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## Central Asia Nexus Dialogue Project: Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus and Multi-Sector Investment (Phase II)

### The First Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee 27 October 2020 | 15:00 – 18:00 | ZOOM Conference

#### MEETING SUMMARY

The First Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) of the EU funded “Central Asia Nexus Dialogue Project: Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus and Multi-Sector Investment (Phase II)” (the “Nexus Project” or “Project”) took place on 27 October 2020 online due to the COVID-19 related travel restrictions.

The meeting had the following objectives: i) present the focus and objectives of Phase II of the Project; ii) adopt the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Regional Steering Committee; and iii) approve the list of small-scale demonstration projects to be implemented during Phase II.

See the Meeting Concept and Agenda (Annex 1) for more details.



The meeting was attended by 16 members of the RSC nominated by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as representatives of the European Union Delegations to CA countries, representatives of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), World Bank and Global Nexus Secretariat. In total, there were 43 participants (See the List of Participants in Annex 2).

The meeting was opened with welcome remarks by **Zafar Makhmudov** (Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia [CAREC]), **Johannes Stenbaek Madsen** (Head of

Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Kazakhstan) and **Jürgen Keinhorst** (Head of Division for Cooperation with Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East; Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety [BMU], Germany).

**Mr Makhmudov** (CAREC) noted the successful cooperation and active support of the national and international partners during the implementation of Phase I and expressed his hope for even more fruitful partnerships during Phase II of the Project. **Mr Johannes Stenbaek Madsen** (EU Delegation to Kazakhstan) underlined that good policy coordination among all the sectors in which water plays a pivotal role is essential for water security and sustainable recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. He welcomed the joint work to be done in close cooperation with Central Asia countries to institutionalize the integrated cross-sectoral Nexus approach in the national investment planning. He also welcomed Germany's potential involvement in the Project as a successful example of synergy between the EU member-states and institutions. **Mr Jürgen Keinhorst** (BMU) congratulated the Project's achievement and underlined the critical importance of water-energy-food nexus approaches for the region. He addressed the importance of moving discussion around the Nexus concept towards integrated multi-sectoral planning and strategic implementation. In this regard, Germany continuously supports Central Asia in achieving environmental benefits, reducing pressure on natural resources and meeting international climate-related targets — for instance, in close collaboration with the German Foreign Ministry's initiative "Green Central Asia". He highlighted that BMU plans a regional project to identify further nexus opportunities, to demonstrate the business case for cross-sectoral and regional cooperation, to increase countries' competitiveness in international markets and to support implementation of bankable pilot investment projects.

During the **Introductory Session**, **Snejana Popova** (Project Officer, Delegation of the European Union to Kazakhstan) briefed the participants about the Global Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme and its main objectives for Phase II. **Lyudmila Kiktenko** (Programme Manager, CAREC) introduced the Project's goals, objectives, funding sources and partnership opportunities within the activities planned for Phase II of the Project. She also noted the need to adopt the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Regional Steering Committee, which were discussed and preliminary agreed upon with the nominated RSC members by email correspondence before the meeting, and requested to provide any additional comments or recommendations via a chat function.

Small-scale demonstration projects were presented and discussed during **Session 1. Aksulu Kushanova** (Energy Investment Specialist, CAREC) first briefly described the long list of projects proposed by countries for implementation, noting their significance for the regional water, energy and food security. Then the beneficiary countries' representatives nominated to the RSC were invited to propose small-scale demonstration projects for the implementation during Phase II for discussion and subsequent approval.

#### **Small-scale demonstration projects presented by countries' representatives:**

**Bolat Bekniyaz** (Director of the EB IFAS in Kazakhstan) jointly with the representatives of the Institute of Botany and Phytointroduction of the Committee for Science within the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan and *Barsa-Kelmes* Nature Reserve presented the national small-scale demonstration project on "*Afforestation of the dried bottom of the Aral Sea: piloting a closed root system*". The proposed project has two main objectives: (i) to test growing *saksaul* in the closed root system, which has a higher survival rate in the arid climate of Central Asia; and (ii) to promote the exchange of experience and skills between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan for growing *saxaul* and



salt-resistant plants on the dried bottom of the Aral Sea. EB IFAS in Kazakhstan will provide a land plot of 2250 m<sup>2</sup> at the Eco Aral Science and Tourism Centre, located along the Kamyshtabas River in the delta of Syr Darya, as well as cover water and energy bills.

