the uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity by exploring possible futures allows for the generation of insights for strategic planning, the identification of opportunities for transformation, and the anticipation and mitigation of critical risks. In the face of climate change and environmental degradation, sustainable development practices must balance sustainability with improving human wellbeing both now and in the future. One of UNDP's key areas of interest and its national counterparts in Uzbekistan is green transition. For Uzbekistan, a green transition is an opportunity to upgrade its economy in the value-added chains, increase resource efficiency, and achieve balanced growth across the various social groups. The government of Uzbekistan understands this and has adopted several strategic documents to outline the priorities and goals in mid-and longterm perspectives. For example, the Strategy for the transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a green economy in the period of 2019-2030 identifies key goals and targets, priority areas, and implementation measures. In December 2022, an update to this strategy was released via Presidential Resolution No.436: On measures to improve the effectiveness of reforms aimed at the transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a "green" economy until 2030. In support of the government, UNDP Uzbekistan applied futures and foresight tools to explore possibilities for a Green Transition in Uzbekistan. The process produced a range of outputs, including a signals database, drivers, narrative scenarios, and a custom scenario exploration system. The exercise was a participatory process involving UNDP program staff and a wider group of counterparts from various government ministries, agencies, and non-government organizations.<sup>1</sup>

Uzbekistan, like other countries, operates within the international legal framework for combating climate change. Here are some relevant points regarding the international legal framework and Uzbekistan's involvement:

**1. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):** Uzbekistan is a party to the UNFCCC, which provides the overarching legal framework for global cooperation on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The UNFCCC aims to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere and prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

**2. Paris Agreement:** Uzbekistan is also a party to the Paris Agreement, which was adopted under the UNFCCC. The Paris Agreement sets out the goal of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. It requires

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2023-07/Future\\_of\\_Green\\_Transition\\_Eng.pdf](https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2023-07/Future_of_Green_Transition_Eng.pdf)

countries to submit nationally determined contributions (NDCs) outlining their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

**3. National Climate Policies:** Uzbekistan has developed its own national climate policies and strategies to address climate change. These policies aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote renewable energy, enhance energy efficiency, and strengthen climate resilience. The government has also established institutions and mechanisms to coordinate and implement climate-related actions.

**4. International Cooperation:** Uzbekistan actively participates in international cooperation efforts to combat climate change. It engages with various intergovernmental organizations and regional initiatives to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices. Uzbekistan collaborates with other countries and international partners to access financial and technical support for climate-related projects and initiatives.

Uzbekistan is a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has ratified the Paris Agreement. Uzbekistan signed the Paris Agreement on April 19, 2017, and ratified it on November 9, 2018<sup>1</sup>

As a party to the UNFCCC, Uzbekistan is committed to addressing climate change and has submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) outlining its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.<sup>2</sup> Uzbekistan is also involved in reporting its climate actions through the submission of biennial update reports (BURs).

Uzbekistan, being one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, has developed its own national climate policies and strategies to address the issue. These policies focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy, enhancing energy efficiency, and strengthening climate resilience.

Uzbekistan is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change. Without additional resource saving measures, the country may face deficiency of water resources, growth in land desertification and degradation, increase in occurrence of droughts and other dangerous phenomena, leading to instability of agricultural production and threatening to the country's food security. Since the early 1950s the average rates of air temperature growth throughout the territory of Uzbekistan were 0.29o C for each ten years, which is by 2 times higher than the global warming rates. Besides, Uzbekistan has encountered the one of the most complicated problem for the Central Asia region – the Aral Sea ecological disaster. This is virtually one of the largest ecological disasters in the contemporary history. “The Aral Sea, once the unique

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<sup>1</sup> <https://unfccc.int/node/61233>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Uzbekistan/1/INDC%20Uzbekistan%2018-04-2017\\_Eng\\_20170419093154\\_171926.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Uzbekistan/1/INDC%20Uzbekistan%2018-04-2017_Eng_20170419093154_171926.pdf)

