

TRANSLATION

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THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL MEETING FOR DAM SAFETY COOPERATION  
IN CENTRAL ASIA**

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 12-13 March, 2008**

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This report has been issued without official editing by the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) secretariat

## **A. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

1. The Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan 12-13 March, 2008. The Meeting was organized by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in close cooperation with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS).

2. The Meeting was held within the framework of Phase II of the Project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation”, which is being implemented by UNECE. The project, implemented under the supervision of the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources in Central Asia in the framework of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) is aimed at the improvement of the national legislation and state regulation in the field of dam safety in the participating countries and strengthening of the regional cooperation in this field. The project is implemented in the context of the Programme on improvement of environmental and socio-economic situation in Aral Sea Basin-2 for the period of 2003 to 2010 (ASBP-2) implemented by IFAS.

### **1. Objectives of the Meeting**

3. The direct goal of the Meeting was to assist in the further development of cooperation between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in the field of safety of dams and other hydraulic structures based of the results of Phase I of the Project, within the framework of which the Model National Law on the Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures and a draft Regional Agreement on cooperation in this field have been developed. The Meeting was to decide on further actions to harmonise the key provisions of respective national regulatory documents and technical specifications regulating safety of hydraulic structures, as well as to adopt a Regional Agreement on cooperation in this field. In addition, the objective was to exchange corresponding experience between the participants.

### **2. Attendance**

4. 29 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan took part in the Meeting; IFAS was presented by 4 participants. The Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) was also represented at the Meeting. 47 persons included in the list of Appendix 1 to the present Report took part in the Meeting together with staff members of the UNECE Secretariat, consultants and representatives of other organizations.

### **3. Opening of the Meeting**

5. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Timur Kamalov, Chairman of the State Inspection for Control and Supervision of the Technical Condition and Safe Operation of Large and High-Security Waterworks under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Gosvodkhoznadzor). As a representative of the host country, he welcomed the participants of the Meeting and stressed the importance of cooperation on dam safety for all countries of Central Asia. He pointed out with satisfaction that the Model National Law on the Safety of Hydraulic Structures and the Draft of the Regional Agreement on cooperation in this area had been prepared at the previous stage of the Project. Mr. Timur Kamalov expressed his gratitude to the UNECE for the continuing support of the Project.

6. Mr. Gafur Aliev, Chairman of the Committee for Agrarian, Water and Ecological Issues of the Oliy Majlis Senate of the Republic of Uzbekistan welcomed the participants of the Meeting on behalf of the Parliament, noted the special importance of the issues of regional cooperation on safety of hydraulic structures considered in the Meeting and wished successful work.

7. The Meeting was also welcomed by Mr. Khakimjan Ishanov, Chief Specialist of the Information and Analytical Department on the Issues of Rural and Water Economy, Processing of Agricultural Products and Consumer Goods under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Inter alia, he noted in his speech the importance of cooperation in the training of personnel involved in the provision of dam safety.

8. Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser of the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division of UNECE pointed out in his speech that the Project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” was carried out under the aegis of SPECA and UNECE Convention on Protection

and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and is as was the first project phase funded by the Government of Finland. He underlined that the safety of hydraulic structures in Uzbekistan was an example for other countries in the field of state regulation. He also pointed out with satisfaction that the Project was carried out in close cooperation with IFAS and EurAsEC.

9. The participants of the Meeting were welcomed by Mr. Anatoly Kholmatov, Technical Director of EC IFAS. He informed the participants of the Meeting that the IFAS Board on 20 November, 2007, had approved the final documents of the Project and had requested the governments of the countries in Central Asia to assist in the adoption of the documents in accordance with established procedure. On behalf of EC IFAS, he expressed the readiness to co-operate in the implementation of Phase II of the Project.

10. Mr. Tulegen Sarsembekov, Adviser of the EurAsEC Secretariat of the Integration Committee, addressed the Meeting on behalf of EurAsEC. He welcomed the participants and informed them that the final documents prepared within the framework of Phase I of the Project were under consideration of the governing bodies of his organization. He noted the great importance of the issues in question and expressed the intention of EurAsEC to continue the cooperation at this subsequent stage of the Project.