**Daler Abdurazokzoda** (Head of the Department of Water and Energy Policy, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan) presented the national demonstration project on “*Improvement of the control and monitoring system of electricity consumption at the pumping stations and modernization of the large pumping stations with the introduction of energy-efficient technology*” proposed by the Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. He highlighted the WEF potential and interlinkages of the proposed national project between water, energy and agriculture sectors, which are of vital importance for the economy of Tajikistan. Agriculture alone contributes to over 20% of the national GDP and employs over 70% of the economically active population of the country, while at the same time consuming over 80% of freshwater resources and around 1.5 billion kW/h during the vegetative season. The proposed project has the following objectives: (i) conduct a technical proposal on improving the control and monitoring system of the electricity consumption at the pumping stations; (ii) conduct a technical and financial assessment at the identified pumping stations; and (iii) develop a feasibility study for large pumping stations in Tajikistan. The detailed project scope will be based on the available budget and discussed with the Project team. At the same time, it was proposed to equally divide the budget of the second phase of the project "Nexus Dialogue in Central Asia" between the countries of Central Asia, indicating respectively how much money will be spent on administrative costs associated with project management. This approach will help avoid unbalanced allocation of funds between countries, identify specific funds for each country and plan demonstration project activities based on available funds.



**Republic of Uzbekistan** and the State Committee for Water Resources of **Turkmenistan**. The facility is located on the Turkmen side of the Amu Darya River, while being owned and operated by Uzbekistan, which is articulated by a number of the bilateral agreements.<sup>1</sup> The facility plays an integral role in water management between the two countries: it supplies water to irrigated lands in Uzbekistan (779,300 ha) and Turkmenistan (425,000 ha); generates electricity for Uzbekistan; supplies drinking water to Khorezm Region and Karakalpakstan; regulates water discharge from Tachiatashsk Hydro Complex located in Uzbekistan and protects against the bank erosion of the Amu Darya River below the facility. The proposed project aims to assess the sedimentation level of the Ruslovoe Reservoir, which has already lost about 33% of its useful volume, and propose innovative long-term mitigation measures which are also expected to positively impact the allocation of water-energy resources and stimulate multilateral transboundary water-energy cooperation and dialogue.

**Ikhom Zhuraev** (Head of the Department of Operation of Irrigation Systems and Hydraulic Structures of the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan) and **Shukhrat Talipov** (Head of the Department for Control over Operation of the Building and Hydrotechnical Constructions of Uzbekhydroenergo JSC, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan) presented the transboundary demonstration project “*Tuyamuyun Hydroelectric Complex*” proposed by the Ministry of Water Resources of the

<sup>1</sup> “On the cooperation on water related issues” as of 16.01.1996; “On the fee-based land use” as of 17.04.1996; “On crossing the Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan national borders by the staff servicing the facilities located near the border” as of 19.11.2004; “On the cooperation on the operation and conduction of the repair works on the facilities located in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan on the transboundary territories of both states” as of 10.03.2008.

## Session 1 remarks:

- **Saparmurat Charyev** (Chief Specialist of the International Water Cooperation Unit, Water Use Department, State Committee for Water Management of Turkmenistan):
  - o **Reconfirmed Turkmenistan's support** for the “*Tuyamuyun Hydroelectric Complex*” transboundary demonstration project and noted that this project has a potential to benefit the environment and livelihood in both countries, contributing to further strengthening of the bilateral relations.
- **Daler Abdurazokzoda** (Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan):
  - o Suggested inviting one representative of the Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan to join the RSC since the proposed small-scale demonstration project falls under their jurisdiction.
- **Serik Bekmaganbetov** (Authorized Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Executive Committee of IFAS):
  - o Noted the importance of energy and resource-efficient solutions for all countries of the region;
  - o Commented on the scale and complexity of the “*Tuyamuyun Hydroelectric Complex*” and enquired about the activities and budget envisioned for the proposed project.
- **Ludmila Kiktenko** (CAREC):
  - o Highlighted that during the National Consultation Meeting in Kyrgyzstan on 23 October 2020, Kyrgyzstan requested additional time to evaluate and propose projects for implementation during Phase II of the Project. She noted that this process will continue, and the Project team will inform the RSC members about the results in due course;
  - o Clarified to Mr Bekmaganbetov that the budget for the transboundary project will be doubled given the engagement of 2 countries; otherwise, the amount for each demo project is the same for all countries.