and one of the most beautiful and largest inland water bodies in the world, has turned out to be at the edge of total disappearance during the life of one generation. This has caused unprecedented disaster and irreversible damage to the local population, ecosystem and biodiversity of the Priaralie”<sup>1</sup>. The climate change problem is of the global nature, since GHGs emissions are dispensed evenly in atmosphere and do not observe any boundaries. Therefore, only the international cooperation may help to stop increase in greenhouse gas emissions and eventually to decrease adverse impacts of climate change. Uzbekistan has signed and is successfully implementing its obligations under the UNFCCC. Uzbekistan also acclaims adoption of the new Global Climate Agreement. Uzbekistan is the country with developing economy and the stable annual GDP growth rate of over 8%. The country’s population is more than 31 million people. According to the UN prediction, the country’s population will reach 37 million people by 2030. In the long-term perspective, the structural reforms with focus on development of basic industry sectors, active investment policy for modernization and technological renewal of production, social, motor road and communication infrastructure will play the key role in speeding up paces of economic growth.<sup>2</sup>

Strengthening measures and actions aimed at climate change mitigation. Uzbekistan carries out the targeted policy for energy saving in the key economy sectors. “Decreasing in GDP energy consumption by approximately 2 times as a result of broad introduction of the advanced energy saving technologies<sup>3</sup> has been identified in Uzbekistan as the one of targeted tasks for period up to 2030. Strengthening the institutional capacity and improving the legal framework are carried out in renewable energy sector and energy efficiency to achieve the long-term sustainable development goals. The draft Long-term Strategy for low carbon development is considered in the country. It identifies target indices to energy efficiency and the “Program of measures for transition to low carbon development” for the key sectors of economy (electric energy, thermal energy, housing and utilities sectors), which are the main contributors to GHGs emission in Uzbekistan. The measures for energy saving will allow decreasing consumption of primary energy, mainly natural gas. Investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources are of high priority from both economic (decrease in costs for energy generation) and climate viewpoint (decrease in volumes of greenhouse gas emissions). The republic successfully carries out measures for

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<sup>1</sup> I.A.Karimov, International Conference “Development of cooperation in mitigation of ecological disaster impacts in the Aral Sea region”, 29 October 2014.

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[https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Uzbekistan/1/INDC%20Uzbekistan%2018-04-2017\\_Eng\\_20170419093154\\_171926.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Uzbekistan/1/INDC%20Uzbekistan%2018-04-2017_Eng_20170419093154_171926.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Report of the President of RUz, Mr. Islam Karimov, at the extended session of the Cabinet of Ministers devoted to the results of the social and economic development of the country in 2015, and the most important priority directions of economic program for 2016 (16 January 2016).

adaptation to and mitigation of climate change impacts, including implementation of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Projects within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol. Over the entire period of the CDM project activities in Uzbekistan, it has been put into circulation 15,229,536 tons of Certified Emission Reductions in CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent (CERs)<sup>1</sup>, and attracted foreign private investments in amount of USD 24.4 million. The gradual modernization of the industry and a number of other measures implemented during the period from 1990 to 2010 have led to decrease in energy consumption of GDP by almost 2.5 times. Specific emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> per unit of GDP have been decreased by almost 50%. Measures and actions aimed at energy resources saving have allowed Uzbekistan to stabilize level of greenhouse gas emissions and decrease its contribution to the world-wide emissions. According to the GHG inventory data, increase in the GHG emissions during the period from 1990 to 2010 was around 10% only. During the period from 2007 to 2012, in accordance with the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers<sup>2</sup>, 188 thousand units of vehicles were changed over to run on gas fuel. Great attention is paid in the country to the development of renewable energy sources, especially solar energy. The production and experimental use of solar water heaters for hot water supply to residential houses and social facilities are carried out for more than 10 years. A large-scale project for construction of a number of photovoltaic power plants of 100MW each has been commenced. It is planned to bring up the share of solar energy in the total energy balance of the country to 6% by 2030. Uzbekistan shares opinion of the world community regarding necessity to apply efforts to control the global climate change in accordance with the capabilities and responsibility of each country on a reasonable and equitable basis.