#### **4. Election of Officers**

11. Mr. Jumabek Mukhatov, Chief of the Organization of Waterworks Operation Department of the Water Resource Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan; Ms. Zhyldyz Sarybaeva, Head of the International Economic Organizations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan; Messrs. Anatoly Kholmatov, Technical Director of EC IFAS; Kurbangeldy Balliev, Head of Department of the IFAS Research Centre for ICSD, representative of Turkmenistan, and Timur Kamalov, Chairman of the State Inspection "Gosvodhoznadzor" of Uzbekistan chaired consequently one of the Meeting sessions.

#### **5. Approval of the Agenda**

12. Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser of the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division of UNECE, outlined the objectives of the Meeting. He further presented the agenda and the Work Programme of the Meeting.

13. The following agenda of the Meeting was approved:

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Election of officials.
3. Approval of the agenda of the Meeting.
4. On the results of Phase I of the Project "Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation" and contents of Project Phase II.
5. On the development of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures and proposals on how to organize discussions on this issue at the regional level.
6. On the status of development of national legislation and regulations on safety of hydraulic structures on the basis of the Model National Law on the Safety of Hydraulic Structures and possible assistance to concerned countries in the adaption of the Model Law.
7. On the prospects to organize training on dam safety in the region.
8. Consideration and approval of the Work Plan for 2008.
9. Harmonization of technical normative documents and monitoring procedures in the field of dam safety in the countries of Central Asia.
10. Presentation on the state regulation for the safety of hydraulic structures in Uzbekistan.
11. The establishment of Working Groups (i) for preparation of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia, and (ii) for

coordination of the legislative framework and harmonization of the technical normative documents in the field of dam safety in the countries of Central Asia.

12. Development of Meeting recommendations.

13. Miscellaneous.

14. Closing of the Meeting.

The Programme of the Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia is found in Appendix 2.

## **B. PROCEEDINGS**

14. Under Item 4 of the agenda, Mr. Bo Libert presented the results of Phase I of the Project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” implemented during the period from 2004 to 2006 and described the main directions of cooperation within the framework of Phase II of the Project, which is to be implemented in 2008-2010. He noted with satisfaction that one of the achievements of Phase I of the Project was the publication of the UNECE (Water Series, No.5, 2007). This publication contains documents developed within the framework of Phase I; and also a review of the water infrastructure in Central Asia including a list of large dams in the region, and a description of existing legal and organizational frameworks for regulating the safety of hydraulic engineering structures in the countries of Central Asia. He pointed out that the future cooperation of the countries of Central Asia would be aimed at the conclusion of a Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures; improvement and harmonization of the national regulatory and legal frameworks for safety of hydraulic structures, and advanced training of specialists in organizations supervising the safety of hydraulic structures.

15. Under Item 5 of the agenda, Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant, reminded to the participants how the joint work for the preparation of the Draft Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures had been carried out and proposed to establish a provisional Working Group for finalizing the Agreement prior to submission of the draft for consideration of the governments in the participating countries.

16. During the discussion of Item 5 of the agenda, the representatives of the countries and regional international organizations agreed on the need to finalize the draft Agreement and to establish the provisional Working Group. A representative of Uzbekistan expressed the readiness of his country to take the lead in the finalization of the draft Regional Agreement, whereas the Executive Committee of IFAS proposed its services for the coordination of the countries’ activities in this direction.

17. Representatives of scientific institutions of Uzbekistan and Russia, Messrs. Tursunbay Rashidov, Ernazar Makhmudov, and Oleg Vasiliev made presentations related to the research on various aspects of safety of hydraulic structures.

18. Under Item 6 of the agenda, the participants of the Meeting were informed about the current work and plans for the improvement and establishment of the national laws regulating the safety of hydraulic structures in the countries of Central Asia. In this context, it was proposed that the UNECE Secretariat should send letters to the governments of some of the countries recommending using the Model National Law on the Safety of Hydraulic Structures or its separate sections in this work.

19. The representative of EurAsEC, Mr. Tulegen Sarsembekov informed that the Model National Law would be soon considered at a session of the Interparliamentary Assembly of this organization.

20. Under Item 7 of the agenda, Mr. Timur Kamalov, Chairman of Gosvodhoznadzor, informed the participants that a Training Centre is being established in his organization for training specialists on the supervision of safety of hydraulic structures, and proposed to use this Centre for training specialists also from other countries of the region. He proposed to establish a Regional Training Centre for the safety of hydraulic structures based on this Centre. The participants overall agreed that it is necessary to improve the training of staff responsible for the safety of hydraulic structures and that the different countries

should evaluate the proposal of Uzbekistan to establish the regional center in this field. During the discussion it was proposed to organize a pilot regional course in the training centre of Gosvodhoznadzor.