**Session 2** was focused on the **Phase II Deliverables**. **Aksulu Kushanova** (CAREC) presented a list of analytical works to be carried out at the small-scale demonstration projects: (i) holistic analysis, (ii) simulation analysis (CBA and Trade-off) and (iii) technical recommendations. **Maria Ana Rodriguez Gomez** (Head of the Global Nexus Secretariat Coordinator, GIZ) gave an overview of the GNS role as a regional training and knowledge hub, elaborated on the scope of the products and tools offered by GNS and invited RSC members to access the online Nexus Resource Platform which stores knowledge products from all 5 regions.

**Ludmila Kiktenko** then invited the participants to ask questions, voice their thoughts and recommendations. Taking this opportunity, **Tatiyana Leonova** (Regional Development Advisor, World Bank) once again confirmed the interest for joint implementation of the small-scale demonstration projects under Central Asia Water and Energy Programme (CAWEP). She praised the commitment of the Central Asian states in piloting the Nexus approach through the presented small-scale demonstration projects, which are demand-driven rather than suggested by the donor community. Mrs Leonova noted the importance of multisectoral planning for increased resources efficiency, which has not yet become the “business-as-usual” model across the globe.

**Matthew Griffiths** (Senior Programme Manager at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD]) acknowledged the results achieved by the Project team during Phase I of the Project and expressed his continued interest to explore the possibilities for synergies between the OECD work and the Nexus Project. He noted that OECD is working on practical solutions and building the evidence base through economic modelling and analysis to operationalize the Nexus approach in Central Asia.

**Giuseppe Aristei** (Programme Manager, Delegation of the European Union to Tajikistan) noted that this year Tajikistan starts its chairmanship of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for

Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS) which serves as a high-level interstate dialogue platform for regional water cooperation. He invited participants to truly utilize the Nexus thinking and seek opportunities to find synergies within the projects implemented at the national and regional levels to achieve lasting results.

**Serik Bekmaganbetov** (EC IFAS) urged representatives of all 5 beneficiary countries to actively participate in the Project and explore possibilities for strengthened regional dialogues. Noting the lack of time needed to compile a list of proposed pilot projects for Kyrgyzstan, he requested that Kyrgyzstan's proposal is shared with other RSC members for review once it becomes available.

In closing, **Ludmila Kiktenko** (CAREC) noted that the RSC members did not provide any additional comments on the proposed Terms of Reference of the Nexus RSC in the course of the meeting, which confirms their unanimous decision to adopt this document in its current wording. She also noted that so far, 1 transboundary (Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan) and 2 national (Kazakhstan and Tajikistan) small-scale demonstration projects have been presented and approved by the RSC for implementation, while the proposal from Kyrgyzstan will be cleared at a later date.

In his closing statement, **Johannes Stenbaek Madsen** (Delegation of the European Union to Kazakhstan) thanked CAREC for the excellent organisation in putting together a rich and interesting agenda. However, for future RSCs he recommended the application of a more traditional business-like agenda, which should include the formal approval of the agenda and the (summary) minutes from the previous RSC meeting, in addition to the updated Logframe.

### **Main outcomes of the meeting:**

- Terms of Reference of the Regional Steering Committee of the Nexus Dialogue in Central Asia Project have been adopted (Annex 3);
- “*Tuyamuyun Hydroelectric Complex*” has been selected as a transboundary small-scale demonstration project to be implemented jointly by Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan via the Transboundary Working Group (TWG);
- “*Improvement of the control and monitoring system of electricity consumption at the pumping stations and modernization of the large pumping stations with the introduction of energy-efficient technology*” has been selected as a national small-scale project to be implemented by the Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- “*Afforestation of the dried bottom of the Aral Sea: piloting a closed root system*” has been selected as a national small-scale project to be implemented by the EB IFAS in Kazakhstan;
- Small-scale demonstration project proposals from Kyrgyzstan will be submitted to the Project team by the nominated representatives of Kyrgyzstan at a later stage, and shared with other RSC members in due course;
- CAWEP reconfirmed their commitment and interest in the joint implementation of small-scale demonstration projects.

