



REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

13 – 14 MARCH 2024 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE

SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE TEMPLATE

Event title

Glaciers – a source of Fresh water

Background and Rationale

The world's snow, glaciers, and ice sheets are essential long-term reservoirs of freshwater, whether in polar regions, in the mountains or in downstream regions. Globally, the scientific community is clear that under all climate change scenarios, the world's cryosphere is changing, presenting unprecedented challenges to our world.

The melting of glaciers in the Arctic and Antarctica is contributing to the sea level rise. This, in turn, can pose a threat to the lives and well-being of hundreds of millions of the planet's inhabitants, especially in small island states and coastal regions.

According to the "Assessment of the Himalayas in the Hindu Kush", more than two-thirds of the Himalayan glaciers could be lost by the end of this century. A similar situation is developing in the Pamir glaciers. Glacial reserves concentrated in the mountainous regions of Central Asia are a long-term reserve and the most important source of clean fresh water.

Meanwhile, intensive melting of glaciers coupled with an increase in water demand associated with population growth and economic development, can obviously lead to very negative consequences.

Science has shown that the end of the century is expected to see a drastically reduced amount of glacier-fed freshwater. The glaciers remain one of the most critical sources of freshwater, as glacier-fed rivers supply freshwater to populations in downstream regions and in lowlands, on all continents.

In this regard, realizing the importance of the glaciers melting issue, by the initiative of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahmon, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution to declare 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, accompanied by the proclamation of the 21st of March of each year as the World Day for Glaciers starting in 2025.

The side event will provide an opportunity for interactive dialogues with the audience and to share information about an effective response to the issues and challenges related to climate change and its negative impact on the main source of fresh water- glaciers.

This event will discuss the outstanding gaps in understanding the link between glacier changes and water resources and risks to societies, and the key necessary actions towards implementation of the UN resolution on International Year for Glaciers Preservation at the required level thereby achieving the goals of sustainable development.



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Session objectives and expected outcomes

The main goal of the side event is to accelerate the implementation of the UN resolution on International Year for Glaciers Preservation, to raise the awareness of the global community about the accelerated glacier melt, to increase the focus of the world community, political leaders and policy makers, to work together towards defining and sustaining strategies to minimize the impact of climate change on glaciers through international cooperation.

The objectives of the side event are:

1. To accelerate the implementation of the UN resolution on International Year for Glaciers Preservation
2. To raise the awareness of the global community about the accelerated and irreversible depletion of global water resources, particularly glaciers and its negative impacts;
3. To promote the integration of the water and climate agendas at the global level;
4. To call world community and political leaders to work together, towards minimizing the impact of climate change on glaciers and ensuring sustainable preservation measures;
5. To present the importance of global actions to protect glaciers from intense melting and disappearance.

The session will primarily target government officials, international organizations, disaster risk managers and practitioners engaged in working on resilience building to extremes towards programming and planning at the local level.

Organizers

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Agenda and Structure

Welcome and opening remarks

- **Sino Tohirzoda**, Head of NDC Secretariat, Committee of Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan)

Keynote presentation

- **Saidov Sattor**, Head of the Center for the Study of Climate and Ozone Layer Agency for hydrometeorology of the Committee of Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan



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Panel discussion and Q&A Session

Panelists:

1. *Mr. Rustam Abdulloev, Head of the Department of Water and Energy Policy, Development of Science and Technologies of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan*
2. *Mr. Boj Garcia Esteban, Head of Water Resources Management Trigger Project, GIZ Tajikistan*
3. *Mr. Nazirzoda Kamoliddin, Deputy Head, Center for Glaciology, Agency for Hydrometeorology of the Committee of Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan*
4. *Orzu Odinaev, Head of the Science and Climate Department of the Center for the Study of Climate Change of the Agency for Hydrometeorology of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan*

Closing remarks

- *Turaqul Murodov, Deputy Director, Center for implementation of investment projects, Committee of Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan*

Meeting Link

<https://undp.zoom.us/j/86513916943?pwd=eDY4Vks5YVRxZ1I2cU1pVW91TXk3dz09>