21. Under Item 8 of the agenda, a Project Work Plan for 2008 was presented and discussed. The participants' attention was drawn to the fact that the Plan provided for the organization of national meetings on cooperation on the safety of hydraulic structures in all participating countries.

22. During the discussion of Item 9 of the agenda, it was suggested that more attention should be paid to cooperation in the harmonization of technical normative documents in the field of safety of hydraulic structures and that a Working Group should be established for this purpose.

23. Project Consultant Mr. Dmitry Radkevich reported on the existing system of state supervision of the safety of hydraulic structures in the Russian Federation and made available an electronic database of Russian regulatory legal acts and engineering materials for the project.

24. Under Item 10 of the agenda, the managers of Gosvodkhoznadzor reported on the state regulation in the field of safety of hydraulic structures in Uzbekistan, including on monitoring and diagnostics of the technical condition of hydraulic structures for the evaluation of their safety. The participants of the Meeting visited the office of Gosvodhoznadzor and its Diagnostic Centre and with great interest learned more about their work.

### **C. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

25. National coordinators of the countries shall be entrusted with the coordination of all actions aimed at the implementation of these recommendations of the Meeting:

Kazakhstan – M.O. Ospanov

Kyrgyzstan – I.A. Djoldoshaliev (to be confirmed)

Tajikistan – to be nominated by the Tajik Government

Turkmenistan – K.B. Ballyev (to be confirmed)

Uzbekistan – T.K. Kamalov

26. The participants of the Meeting made decisions on the discussed issues and recommended to take the following actions:

#### **I. On the Draft Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures:**

a. To continue the work on finalizing the draft Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures, using as a basis the text of the draft Agreement included in Appendix 7 of the UNECE publication "Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation".

b. To take into consideration the amendments and additions proposed by Tajikistan (a version of the draft Agreement dated 3 March, 2008), as well as the proposals put forward during the discussion of this question, in the finalization of the draft Regional Agreement.

c. To establish a provisional Working Group for finalizing the draft Regional Agreement, consisting of one representative of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and one or two representatives of the national agencies dealing with state regulation of safety of hydraulic structures in each of the countries, representatives of IFAS and EurAsEC, and international consultants of the Project.

d. To request the national coordinators, jointly with concerned state authorities, and representatives of IFAS and EurAsEC participating in the Meeting to nominate persons to the UNECE Secretariat (Mr. Bo Libert) before 15 April 2008 for including them in the provisional Working Group for the finalization of the draft Regional Agreement.

e. That the provisional Working Group shall prepare the finalized draft Agreement before 1 May of this year before submitting it to each of the participating countries for consideration in accordance with established procedure.

f. To note with satisfaction the proposal of the Republic of Uzbekistan to act as a lead country in the finalization of the Regional Agreement and accept with gratitude the proposal of IFAS to coordinate activities in this direction and to request the national coordinators to bring to the notice of UNECE Secretariat (Mr. Bo Libert) the opinions of respective countries on these proposals before 15 April 2008.

## **II. On the Model National Law on the Safety of Hydraulic Structures:**

a. To take into consideration the information on the current work and plans for improvement and formulation of the national regulatory legal frameworks on safety of hydraulic structures in the countries of Central Asia.

b. To request the UNECE Secretariat (Mr. Bo Libert) and EC IFAS to send letters approved by the national coordinators to the Governments of respective countries with information about the preparation of the Model National Law on the Safety of Hydraulic Structures and the recommendation to use this document or its separate sections for the improvement and formulation of the national regulatory legal framework with regard to the state regulation of safety of hydraulic structures.

## **III. On the Establishment of a Regional Training Centre:**

a. To evaluate positively the proposal of Uzbekistan to establish a Regional Training Centre for Dam Safety using the opportunities provided by the Training Centre of Gosvodkhoznadzor, and note with gratitude the intention of Uzbekistan to provide a venue for the holding of training courses and cover part of their administrative costs.

b. To recommend the organization of a pilot regional training course not later than the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2009 at the venue of Gosvodkhoznadzor in order to test training programmes for specialists responsible for ensuring safety of hydraulic engineering structures.

c. To request the UNECE Secretariat (Mr. Bo Libert) to, if possible, identify funds for co-funding of the pilot regional training course from the Project budget or facilitate mobilization of funds for this purpose from other sources.