### **List of Annexes:**

*Annex 1: 1st RSC Meeting - Concept and Agenda;*

*Annex 2: 1st RSC Meeting – LOP;*

*Annex 3: RSC Members TOR.*



## Central Asia Nexus Dialogue Project: Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus and Multi-Sector Investment (Phase II)

### First Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee

27 October 2020 / 15:00 – 18:00 / ZOOM

#### *Background*

The pressure on and demand for water, energy and food are mounting due to a rapidly growing population, human migration, urbanization, globalization, intensified food production, and negative effects of the climate change. In Central Asia, substantial water use for agriculture is putting pressure on water resources reaching as high as 90% of the total freshwater withdrawal, while hydropower generation accounts for about 40% of all energy production on the average. The Water, Energy and Food (WEF) Nexus approach can lay a pathway towards a “greener”, more sustainable and efficient development.

The European Union funded “Central Asia Nexus Dialogue Project: Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus and Multi-Sector Investment” in Phase II (2020-2023) will build on the results achieved during Phase I (2016-2019) with a focus on developing the evidence base for increased application of the WEF Nexus approach in regional, national and local planning, policy making, regulatory and implementation processes and strengthening regional and national dialogues on the WEF Nexus in five Central Asian States.

In the context of the Central Asia complex geopolitics, a comprehensive and well-structured approach underpinned by targeted practical steps is essential to move WEF Nexus dialogues from theory to action. The WEF Nexus approach is essential for identifying synergies, analyzing trade-offs and maximizing benefits from the water, energy and food security interlinkages in the region.

There are still gaps impeding the transition to WEF Nexus approach at national and regional levels, including:

- The current sector-based planning practice does not allow for complex, cross-sectoral planning and resource efficiencies;
- Different sectors continue to consider themselves as competing agents for the state budget;
- Finance Ministries are not involved in thematic planning activities;
- Bottom-up approach is still at the initial stage of formation.

Building on the experience gained during Phase I of the Project and to better support the process of inter-sectoral cooperation, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) will continue to rely on the Nexus Regional Steering Committee comprising of the beneficiary countries’ representatives for national support and guidance to ensure the smooth implementation of the Project in their respective

countries, disseminate knowledge and sustain the regional dialogue platform among Central Asian countries with regard to WEF security.

## Goal of the meeting

The meeting aims to present the inter-sectoral approach in planning investment projects to ensure water, energy and food security in Central Asia. The meeting also aims to launch a regional coordination mechanism to support implementation of the Nexus Dialogue Project in Central Asia.

Meeting objectives:

1. **Report** on the outcomes of Phase I of the Project;
2. **Present** the focus and objectives of Phase II;
3. **Approve** the Terms of References (ToRs) and tasks of the Regional Steering Committee;
4. **Present** the long-list of small-scale demonstration projects proposed by the countries;
5. **Select and approve** 1 transboundary and 3 national small-scale demonstration projects to be implemented during Phase II;
6. **Agree** on the course of action for the next 6 months.

**Format** In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will be held online as a round table for interactive discussion.

**Zoom:** <https://zoom.us/j/98163313074?pwd=dldCN056QVcvK1lMTG4zNXNmOW5xdz09>

**Zoom Access Code:** 504794

**Meeting time and date:** 15:00 Almaty time (Kazakhstan) on 27 October 2020

Location	Local time
Almaty (Kazakhstan)	15:00
Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)	15:00
Dushanbe (Tajikistan)	14:00
Ashgabat (Turkmenistan)	14:00
Tashkent (Uzbekistan)	14:00
Brussels (Belgium)	10:00

## Language of the meeting

Russian and English are the working languages of the meeting. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

## Participants

- Regional Steering Committee members (nominated representatives of WEF related line ministries);
- International and regional development partners;
- GNS secretariat representative(s).