In 2030, Uzbekistan has become green and sustainable partially in some sectors of economy {which have historically been attractive to donors}, but this was not always the case. In 2022, Uzbekistan began to feel the effects of the RussiaUkraine war and various negative effects on economy and social life. With fossils and natural resources rich economy, Uzbekistan didn't see much incentives to transition to a more sustainable and green economy back then, energy prices remained low; some fragmented approach happened towards green but general awareness and capacities remained insufficient. But, then given external pressures from investors, politicians and international community, Uzbekistan started seriously considering opportunities that circular economy could offer to the country leading to some investments and loans taken to strengthen capacities (especially of youth and women), infrastructure and

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<sup>1</sup> [http://cdm.unfccc.int/Issuance/cers\\_iss.html](http://cdm.unfccc.int/Issuance/cers_iss.html)

<sup>2</sup> Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers No.30, dated 10 February 2007 "On Measures for Developing the Network of Automobile Gas Filling Compressor Stations and Gas Refilling Stations, and Gradual Change-over of Automobile Transport to Run on Liquefied and Compressed Natural Gas".

policies. When situation changed internationally and renewables became more attractive, Uzbekistan started investing in them more actively and by that time there would have emerged some capacities thanks to loans. At the same time, external debt of the country has risen. Corruption, bureaucracy and fragmentation would remain negative factors hindering faster growth. Not clear still if Uzbekistan would access the World Trade Organization or Eurasian Economic Union, and this would pretty much affect economic outcomes. Due to external support the role of women in greening the economy would be strengthened. Finally, lack of investment and incentives in R&D had a major effect on the country's speed of progress.<sup>1</sup>

Uzbekistan has developed several national climate policies and strategies to address climate change. Here are some key points based on the search results:

1. Climate Change Strategy 2021-2023: Uzbekistan has formulated a Climate Change Strategy for the period 2021-2023. This strategy outlines the country's goals and actions to address climate change, including measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance climate resilience, and promote sustainable development.

2. Strategy on Transition to a Green Economy 2019-2030: Uzbekistan has also developed a Strategy on Transition to a Green Economy for the period 2019-2030. This strategy focuses on promoting sustainable economic growth, improving resource efficiency, and reducing environmental impacts, including those related to climate change.

3. Revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): Uzbekistan has revised its NDCs, which are submitted under the Paris Agreement. The revised NDCs include an increased target for reducing specific greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP by 35% below 2010 levels by 2030.

4. Preserving Ecosystems and Transitioning to Efficient Resource Use: Uzbekistan recognizes the importance of preserving unique ecosystems and biodiversity. The country is working towards transitioning to efficient use of water and energy resources to reduce environmental impacts and mitigate climate change.

5. International Collaboration: Uzbekistan is actively engaging in policy dialogues and collaborations with international organizations such as the World Bank to advance its green growth and climate change agenda. The World Bank is ready to support Uzbekistan in achieving its environmental sustainability goals, climate action, and the transition to a green economy.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2023-07/Future\\_of\\_Green\\_Transition\\_Eng.pdf](https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2023-07/Future_of_Green_Transition_Eng.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2021/09/21/uzbekistan-policy-dialogues-green-growth-and-climate-change>

## CONCLUSION

Thus, the international legal framework for combating climate change is an important tool for coordinating the efforts of states in the field of environmental protection, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change, and is also the basis for the development of national strategies and programs in this area. Despite some drawbacks and difficulties in implementation, these international treaties and agreements serve as the foundation for cooperation and joint actions to preserve the environment and ensure sustainable development. It is important to continue improving and expanding the international legal framework for combating climate change in order to ensure the successful implementation of the set goals and tasks in this area. To achieve this, it is necessary to strengthen the role of international organizations that have a great influence among their participants on changing their position.

The nature of climate change warrants a more in-depth look into the important role of international law in domestic adjudication. Climate change law—perhaps more than any other field of law—intersects with numerous branches of public and private law. In writing this report, ADB seeks to provide a handy tool that can be used by judges in Asia and the Pacific to determine (i) which international instruments and principles are applicable to their states; (ii) in case of conventional law, how applicability is impacted by treaty status (i.e., as the treaty relates specifically to their states); (iii) the interplay between climate law and other fields of international law; and (iv) the various ways (direct and indirect) that international legal norms and principles may be used to adjudicate climate change disputes. Domestic courts, however, do not only apply international law. The crosspollination across jurisdictions shows that they also “create,” or at least inform, the evolution of international law. This symbiotic relationship augurs well for the crucial contribution of national courts to global climate governance—that is, linking international obligations of conduct with national obligations of results.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A.J. Saiger. 2020. Domestic Courts and the Paris Agreement’s Climate Goals: The Need for a Comparative Approach. *Transnational Environmental Law*. 9 (1). pp. 37–54.

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