



## **Final Statement of the Participants of the Dialogue of Women of Central Asia**

*Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic*

*November 15, 2024*

This statement summarizes the key outcomes of the Kyrgyz Republic's chairmanship of the Dialogue of Women of Central Asia (the Dialogue) in 2024. It emphasizes the importance of strengthening regional and international cooperation and experience exchange to address critical issues related to women's rights and empowerment in ensuring peace, stability, and sustainable development across the region.

In 2024, within the framework of the Dialogue, meetings were held in an expanded format with the participation of delegations of the Dialogue participating countries, parliamentarians, representatives of government agencies, international organizations, businesses, non-governmental organizations and the expert community of the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan, which became platforms for open discussions and the development of practical recommendations in the following areas:

**1. The role of women in the economy of Central Asian countries: leadership for advancing digital, social and environmental innovations.**

The session on May 23 brought together women politicians, parliamentarians, innovators, and experts in an effort to achieve gender equality and expand women's participation in the green economy, and in implementing social, digital and environmental innovations in the region in the context of climate change.

**2. Women, Peace and Security: the role of women in strengthening peace and security in the Central Asian region and Afghanistan**

Held on October 3-4, this dialogue reevaluated approaches to enhancing the role of women in strengthening peace and stability in the region, considering current challenges, including expert discussions on "Afghanistan and Central Asia: Women, Peace and Security - Overcoming Difficulties and Prospects for Regional Cooperation."

**3. Women's Entrepreneurship EXPO 2024**

Conducted on November 14-15, the EXPO served as a hub for women entrepreneurs and innovators from the Central Asian region, fostering cross-regional exchange of best practices and creating lasting cooperation mechanisms.

As part of the meetings, the main trends, achievements and challenges in the region were identified, and specific proposals were made on expanding the participation of women in Central Asia and Afghanistan in promoting peace and security, economics and innovation, and developing entrepreneurship on the principles of inclusiveness.

**We, the participants of the Dialogue,**

***Emphasizing*** the geopolitical uniqueness of the Central Asian region and its shared cultural heritage and history of good-neighborly relations, and the dynamic development of cooperation,

***Supporting*** the implementation of the “Sustainable Mountain Development” Resolution, adopted at the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly at the initiative of Kyrgyzstan, which declared 2023-2027 as the Five-Year Action Plan for the Development of Mountain Regions,

***Considering*** the escalating global security challenges, including climate change, scarcity and depletion of natural resources, particularly water, and the rise of radicalism and extremism impacting women and girls,

***Supporting*** the Pact for the Future adopted at the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as General Recommendation No. 40 on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making, adopted by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in October of this year,

***Acknowledging*** the outcomes of the Regional Review of Progress on the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+30) held under the co-chairmanship of the Republic of Kazakhstan on October 21-22 of this year,

***Recognizing*** the importance of Central Asian countries supporting the global agenda of peace, human rights, and gender equality,

***Taking into consideration*** the declaration of 2025 as the International Year of Peace and Trust at the initiative of Turkmenistan,

Also emphasizing the significance of the initiatives advanced by the heads of Central Asian states at the last session of the UN General Assembly in September of this year, namely:

- Continuing to provide collective assistance to Afghanistan, including for economic recovery, humanitarian aid, and support in the field of education;
- Declaring an International Decade for the Promotion of Peace for Future Generations;

- Transforming the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia into a broader international structure to support global peace efforts;

*Expressing* full support for the United Nations General Assembly Resolution “Central Asia – a Zone of Peace, Trust, and Cooperation,” adopted on October 24, 2024, at the initiative of Turkmenistan on behalf of the Central Asian countries, we note the following:

- the importance and timeliness of the intentions of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan to secure representation as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council for the positioning and visibility of the Central Asian region and the solutions they propose to strengthen global security,
- the critical relevance of the “Women, Peace, and Security” agenda and its importance at the global, regional, and national levels, including its connections to climate and water security and diplomacy, as well as its incorporation into the Pact for the Future;
- the significance of ensuring equal participation of women in peacebuilding efforts and in the economic, social, and political development of Central Asian countries to address the region’s multiple security challenges and to foster sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development;
- the feasibility of further efforts by states to develop and implement strategies and policies aimed at advancing gender equality across all sectors and decision-making levels;
- the necessity of collective responses to emerging challenges and threats to human security and development, while fostering collaboration among all stakeholders at intergovernmental, regional, and international levels to achieve the goals of gender equality within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **We Affirm Our Commitment To:**

1. **Promoting the significance of the Dialogue as a platform for sustainable development, peace, security, and environmental sustainability for the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan** amidst geopolitical tectonic shifts, rapid global change, digitalization, and climate change challenges, including water scarcity. By 2025, institutionalizing the Dialogue as a regional solidarity platform to consolidate ideas, foster communication, influence regional integration processes, and ensure the active participation of women in regional stability and development, while elevating the international profile of Central Asia through active engagement by Dialogue members.
2. **Strengthening economic opportunities for women in Central Asian countries** through the development of joint programs to support women’s entrepreneurship, expanding women’s access to financial resources, education,
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and digital technologies, including the creation of inclusive financing programs aimed at empowering women in rural and vulnerable communities.