# Agenda

## First Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee

27 October 2020 / 15:00 – 18:00 / ZOOM

Time	Description
15:00 – 15:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Introduction of the participants (Tour de table)</b></li><li>- <b>Group Photo</b></li></ul>
15:15 – 15:25	<b>Welcome / Opening statements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Zafar Makhmudov</b>, Executive Director, CAREC</li><li>• <b>Johannes Stenbaek Madsen</b>, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan</li><li>• <b>Jürgen Keinhorst</b>, Head of Cooperation with Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety, Germany</li></ul>
<b>INTRODUCTORY SESSION</b>	
15:25 – 15:55	<p><b>Snejana Popova</b>, Project Officer, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of the EU Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme</li></ul> <p><b>Ludmila Kiktenko</b>, Programme Manager, CAREC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phase I: Background and results achieved</li><li>• Phase II: Objectives and implementation modalities</li><li>• Approval of the Regional Steering Committee TOR</li></ul> <p><i>Q&amp;A</i></p>
<b>SESSION 1: SMALL-SCALE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS</b>	
15:55 – 16:55	<p><b>Aksulu Kushanova</b>, Energy Investment Specialist, CAREC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of the proposed long-list of the demonstration projects</li></ul> <p><b>Bolat Bekniyaz</b>, Director of IFAS Executive Board in Kazakhstan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National demonstration project: “Afforestation of the dried bottom of the Aral Sea: piloting a closed root system”.</li></ul> <p><b>Daler Abdurazokzoda</b>, Head of the Department of Water and Energy Policy, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National demonstration project: “Improvement of the control and monitoring system of electricity consumption at the pumping stations</li></ul>

	<p>and modernization of the large pumping stations with the introduction of energy-efficient technology”.</p> <p><b>Shukrat Talipov</b>, Head of the Department for control over operation of the building and hydrotechnical constructions of Uzbekhydroenergo JSC, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transboundary demonstration project: “Tuyamuyun hydroelectric complex”.</li> </ul>
16:55 – 17:05	Short break
<b>SESSION 2: PHASE II DELIVERABLES</b>	
17:05 – 17:30	<p><b>Aksulu Kushanova</b>, Energy Investment Specialist, CAREC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation modalities of demonstration projects;</li> <li>• Nexus criteria for small-scale demonstration projects selection.</li> </ul> <p><b>Maria Ana Rodriguez</b>, Head of the Global Nexus Secretariat, GIZ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GNS Secretariat inputs towards advancing Nexus approach in CA;</li> <li>• Financing Strategy and Instruments;</li> <li>• Development of a global WEF Nexus strategy and action plan for capacity development (tools, methods and approaches).</li> </ul> <p><i>Q&amp;A</i></p>
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	
17:30 – 17:50	<p><b>Ludmila Kiktenko</b>, Programme Manager, CAREC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of the list of small-scale demonstration projects;</li> <li>• Preliminary list of activities for the next 6 months.</li> </ul>
17:50 – 18:00	<p><b>Wrap-up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Johannes Stenbaek Madsen</b>, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan.</li> </ul>

**Zoom:** <https://zoom.us/j/98163313074?pwd=dldCN056QVcvK1lMTG4zNXNmOW5xdz09>

**Start of the meeting:** 15:00 Almaty time (Kazakhstan)

Location	Local time
Almaty (Kazakhstan)	15:00
Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)	15:00
Dushanbe (Tajikistan)	14:00
Ashgabat (Turkmenistan)	14:00
Tashkent (Uzbekistan)	14:00
Brussels (Belgium)	10:00



## Central Asia Nexus Dialogue Project: Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus and Multi-Sector Investment (Phase II)

**First Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee**  
*27 October 2020 / 15:00 – 18:00 / ZOOM*

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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15	Shukhrat Talipov	Head of the Department for Control over Operation of the Building and Hydrotechnical Constructions of Uzbekhydroenergo JSC, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan	sh.g.talipov@gmail.com
16	Nadir Gafurov	Head of Crop Water Consumption and Meteorology Department, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan	ngafurov020@gmail.com

#### INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL PARTNERS PARTNERS

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**EXPERTS**

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40	Abai Jabasov	Director of the Environmental Department, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Kazakhstan	
41	Maruf Mulloev	Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan	
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43	Liliya Demeyeva	Institute of botany and phytointroduction of the Committee on Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan	



## Central Asian Dialogue to Promote Intersectoral Financing Based on Water-Energy-Food Nexus (Phase II)

### TERMS OF REFERENCE for the Regional Steering Committee

#### *Background*

The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for the European Union project “Central Asian Dialogue on Stimulating Intersectoral Financing Based on the Water-Energy-Food Nexus” (hereinafter referred to as the Project) was originally formed in 2017 during the launch of the first phase of the Project and accompanied its execution until its completion in December 2019. The RSC consisted of 16 permanent members nominated by the beneficiary countries and helped the Project achieve meaningful results (see Project Brief [Phase I] in Appendix 1).

The resumption of RSC activities is necessary for the implementation of the second phase of the Project (June 2020 - May 2023; see Brief information about the project [Phase II] in Appendix 2), the executor for which is also the Regional Environmental Center of Central Asia (CAREC).