## **IV. On Scientific and Technical Cooperation:**

a. To establish a Working Group for harmonization of the normative and technical documentation in the field of safety of hydraulic structures in the countries of Central Asia.

b. To request the national coordinators, in collaboration with concerned state authorities, to nominate persons to the UNECE Secretariat (Mr. Bo Libert) before 15 April this year to the Working Group for harmonization of the normative and technical documentation in the field of safety of hydraulic structures in the countries of Central Asia (See Item a).

c. To express gratitude to Mr. Dmitry Radkevich for the provision of the electronic database of legislative instruments and regulatory legal acts of the Russian Federation and scientific engineering materials for the safety of hydraulic structures and to distribute this material among the concerned agencies in the participating countries.

## **Y. On the Work Plan for 2008:**

a. To adopt the revised Project Work Plan for 2008 (Appendix 3).

b. The host organizations to initiate activities for the organization of the planned events assisted by the Secretariat of UNECE and EC IFAS (Appendix 4).

27. The participants expressed their gratitude to the staff of Gosvodkhoznadzor of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the excellent organization of the Meeting.

## СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ

Региональное совещание по сотрудничеству по безопасности плотин в Центральной Азии  
12-13 марта 2008 года, Ташкент, Узбекистан

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Tashkent, Uzbekistan, March 12-13, 2008

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**Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia  
12-13 March, 2008, Tashkent, Uzbekistan**

**PROGRAMME**

**Wednesday, 12 March, 2008**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 08:30 - 09:00 | Registration of participants  |
| 09:00 – 09:40 | <p><b>Opening of the Meeting</b><br/> <i>Chairman: Mr. Timur Kamalov, Chairman of the State Inspection for Control and Supervision of the Technical Condition and Safe Operation of Large and High-Security Waterworks under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Gosvodkhoznadzor)</i><br/>           Greeting on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan<br/> <i>(as agreed)</i><br/>           Greeting on behalf of the UNECE<br/> <i>Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser of UNECE</i><br/>           Greeting on behalf of IFAS<br/> <i>Mr. Anatoly Kholmatov, Technical Director of EB IFAS</i></p> |
| 09:40 - 10:00 | <p><b>Approval of the agenda and election of the governing bodies of the Meeting</b><br/>           Presentation of the Meeting Programme:<br/> <i>Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser of UNECE</i></p>   |
| 10:00-10:30   | <p><b>On the results of implementation of Phase I of the Project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” and contents of Project Phase II.</b><br/> <i>Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser of UNECE</i></p>  |
| 10:30-11.00   | Coffee Break  |
| 11:00-12:30   | <p><b>On the development of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures, and proposals on how to organize discussions on this issue on the regional level</b><br/> <i>Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant</i><br/> <i>Representatives of MFA, Ministry of Justice and other concerned ministries and departments of participating countries, IFAS and EurAsEC</i><br/> <i>Discussion</i></p>  |
| 12.30-13.30   | Lunch   |
| 13:30-15:00   | <p><b>On the state of development of national laws on safety of hydraulic structures on the basis of the Model National Law on the Safety of Hydraulic Structures, and possible assistance to concerned countries in the adjustment of the model law.</b><br/> <i>Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant</i><br/> <i>Representatives of participating countries, IFAS and EurAsECs</i><br/> <i>Discussion</i></p>   |
| 15:00-15:30   | Coffee Break  |
| 15:30-16:00   | <p><b>On the prospects of organize training on dam safety in the region.</b><br/> <i>Mr. Timur Kamalov, Gosvodkhoznadzor</i></p>  |
| 16:00-18:00   | <b>The establishment of Working Groups (i) for preparation of the Regional</b>  |

**Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia, and (ii) for coordination of the legal framework and harmonization of technical normative documents in the field of dam safety in the countries of Central Asia**

*Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser of UNECE*

*Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant*

*Discussion*

**Thursday, 13 March, 2008**

- 09:00 - 9:30            **Consideration and approval of the work plan for 2008**  
*Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser of UNECE*  
*Discussion*
- 09:30 - 10:30        **Harmonization of technical normative documents and monitoring procedures in the field of dam safety in the countries of Central Asia**  
*Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant*  
*Mr. Dmitry Radkevich, Consultant*  
*Mr. Sergey Zhigarev, Director of JSC "Hydroproject", Uzbekistan*  
*Kyrgyzstan*  
*Representatives of participating countries*  
*Discussion*
- 10:30 – 11:00        Coffee Break
- 11:00-12:30         **Presentation of the state regulation for the safety of hydraulic structures in Uzbekistan**  
State regulation of the safety of hydraulic structures in the Republic of Uzbekistan  
*Mr. Timur Kamalov, Chairman, Gosvodkhoz nadzor*  
System of monitoring for evaluation of the safety of hydraulic structures  
*Mr. Shukhrat Talipov, Chief Specialist, Gosvodkhoz nadzor*  
On the activity of the State Committee for Water Economy Supervision  
*Mr. Sharafitdin Islamov, Secretary of Expert Council of Gosvodkhoz nadzor*  
Diagnostics of the *technical* condition of hydraulic structures.  
*Mr. Abdurashid Ergashev, Head of Diagnostic Centre of the Expert Council of Gosvodkhoz nadzor*
- 12:30 -13:30        Lunch
- 13:30 – 15:30        **Visit to the Gosvodkhoz nadzor**
- 15:30 – 16:00        **Information of the activity of ICOLD**  
*Mr. Dmitry Radkevich, Consultant*
- 16:00- 16:30        Coffee Break
- 16:30 - 17:00        **Consideration and approval of decisions, recommendations, and report of the Meeting.**
- Closing of the Meeting**

Tentative Plan of Measures for Activities in 2008 within the Framework of the Project of “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation”

1<sup>st</sup> Group of Meetings

12-13 March, 2008, Tashkent, Uzbekistan  
Regional Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia  
Host organization: Gosvodkhoznadzor

14 March 2008, Tashkent, Uzbekistan  
National Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia  
Host organization: Gosvodkhoznadzor

2<sup>nd</sup> Group of Meetings

12 June 2008, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan  
National Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia  
Host organization: IFAS Research Centre for ICSD in cooperation with the Ministry of Ecology and the Ministry for Water Management

16 June 2008, Almaty, Kazakhstan  
National Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia  
Host organization: Direction of the Executive Board of IFAS in Kazakhstan in cooperation with the State Committee for Water Resources

3<sup>rd</sup> Group of Meetings

11-12 September 2008, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
National Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia  
Host organization: Institute “Vodavtomatika” in cooperation with the Water Management Department

15-16 September 2008, Dushanbe, Tadjikistan  
National Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia  
Host organization: EC IFAS in cooperation with the Ministry for Water Management and “Barki Tochik”

4<sup>th</sup> Group of Meetings

November 2008, 2 days  
Regional Meeting on the results of implementation of the Project on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia  
(To commence on the next day after the regular session of SPECA Energy/Water Working Group)  
Host organization: ?

November 2008, 0.5 day  
Meeting of the Working Group for preparation of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia (within the framework of the Regional Meeting)

November 2008, 0.5 day  
Meeting of the Working Group for coordination of the regulatory framework and harmonization of the technical normative documents in the field of dam safety in the countries of Central Asia (within the framework of the Regional Meeting)

**Tentative Agenda**  
**National Meetings on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia**  
**(Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan)**

1. Procedural questions  
(Approval of the agenda and election of Chairman and Co-chairmen)
2. Existing regulatory legal frameworks and organizational forms of the state regulation in the field of safety of hydraulic structures  
(Review of the existing legislation and organizational structures in the field of safety of hydraulic engineering structures, justification of the need for specialized legislation in this field)
3. On the status of development or revision of the national legislations on safety of hydraulic structures based on the adaption of the Model National Law on the Safety of Hydraulic Structures  
(Information on the work for the development or improvement of the national legislations on safety of hydraulic structures)
4. On participation in the development of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures  
(Discussions and proposals on the participation in the work towards the proposed Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures)
5. On participation in the cooperation for coordination of the legal framework and harmonization of technical normative documents in the field of dam safety in the countries of Central Asia  
(Development of proposals on the documents and procedures for their harmonization)
6. Approval of resolutions, recommendations, and Report of the Meeting.