4. **Unifying efforts among Central Asian countries to achieve gender equality** and empower women in implementing economic, social, digital, and environmental innovations, maintaining peace, and preventing conflicts linked to global climate change and water scarcity, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Beijing Declaration, and the Beijing Platform for Action.
5. **Facilitating the development and promotion of targeted state support measures, tools, and programs for inclusive financing of women** at both national and regional levels, strengthening institutional mechanisms, eradicating discriminatory social norms and practices, and addressing gender-based violence. In light of the joint resolution on combating domestic violence, developed by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan and adopted during the 57th session of the UN Human Rights Council, we advocate for measures to reduce gender-based violence through women's empowerment, fostering women's entrepreneurship, and increasing investments in social sectors and initiatives, including innovations and startups that promote inclusive economic growth and support human development. These efforts should consider the specific needs of women and girls in public services and employ gender-responsive budgeting tools.
6. Recognizing **the importance of the virtual platform *Central Asia Act for Equal***, established with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan as part of the country's commitment to the Action Coalitions for eradicating gender-based violence and advancing economic justice and rights, we call for the platform's use to exchange best practices in gender equality, inclusive governance, sustainable development, and prevention of violence against women and girls in Central Asia.
7. **We acknowledge the significant contributions of women innovators, scientists, and inventors** toward sustainable development, accelerating digital transformation across Central Asian countries, and advancing efforts to diversify the economy, build human capital, employ green technologies, and manage natural resources effectively in the face of climate change.
8. We call for the **adoption of special measures to foster an innovation ecosystem**, support intellectual property, and encourage inventive and entrepreneurial activity among women. We propose the creation of a Central Asian Association of Innovators, Inventors, and Startups, which will unify and strengthen the activities of organizations promoting intellectual property protection and innovation, create mechanisms for cooperation and experience-sharing, and expand access for women innovators, scientists, inventors, and entrepreneurs in Central Asia to resources in intellectual property, innovative business models, joint projects, and initiatives.
9. We propose to submit the following recommendations be considered by the heads of state of the Central Asian states:

- Establish a *Central Asian Women's Initiative Support and Development Fund* to enhance women's roles in strengthening regional cooperation. This fund would support regional initiatives, bringing together women leaders from Central Asia and Afghanistan to increase participation in science, innovation, entrepreneurship, digital technology, green economy, and energy sectors, and to enhance their roles in peace, security, socio-economic, and environmental initiatives at both national and regional levels. The Fund would ensure access to education, technology, and financial resources for women in Central Asia to implement regional initiatives.
- Create a *Central Asian Women's Leadership and Innovation Center* based in Uzbekistan to promote women's roles in the economy, social development, and innovation. The Center would provide training opportunities, experience-sharing, and startup support in digital, environmental, and social innovation.
- Form a *Central Asian Network of Women Leaders in Digital, Social, and Environmental Innovation* to establish a regional platform linking existing and new women leaders in these areas. The Network would facilitate the exchange of best practices and develop sustainable joint initiatives for women from Central Asia and Afghanistan, thus strengthening regional economies and addressing common challenges and conflicts.
- Develop a *Central Asian Gender-Sensitive Action Plan on Climate Change Response and Water Security*, promoting climate adaptation, water resource management, and supporting women farmers and job creation in green sectors, tailored to regional needs.
- Create a *Central Asian Center for the Prevention and Eradication of Gender-Based Violence*, which would unite the region's efforts to develop legislative initiatives, rehabilitation programs, and preventive measures and provide training for law enforcement on violence prevention.
- Establish a *Central Asian Regional Hub for Women Leaders in Business, Science, and Technology*, to serve as a resource for business networking, partnership development, and innovation.
- *Expand educational support programs for Afghan women and girls* by offering scholarships for studies at Central Asian universities and employment opportunities to promote gender equality and sustainable development in Afghanistan.

**10.** We call on the Governments of the countries of the region to consider:

- Developing a *Central Asian Women, Peace, and Security Action Plan*, prioritizing regional peace and stability, security responses with a gender perspective, climate and water diplomacy, and gender-sensitive transboundary resource management.
- Developing regional programs to support women-led initiatives in agriculture, emphasizing sustainable farming methods and access to advanced agricultural technology, to empower rural women and enhance regional food security.

- Recognizing the work of the Central Asian Alliance Secretariat in eradicating gender-based violence, and considering the creation of a network of Secretariats across Central Asia to ensure consistent and effective actions toward this objective.

**11. We emphasize the importance of inclusive participation and meaningful contributions of women from Central Asia and Afghanistan in discussing the proposed priorities and solutions.** We will facilitate their involvement in regional socio-economic, trade, infrastructure, and educational initiatives, support Afghan girls' education in Central Asia, and develop a unified regional position on the situation in Afghanistan and its impact on regional stability and security.

**12. We recommend that all development partners and regional organizations ensure equal participation and contribution of women from Central Asia and Afghanistan in regional initiatives** to enhance security and development as integral components of regional stability and cooperation.

**13. We call for consolidated efforts to promote cooperation among Central Asian women** in governance, preventive diplomacy, environmental protection, education, science, culture and arts, health, sports, business, gender equality, and sustainable development.

**14. We underscore the importance of international cooperation and experience-sharing** in addressing key issues concerning women's rights and empowerment to ensure peace, stability, and sustainable economic development in the region.

**We extend our profound gratitude to the Kyrgyz Republic for its productive and meaningful leadership of the Dialogue of Women of Central Asia.**

We ask the next Chair of the Dialogue to ensure a review of progress toward the commitments adopted by the Dialogue in 2024, and to provide regular updates on achieved outcomes to raise public awareness.

We, the participants of the Dialogue of Women of Central Asia, emphasize our shared commitment to building a just and equal society in which every voice will be heard, where, in the context of a dynamically changing world, global challenges and new factors of influence, States will invest in human development and peacebuilding.

*“Let us unite our forces, acting as one”*

- Epic of Manas, a masterpiece of the world's intangible cultural heritage.

**Participants of the Dialogue of Women of Central Asia**