#### *Goal*

1. The main goal of the RSC is to promote the institutionalization of an intersectoral approach and its integration into national strategic documents, the procedure for long-term planning and investment decision-making in Central Asian countries at the national and regional levels to ensure water, energy and food (WEF) security in the region.

#### *Main tasks*

1. Assistance in the development and coordination of the activities of the Project, taking into account the current needs of the national WEF ministries;
2. Coordination and assistance in the implementation of small-scale demonstration projects (1 transboundary and 3 national) in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, i.e. in countries that are represented in the RSC;
3. Contribution to the preparation of investment projects that meet the Nexus criteria and have national and / or cross-border importance, and their coordination within the country;
4. Assistance in attracting interested international financial institutions and other investors / donors to Nexus investment projects;
5. Assistance in obtaining information and / or data necessary for the implementation of small-scale demonstration projects and the development of proposals for investment projects;

6. Providing feedback and suggestions for the implementation of the Project's activities;
7. Transfer of information and knowledge about the Nexus approach, its potential and benefits for the countries to the relevant government bodies making or influencing strategic decisions at the national level, and other stakeholders in order to stimulate their interest and involve them in the process of institutionalizing the Nexus approach as well as participation in expert developments on Nexus topics;
8. Promote cooperation and coordination with regional initiatives and processes such as the WEF Nexus and sustainable development for Europe and Central Asian countries.

### **RSC work procedure**

1. Members of the RSC review and approve the committee's annual work plan at its meetings;
2. RSC members participate in meetings, the preparation of draft RSC decisions and their adoption;
3. The agenda of the meeting is formed on the basis of the work plan agreed upon by the RSC members;
4. Documentation concerning the RSC meetings will be sent to all members at least 3 weeks before the date of the meetings.

### *Rights of RSC members*

To perform their functions, RSC members have the following rights:

1. Be aware of the global Nexus program, including the implementation of Nexus projects in the Middle East and Africa, the Niger River Basin, Latin America and South Africa, current and planned European Union initiatives on the Nexus approach;
2. Receive complete information about the actions, results and plans of the Project;
3. Be informed about potential sources of financing for Nexus investment projects both from the European Union (for example, the Investment Fund for Central Asia) and from other international financial institutions and funds;
4. Request the holding of educational seminars, technical meetings and trainings to better understand the WEF interconnection approach on issues consistent with the goals, objectives and capabilities of the Project;
5. Seek expert support for the implementation of small-scale demonstration Nexus projects and a better understanding of the institutionalization of the Nexus approach.

### *Work format of the RSC*

1. RSC meetings will be held every six months. Depending on the epidemiological situation in Central Asia, meetings will be held in person or by video link;
2. Whenever possible, the RSC meetings will be held in conjunction with other events of CAREC or partners to more efficiently use the time resources of RSC members and the Project financial resources;
3. Based on the results of the RSC meetings, a protocol will be drawn up, summarizing the agreements and recommendations of RSC members, on the basis of which CAREC will continue to implement

the Project. The draft protocol will be sent to the RSC members for approval no later than ten working days after the meeting;

4. Regular remote communication will also be maintained between RSC members and CAREC to inform, engage and agree on the Project's activities, project documents and expected results.

#### *Participants in RSC meetings*

1. The meeting participants are nominated members of the RSC or their substitutes who are aware of the activities of the Project and are able to effectively implement the recommendations and decisions of the RSC;
2. Given the structure of the Project, representatives of the technical working group and experts performing specialized work for the Project may also participate in the meeting to report on the progress / results;
3. To ensure a focused working regime of the meetings, the European Union will be represented by authorized representatives of the European Union Delegation to Kazakhstan, which is the main supervising body of the project, as well as authorized representatives of the European Union Delegation in the country where the RSC meeting is actually held. In the event of a meeting via video link, authorized representatives of all European Union Delegations to Central Asian countries will be invited;
4. The meeting may also be attended by representatives of partners co-financing the Project activities, as well as potential investors.

#### *Resources and funding*

1. The costs associated with the participation of RSC members or their representatives at RSC meetings will be covered by the Project;
2. Representatives of the technical working group and experts may participate in RSC meetings both from the budget of the Project and from the co-financing partner;
3. The participation of donors, co-financing partners and potential investors is paid for by the partners themselves.